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All in the Family

The founding families of the Syrian Protestant College have inspired, sheltered, and nourished this institution throughout its history. These are just a few of the branches of their family trees.
President’s view

In the last four months President Dorman has met with alumni everywhere from the west coast of the United States to the east coast of Africa to the Gulf. The coming issues of MainGate will explore these lively exchanges, starting with alumni interest in AUB’s redesigned logo, the class of 2015, and a new WAAUFB chapter in the Maldives.

MainGate: It seems from your discussions that some alumni were concerned about aspects of the new AUB logo—especially that the motto has been removed.

President Dorman: Every institution that competes in the modern world looks at its opportunities for branding, and generally that requires simplification and concentration on symbolism. The new logo will be used mainly for letterhead, business cards, and marketing, so we’ve focused on the seal, the cedar tree, “AUB,” and our founding date. The logo is streamlined so that these symbols are readable, legible, and instantly recognizable. But we have by no means abandoned the Latin motto. It remains an integral part of our official seal, which appears on all official documents. You will soon notice the Latin motto used widely for marketing, so it will actually appear more frequently than it has before.

Has anyone objected to the use of a biblical verse for the University motto?

I have never heard a complaint against using a biblical verse in the motto. It’s always been there [see article page 8]. The Harvard motto, “Veritas,” originally referred to absolute religious truth, God’s truth, rather than scientific proofs.

So what’s the alumni reaction to the logo overall, negative or positive?

Overall it’s been positive, especially among those in the design field. [Designers] appreciate the simplification that comes with branding, and the fact that the visual symbolism jumps right out: the red seal, the cedar tree of Lebanon, the date. No other school in the region has an earlier pedigree.

What about those who complained that the seal looked like the Red Crescent?

I’ve heard this and I thought it was the silliest thing—you can quote me! If anything, you could say the seal is more like Pac Man gobbling up the [cedar] tree. The waxing crescent moon that signals the lunar months in the Islamic calendar appears in reverse: with the horns pointing up.

A new academic year always brings up questions of diversity in the student body. What is being done to recruit more international students?

We intend to intensify recruitment overseas and partnerships with sister institutions in the United States, Europe, and even the Far East, especially with the interest sparked by the Arab Spring. Actually one way we are hoping to expand student diversity is to bring our academic year more in line with institutions in the United States, and I am about to appoint a task force to look into that challenge. We need the full buy-in of faculty, staff, and students to make such a move.

[If we] can finish the first semester before Christmas, that could give us the leeway to include a short January term—the way many universities do in the States—and also finish the second semester by the end of May. This would simplify exchange programs for both students and faculty. Many US colleges have a January term, so students/faculty can come here for a month, do a project or take a course, and return home. This is a wonderful opportunity for us too—if we finish the academic year by the end of May, our own students have a much wider variety of summer internships that they can choose to do.

There are many issues to overcome. It’s complicated to engineer, but I think other schools [in Lebanon] are moving toward an earlier academic calendar too.

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Letters

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Among your summer trips you visited the newly formed WAAAUB alumni chapter in the Maldives. Were you surprised when you learned that you were heading for the Maldives?

When I was told I was going to visit the alumni chapter in the Maldives my first reaction was: “Do we have enough alumni there to even form a chapter?” Well, we absolutely do, so we flew down and it was fascinating. We had no idea what to expect. This was my second trip to the Maldives. I had been there in 1971 as a junior officer in the US Navy—I was on a boat to pay a goodwill visit.

[On this visit,] we had a very warm welcome from the alumni group. As you might expect, the alumni are major leaders in almost every aspect of Maldives society. They are leaders in education, government, administration, tourism, and the economy. The vice president of the republic is an AUB alumnus, the past president and past ministers are AUB alumni, [and they are] all very passionate about the University and what they do. The Republic of the Maldives faces huge challenges in public health and education in particular, because their population is spread over something like 1,200 islands. The other aspect, of course, is that it’s a very fragile environment. It’s a series of lagoons, atolls, and little islands; there is very little industry, very little agriculture. One hundred percent of their fuel and energy and something like 90 percent of their food is imported. Their major industry is of course tourism.

How many alumni are there?
Around 54 alumni—and their stories of AUB are fascinating. All of them came to AUB on USAID scholarships during the civil war years. I remember one of them saying, “I just can’t believe how clueless we were because we had no idea there was a civil war going on. We flew to Beirut to take advantage of this scholarship opportunity and during orientation we heard these fireworks going off and it was only after a while that people told us it was actually gunfire!” What’s impressive to me was that they didn’t go home. They stayed for their education. They stayed for four years. A couple of them were evacuated more than once but they had a really cohesive cohort. They showed [us] pictures of an event they sponsored called “Maldives Night,” held in the old Assembly Room of College Hall. They had dance performances, the students made all the national costumes, they cooked Maldivian food, and they charged an entry fee. It was quite typical of all the cultural clubs at that time.

Did they stay interested in AUB?
They’ve always been a pretty tight group. They have remained in touch and get together for karaoke nights and so on. Most live on the main island in the capital of Male, so they’re known locally as “the Beirut Group.” When they heard about WAAAUB, they formed a chapter.

As I told them, you’ve always had a chapter, you’re just calling yourselves a chapter now. They would love to send students to AUB, and they’re working on developing scholarships to send at least two kids from there.

Based on this experience and others, what do you think makes AUB alumni so faithful?
I think it’s because AUB gave them an experience that is totally unforgettable. I think education is not just about learning in the classroom. It’s about learning how to live. All of our students have the chance to spend time or even to live on campus and to deal with their peers as well as their mentors outside the classroom. It’s those life experiences I think that make AUB, as well as other universities, so unique to those people who attend. We enjoy a special situation here; we have a beautiful campus, a beautiful setting, and a vibrant city, which is denied, I think, to many other institutions of learning in this area. I think that’s what our alumni remember most; it’s not just the education, it’s the context in which they seek their education. And many people have said that it’s life changing.

—M.A.
When I told Professor Kamal Salibi during our most recent meeting in July that we would be highlighting AUB love stories in this issue, he immediately suggested that we cover the “greatest love story on the AUB campus of the 1940s and 50s,” that of Najwa Shaheen and Kamal Haffar (see page 31). He later sent me the lyrics to a song he had written for a musical comedy called Love and the Handbook that Najwa and Kamal wrote when they were on campus.

In the days of Daniel Bliss / The law was well respected, / And students were expected / To do as they were told.
No wonder all was pleasing, / And knowledge was increasing, / And nothing went amiss / In the days of Daniel Bliss.

He was a caring, perceptive mentor, a great historian, a terrific wit, and a treasured member of the AUB family. He was also someone who never tired of “poking” his friends on Facebook late at night. An outpouring of remembrances followed Professor Salibi’s death. Here are just a few.
Ada H. Porter
Editor, MainGate

With Kamal Salibi passes a wealth of private history and stories treasured by those who heard them and a wry sense of humor that he found impossible to exclude from his scholarship. Upon bestowing my doctorate, he gave me his own ijazah: Abdulrahim Abu Husayn student of Kamal Salibi, student of Bernard Lewis, student of Gibb, student of Arnold, student of Wright, student of Dozy, student of Silvestre de Sacy. He must have taken a great deal of pride in the generations of scholars who progressed under his tutelage to populate the halls of academia and who continue to enrich the field. We will miss his stories, his unassuming manner and quick wit, his annual Christmas party, and the diversion that his weekly visits provided for the AUB History Department.

Professor Abdulrahim Abu Husayn
Department of History and Archaeology, AUB

Kamal Salibi raised the history and historiography of Lebanon to new levels… He created a space in which Lebanon’s singularity is underlined by placing Lebanon in its Arab context rather than abstracting it from it. I am personally indebted to him for laying the foundations of modern Lebanese historiography, both in the professionalism of his scholarship and in the pleasure he took in recounting that history.

Professor Fawwaz Traboulsi
Department of History and Archaeology, AUB
(The Daily Star, September 2, 2011)

He had a complex mind and a simple heart. He adored his students and maintained their friendships for life. He always said history was a narrative, a story to tell. With the rise of postmodernism, that fell out of fashion. But then it came back again, and now it’s come full circle.

Professor Tarif Khalidi
Department of History and Archaeology, AUB
(The Daily Star, September 2, 2011)

Salibi…was perhaps the finest historian of the modern—and the old—Middle East…a man whose work must surely shine into the future as it has illuminated the past. In one sense, his desire to deconstruct history, his almost Eliot-like precision in dissecting the false story of the Maronites of Lebanon, his highly mischievous—and linguistically brilliant—suggestion that the tales of the Old Testament took place in what is now Saudi Arabia, rather than Palestine, made him a revolutionary.

Robert Fisk
(The Independent, September 7, 2011)

Kamal Salibi…re-energized the history of Lebanon…and jolted us into questioning and thinking independently about facts that are repeated over and over without any effort to look at them differently and courageously (as he did). He was gloriously daring and amazingly informed.

Leila Fawaz
Issam M. Fares Professor of Lebanese and Eastern Mediterranean Studies, Tufts University President of the Harvard University Overseers, Harvard Governing Boards
(The Daily Star, September 2, 2011)

Remembrances cont. page 65

Erratum
MainGate summer 2011, page 53: Arminee Choukassizian received an MA in 1966, not a BA.
At AUB, 2,980 students received financial aid in 2009–10. Can you help one more?

“One may know what they are but not what they can become unless they are blessed by challenges and chances that allow them to progress,” says Rachelle Sabbagh. A final-year nursing student minoring in psychology, Rachelle says that the Terry and Pierre Abou Khater Scholarship has made “an immediate and immense difference in my life.” Her post-graduation plans include traveling to London to take the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN) and pursuing a master’s degree in community nursing. Until then, Rachelle is taking full advantage of what AUB has to offer. An active member of both the Nursing Student Society and Fashion Club, Rachelle is also a member of the AUB swimming team and the Yearbook Committee.

Hear more: www.aub.edu/development/scholarship_initiative

To speak to someone about supporting financial aid, contact us at giving@aub.edu.lb

Supporting Students of Today and Tomorrow

Can you help support an AUB student?

See what’s possible!
September 16, 2001: international students discover the wilder side of Nicely Hall on their first campus tour.
Live Life Abundantly

*UT VITAM HABEANT ABUNDANTIUS HABEANT*—even if you don’t recognize that Latin phrase, you’ll probably recognize these words: *That they may have life and have it more abundantly.* How did this Latin phrase come to be AUB’s motto?

Well, it seems that the faculty committee that met in early 1921 to consider the issue decided that a motto in English would be “trite and undignified” while a motto in Arabic was “unsuitable because it is not the language of many of the students and alumni and would be incomprehensible to these and to friends of the University in other institutions and in other parts of the world.” They concluded that a motto in Latin, however, was consistent with “the universal custom of educational institutions in various parts of the world.”

Although the committee did consider an alternative Latin phrase (*Lucem Dare, Virtutem Facere*, give light, give virtue), it chose AUB’s motto at least in part because it was from one of Daniel Bliss’s favorite Bible verses (John 10:10): *Ego veni ut vitam habeant, et abundantius habeant*, which is translated in the King James version as “I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.”

At some point—no one is quite sure exactly when or if this was done deliberately or in error—“et” was omitted and AUB’s motto became *UT VITAM HABEANT ABUNDANTIUS HABEANT* and translated into Arabic as *wa-litakuna lahum hayat wa-takuna hayat afdal*. Not everyone approves of the Arabic translation: As’ad AbuKhalil wrote on his blog (http://angryarab.blogspot.com/) in July 2010 that the motto should have been translated as ...*wa-takuna hayat azkhar*. Although AUB Professor Ramzi Baalbaki agrees that *azkhar* is a more accurate translation for “abundant,” he says that *afdal* “is not wrong” and was probably chosen because it is more commonly used than *azkhar*. Baalbaki, who was awarded the King Faisal International Prize in Arabic Language and Literature for 2010 (see *MainGate*, fall 2010, pages 20-21), also notes that *afdal* is the word
used in the authoritative 1870 Arabic translation of the New Testament (wa-liyakuna lahum afdal), which was based on the original Greek text.

As the University has moved beyond its missionary roots, some have suggested that it is no longer appropriate—if it ever was—that the University’s motto is a verse from the Bible. Interestingly, this was discussed in 1921 when the faculty committee noted that “if we should decide to choose a Scriptural text for a motto we would have as precendents such institutions as Oxford (Dominus Illuminatio Mea, the Lord is my light) and Columbia (In Lumine Tuof Videbimus Lumen, in thy light shall we see light).

In addition to having the weight of history on its side, there is also a good deal of evidence that the University’s motto continues to resonate for many current members of the AUB family.

“Institutions of higher education in the Arab world have the opportunity, if not the responsibility, to enshrine the values embedded in traditions that are unique to this region, which emphasize such ideals as the centrality of family ties, local and regional histories, the scientific legacy of the Middle East, a notably rich literary and philosophical tradition, the pacifist and universalist kernel of the Islamic and Judeo-Christian faiths—the ahl al-kitab—and the historic tolerance of ethnic strains of all kinds.”

—President Dorman, Opening Ceremony 2011
including President Peter Dorman, who chose it as the theme for his presidential inauguration in May 2009: “Toward an Abundant Life.”

Special thanks to the Archives and Special Collections Department of Jafet Library for their help in researching this article.

A Rotten Shame
The Cedrus Libnani log lies, forgotten and neglected, behind Bliss Hall, a magnificent pre-historic relic that few ever visit. Seen only by playful cats and passing gardeners, this poignant piece of antiquity truly deserves better exposure where more people can marvel at its age and resilience and the sense of history that resonates from its very core. This gigantic cedar log sired the wooden “sculptures” in the entrance of College Hall and the Archaeological Museum.

The log arrived on campus in January 1982, having lain for some time in Ain Mreisse. Numerous bullet holes bear witness to time spent on the front line during the civil war. The log’s origin is uncertain, but it is believed that it was found on Mount Sannine around 1980 during road construction. At that time it was in a remarkable state of preservation and thought to have been buried for millennia in a dry, anaerobic environment.

Radiocarbon dating from two separate samples has independently confirmed that the tree died around 5755 BC (give or take 120 years) when it was about 300 years old. Given its stunning 150 cm diameter trunk, the log is considered to be the largest extant piece of ancient cedar wood in the world.

Some ten years ago, Ramzi Touchan of the University of Arizona took a number of core samples, the longest of which was 40 cm and comprised 240 tree rings. Because the log is rotten at the core, it is badly in need of a clean up, which was in fact recommended at that time. With the application of pesticides and insecticides and a good polish, maybe this magnificent specimen (now in two pieces) could be spruced up and moved to a less neglected location on campus for all to see.

Meanwhile, back in College Hall, those with well-developed olfactory senses might just be able to catch a whiff of cedar scent that continues to emanate from the log slice displayed in the entrance. Two slices were cut from the original log by the Lebanese sculptor Rudy Rahme in 2004, following recommendations by Peter Kunihold, director of the Malcolm and Carolyn Wiener Laboratory for Aegean and Near Eastern Dendrochronology at Cornell University. Rahme also fabricated the frames on which the slices are mounted, leaving behind an estimated ton of log slowly decaying behind Bliss.
Over the years dendrochronologists have expressed interest in studying the log (and its preservation) but right now, only the cats seem to enjoy that privilege.

—M.A.

**Fresh Pages from History**

When Charles Raad (BA ’55) decided to gift an old medical textbook from his grandfather to AUB, their shared alma mater, he yielded up a material link to the institution’s earliest days when Arabic was the primary language of instruction.

“The book was like their bible,” Raad says, referring to his grandfather and his five classmates who, in 1871, formed the medical school’s inaugural graduating class and became the Levant’s earliest locally trained doctors. “How to treat people, how to save people. When you read it—it’s ridiculous today. Modern medicine is a different story.”

Recently returned to the Jafet Library’s Archives and Special Collections after restoration in New York, the 1867 leather bound...
The 1867 leather bound medical manuscript, before and after restoration

manuscript consists of lectures on pathology delivered by Dr. Cornelius Van Dyck in Arabic with notes meticulously handwritten by Raad’s grandfather Nasir Hatim (MD 1871).

Hatim, his peers, and successive classes at the then-Syrian Protestant College studied almost exclusively in Arabic until the Board of Trustees, just 12 years after the College’s inception in 1866 and concurrent with the rise of the “Nahda” or Arab awakening, took the fateful decision to change the language of instruction to English.

“Curiously, the liveliest opposition came from the medical department,” Samir Kassir notes in his intricate history Beirut (University of California Press, 2010). Within six years, Kassir relates, Van Dyck and his colleagues had all decamped from the medical school following a controversy over Professor Edwin Lewis’s enthusiastic praise for the recently deceased Charles Darwin. Their departure—and the arrival of US medical professors who did not speak Arabic—definitively extinguished the department’s rebellion of several years.

Van Dyck’s lectures likely accompanied Hatim when he relocated to Damascus. He practiced medicine for five years there, Raad says, before returning home to Hammana to marry a first cousin who died tragically after giving birth to their seventh child. Hatim never remarried. “All I remember my mother telling me is he was tough,” Raad says. Hatim died in 1930, three years before Raad’s birth.

Raad inherited the textbook and Hatim’s university certificate from his mother and her sisters, but the certificate went up in flames, along with the headquarters of his enduring publishing house, when Hamra’s El Dorado Building caught fire. “I thought I was saving it,” Raad says wistfully of the certificate. “Somebody [had] come from AUB…and I said, ‘No, this belongs to the family.’ Now I regret it. That’s why I decided to give them [AUB] the book.”

Hatim’s legacy remains a family affair. The bookbinder who restored it, Amy Morris Pickens, is the daughter of Thomas Q. Morris, AUB trustee emeritus. When the manuscript arrived at Morris Pickens’s Paper Moon Bookbinding, she assessed it as “a disaster at first glance” due to what she later described as “profound water damage” to the exterior and “a seriously impaired cover.”

The manuscript may itself have narrowly escaped destruction, Morris...
Pickens says. “The water had not permeated the entire text block, which is good because the ink is very water solvent. If the whole thing had been immersed... it would have washed away.”

Morris Pickens grafted loose pages and hand sewed dangling sections back onto the text block, fitting new leather into the gaps in the cover so artfully that the seams became invisible, so that, she says, “the new and the old are really integrated and they don’t fight each other.”

The newly resurrected manuscript is a fitting memorial to Hatim and Van Dyck, two stubbornly devoted men. After resigning from AUB, Van Dyck spent the rest of his life in Beirut and became locally beloved as “El Hakim” (the doctor), famed for his familiarity with the Arabic language and culture. When he passed away in November 1895, the New York weekly Outlook recorded in an obituary that he’d resisted all entreaties to remain in America during two brief visits home. “I entered the mission work as a life-service,” he is quoted as having said, “and I will die with the harness on.”

—S.M.

From the Faculties

FAFS

Children at Risk: The Hidden Dangers of Flab

Myths about childhood obesity prevail in every society and Lebanon is no exception. Researchers have discovered that rather than recognizing the health risks involved in childhood excess body weight, parents like to comfort themselves with the idea that “chubbiness” is a mere phase and that children soon grow out of it. Most are oblivious to the fact that the unhealthy consequences of excess fat start at a very early age and can lead to serious health problems including abnormalities in the blood that can predispose individuals to developing cardiovascular diseases. By as early as eight years of age, being obese may raise a child’s risk of future heart disease and stroke.

In a recent study, Dean Nahla Hwalla and Assistant Professor Lara Nasreddine of the Department of Nutrition and Food Sciences (NFSC) revealed some stark conclusions with regard to youngsters’ weight. The study included 140 children aged 8 to 10 years old and 263 adolescents aged 14 to 18 years old, of whom 87 children and 104 adolescents were classified as obese based on the body mass index for age guidelines. The study showed that 91 percent of the obese children and 97 percent of the obese adolescents suffered from at least one cardiovascular risk factor such as low HDL (“good”) cholesterol, high LDL (“bad”) cholesterol, high triglycerides (fats in the blood), high blood pressure, high blood sugar, or elevated waist circumference (belly fat).

The study also showed that the metabolic syndrome, which refers to the co-existence of at least three cardiovascular risk factors in the same individual, was found in 30 percent of the obese children and adolescents compared to their normal weight counterparts, none of whom had the metabolic syndrome. The metabolic syndrome has been associated with a three-time increase in the risk of developing heart diseases and stroke and a five-time increase in the risk of developing type two diabetes, which means that one in three obese children is at significant risk of developing one or both of these conditions.

Nasreddine told MainGate, “The research underscores the importance of early screening of obesity and its associated metabolic abnormalities in Lebanese youth and constitutes a timely reminder of the need to take action to prevent obesity in youngsters through the development of successful and culture-specific multi component interventions.”

What should parents do to prevent early onset obesity? What practical measures can be taken? As a first step researchers recommend counseling for children and their parents on the serious risks of obesity and on the benefits of maintaining a healthy lifestyle including changing diet and increasing exercise. This is obviously easier said than done, but one program now being tested in Lebanon could prove effective in the fight against early fat. AUB in collaboration with Nestlé recently launched Kanz Al-Soha a project aimed at promoting healthy eating...
and encouraging physical activity in 9 to 11 year olds in a number of schools across the country.

The program is part of NFSC instructor Carla Habib-Murad’s PhD thesis supervised jointly by AUB and the University of Durham, UK, and of the Nestlé Healthy Kids Global Programme launched in October 2010.

The first pilot in Lebanon was completed in May 2011 in 10 public schools covering 750 students across Lebanon. Its components include classroom sessions, parent meetings, school shop interventions, health fairs, and training of teachers and school health coordinators. Over the next three years Kanz Al-Soha will target 60 public schools nationwide. Speaking about the first phase Carla Habib-Murad said, “Kanz Al-Soha had three coordinated intervention components that address nutrition knowledge and awareness, skills, self-efficacy, and modelling. Using different games, hands-on activities and food preparation helped to make the learning fun and interactive for students. Our goal was to go beyond simply increasing nutrition knowledge: for example, knowing that carrots are healthy is good but eating more carrots is better.”

Statistics based on a joint study carried out by NFSC and the Department of Epidemiology and Population Health in the Faculty of Health Sciences indicate that obesity in Lebanese youth (6 to 19 years) has increased from 6.8 percent in 1997 to 13.2 percent in 2009, almost a doubling in ten years. In light of such findings, awareness-raising programs like this are clearly important in the battle against childhood obesity.

**HSON**

**Myths Vitamin D and Dementia**

Vitamin D, the sunshine vitamin, has received a lot of press lately as low levels have been associated with impaired metabolism, immune and cardiovascular disorders, and breast and prostate cancer. But there’s more.

“Aside from regulating calcium levels in the body and bones there is evidence showing that [vitamin D] also has an impact on the brain,” said Hala Darwish, PhD, assistant professor at AUB’s Hariri School of Nursing. “Our preliminary study [at HSON] has shown a positive correlation between vitamin D and cognitive performance especially in the older adult group.” This was exciting, because the available literature already showed an existing relationship between vitamin D and cognitive performance especially in the older adult group. This was exciting, because the available literature already showed an existing relationship between vitamin D and cognitive performance especially in the older adult group.

Darwish’s study uses a rapid screening tool called the Montreal Cognitive Assessment (MoCA) to assess cognitive performance. The MoCA Arabic version, which was developed at the Faculty of Medicine at Ain Shams University in Cairo, helps eliminate the language barrier that would result in misleading outcomes.

“As there is no literature of cognitive function in Lebanon, we are also in the process of establishing normative values for our country as the existing tests are calibrated to US and EU values,” she highlighted, “and we are in the process of implementing visual tests that will eliminate the language barrier issue.”

Darwish has been awarded another grant by the AUB Faculty of Medicine Medical Practice Plan (MPP) to undertake a related study that will encompass a total of 260 individuals and most specifically include 100 people over the age of 60. She is also part of a vitamin D randomized controlled trial that is evaluating effects of vitamin D supplementation at various stages in the life cycle of the elderly and the effects of such replacements on cognitive growth indices (funded by MPP and the Lebanese National Council for Scientific Research).
“Our biggest challenge remains the difficulty in recruiting healthy older Lebanese adults,” concluded Darwish. “The effect of vitamin D on age-related cognitive impairment has not been fully explored in a clinical setting, but I’m hopeful that our work will lead to the development of more targeted interventions to prevent further progression into dementia.”

—A.A.A.

**AUBMC**

**Dr. Rose-Mary Boustany**, professor of pediatrics and biochemistry, received the 2012 Sidney Carter Award in Child Neurology from the American Academy of Neurology (AAN). The award is made in recognition of Dr. Boustany’s outstanding achievements in the field of pediatric neurology. This recognition includes an invitation to deliver the prestigious Carter Lecture at the 64th AAN Annual Meeting on April 24, 2012 in New Orleans, Louisiana.

**Dr. Zeina Kanafani**, assistant professor of medicine, received the Young Investigators Award from the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) in October at the society’s 49th annual meeting in Boston, Massachusetts.

On July 16, a group of five dedicated amateur climbers reached the top of Mount Kilimanjaro’s Uhuru, Africa’s highest peak and the world’s fourth highest summit. The group of fathers and their sons dedicated their five-day climb to the Brave Heart Fund to raise awareness for Congenital Heart Disease (CHD) and to raise funds for needy children suffering from CHD in Lebanon. CHD is the number one killer in the first year of life. Learn more at www.braveheartfund.org.

On August 16, AUBMC unveiled the new state-of-the-art Dr. Souha Sami Kanj-Sharara Conference Room on the ninth Floor of AUBMC’s main hospital building. The new gathering area was made possible by a grateful patient who made an anonymous donation in honor of his doctor, Dr. Souha Kanj-Sharara, head of the Division of Infectious Diseases and chair person of the Infection Control Program. The patient wanted to “publicly recognize and honor Souha for the exceptional care and dedicated attention she delivered to him during his illness, which was way beyond the usual call of duty,” said Dr. Fuad Ziyadeh, chair person of the Department of Internal Medicine, at the inauguration ceremony. “You have set a very high standard and we are so delighted that you are being honored today. . .This conference room will be a busy hub for our educational mission in the department.”
NameTag: Karen Moukheiber, PhD, Arab and Middle Eastern History, projected 2012

Life before graduate school: I grew up in Beit Meri and attended the Grand Lycée. I did my undergraduate studies in philosophy at the University of Knoxville in Tennessee. I returned to Lebanon and obtained a master’s in Middle Eastern history from AUB. I currently teach history and geography at the Collège Louise Wegmann and hold a part-time position at LAU.

What matters most: In the Arab world, both secularists and Islamists seek to define a distinctive feminine Arab identity, in part by revisiting the feminine Arab past. The goal of my research is to enhance our understanding of the historical roles of women, which is necessary for a meaningful discourse on feminine agency.

Research: Arab/Islamic civilization, like most civilizations of the ancient and pre-modern world, was a slave holding society. In my research, I am describing, analyzing, and interpreting how the legal presence of women slaves contributed to the construction of gendered roles within the fields of politics, cultural production, and sexual companionship during the early Abbasid period (750-950 AD) focusing primarily on the urban elite in cities such as Baghdad, Mecca, Medina, Damascus, and Cairo. I am reading a specific set of texts belonging to different genres of discourse, annals, biographical dictionaries, and literature (adab), as well as legal treatises.

10 am Tuesday, 10 am Saturday: At 10 am almost every day of the week, especially during the summer when I have more time, I am working at home often with Ibn Saad’s biographical dictionary, Kitab al-Tabaq al-Kubra, al-Isfahani’s al-Ima al-Shawa’ir, or al-Shafi’i’s Kitab al-Umm.

Most admire: I admire all women and men who value integrity, creativity, autonomy, and solidarity—and live accordingly. In my field I particularly appreciate Marshall Hodgson for his critical empathy, Julia Bray and Julia Meisami for their trans-disciplinary approach to women’s history, and my adviser, Professor Nadia el-Cheikh, for her academic achievements and pertinent and incisive advice.

Why this topic interests me: I am particularly intrigued by the specificities of the institution of slavery in the Arab/Islamic world. The vast majority of Abbasid caliphs were born to slave women. Free women were instructed in hadith, slave women in poetry and music. A free man had licit sex with his wife and his slave woman. Exploring the history of Arab/Muslim women through the prism of slavery reveals many changes.
Health Costs

Is global health war by other means?

Professor Omar Al-Dewachi, who recently participated in an FHS meeting of the War and Global Health Thinking Group, explains how even the best-intentioned global health initiative can have a devastating impact on the lives of the people it is intended to help.

What is global health and how does it differ from international health?

Global health is now the preferred term to describe health interventions in the developing world, coming from north to south. These interventions are often initiated by state and non-state actors such as the Gates Foundation, the Global fund, PEPFAR (President Emergency Plan For Aids Relief), or international NGOs, which in times bypass the state and/or transcend nation state boundaries. These interventions represent a new way of engaging north and south and raise issues such as who is responsible, who organizes, and who intervenes where and why.

Can global health interventions ever be a force for good?

“War represents one of the most significant—and preventable—threats to global public health,” concluded Dewachi.

“We want to create an interdisciplinary network of scholars to examine these critical questions at the heart of global health in our region of the world and hopefully offer applicable solutions on the ground.”

How did you get interested in the topic of global health?

I have long been interested in this topic because of our regional history and my own experience as a medical doctor working during war and under sanctions in Iraq. Both experiences led me to research the intersection between medicine, public health, and anthropology.
must recognize these issues and be more involved in prioritizing the security of populations and communities and the infrastructure of public health. Unfortunately, global health interventions often end up dismantling the capacity of states to provide for their own citizens, which is not a good thing.

How do you assess global health interventions?

We began with a critical view of global health priorities that tend to focus on infectious diseases in the south and on saving lives rather than on building infrastructure and capacities.

We’re also concerned with what happens when the primary actors are outside the state. What happens to state sovereignty when interventions transcend the state?

We’re also concerned that these humanitarian or global health interventions often accompany military interventions, for example, in Iraq and Afghanistan, which have produced so many adverse health consequences. We usually talk about mortality in the context of war, but what about the long term cost and burden represented by those who do not die but who instead live with the scars of war in all its forms?

In Iraq, for example, there has been an unprecedented increase in cancer rates, infant mortality, disability, the collapse of health system, and the loss of medical staff, an ongoing war on the Iraqi social body since 1990. There has been a 150 time increase in infant mortality, more than any other country in history.

If global health interventions are tied to war, then war could be the most preventable global and public health problem. The danger of global health interventions in such context is the depoliticization of war, by focusing on purely health outcomes, rather than addressing deeper social and political questions related to war.

These types of issues need to be engaged at every level: What kind of world do we want to live in, what do we allow, and how? These are ethical and human questions that define our era. Where does the limit lie and who is allowed to take those decisions?

—M.A.

OSB

The Mikati Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Initiative: Raising Awareness in the Middle East

“We are aspiring to grow our existing initiative into a full-fledged CSR center, in line with international trends in all pioneering and visionary business schools around the globe,” said Dima Jamali, convenor (chairperson) at AUB’s OSB Management, Marketing and Entrepreneurship Track.

The OSB CSR initiative is unique in the Middle East. Established with an initial endowment of $500,000 in September 2009 by the M1 Group, one of the holdings of current Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati, it is raising awareness and disseminating CSR best practices in the region.

Its vision is to foster a business environment where enterprises contribute value to society by integrating corporate responsibility in all aspects of their operations and actions. The
CSR initiative’s mission is to spread awareness of the importance of CSR by targeting academia, the private and public sectors, and civil society through teaching, research, publications, dialogue, capacity building, innovative reports, and solutions.

“We have incorporated CSR into our curriculum. It is a required core course for all undergraduate business and EMBA students and is an elective for MBA students, many of whom choose to take it,” explained Jamali. “Introducing CSR into the curriculum has already had a very significant impact on our students.”

According to Jamali, long before it became a “hot topic” in the United States and the EU, CSR existed in the Arab world as philanthropy whereby individuals and companies give for the public good for the sake of doing good.

To date, the Mikati CSR initiative has organized a bi-monthly speaker series and hosted high profile speakers from across the region including Fadi Ghandour, Aramex CEO, and George Akiki, Cisco Systems regional director. “A huge buzz has already been created and interest is pouring in from all over the region. In 2012, we are organizing two panel discussions (spring and fall) including a big conference in March-April, that will feature high-profile regional and international speakers,” added Jamali.

“The concept of CSR is growing in acceptance in the regional business community as the idea of giving back to society and directing attention to the public good is highly rewarding and impacts positively on the whole community,” concluded Jamali. “One cannot expect any government to successfully tackle all the problems and issues, like poverty, unemployment, and education on its own without the assistance of the private sector. For systemic results and impact, all actors need to assume their roles in the context of a national CSR agenda, including the private sector, but also academia, nonprofits as well as individual citizens and consumers.”

—A.A.A.

FEA

Tabbouleh and the Big Apple You Are What You Eat – No Matter Where You Are

What do AUB Faculty of Engineering and Architecture students know about New York State farmers? And what do the New School and Parsons School of Design students know about Lebanese food producers? Quite a lot as it turns out. Thanks to the innovative “City as Lab” program, a collaborative urban design and research practice conducted in Beirut and New York during the spring and summer semesters, and in Beirut for 10 weeks in the summer, students from both iconic cities came to know a great deal about each other, their food habits, and their cities’ food networks.

New York students from the “Market Cities” course led by Adriana Valdez Young, adjunct professor at the New School Graduate Program in International Affairs, worked in collaboration with their FEA peers from the vertical studio course, “Market Housing,” led by AUB architecture professors Matthew...
Thomas (a former colleague of Young) and Bernard Mallet. Both groups of students were tasked with documenting the food networks that sustain their cities, focusing in particular on the social, built, and ecological matrices connected to the Union Square Greenmarket in New York and to the Souk El Tayeb (SET) farmers market in Beirut.

Young, who conceived City as Lab as an independent faculty-to-faculty initiative that allows for a flexible cross-city and cross-disciplinary channel for collaboration, explains the rationale behind the pairing of New York and Beirut: “Both cities face the same pressures of density, distribution, and price when it comes to food choices and availability in this context. Fast food chains and global suppliers step into the market to challenge and displace local producers and local food practices.”

As a way of documenting these issues, during two weeks in the spring, the students created dossiers about themselves including everything they ate in their home cities. This sharing of information about urban lifestyles was conveyed through the range of social media: YouTube, Tumblr, email, and Facebook. Even before they met, “The students got to know each other pretty well during the course of this exercise,” says Young. “The New York students were super impressed by the AUB student design skills, but they were shocked by the amount of fast food they ate. They had romantic notions about Lebanon and were not prepared for this information.”

Having built up a clearer picture of how the other half lives based on food habits, the AUB students paired up with New School students to conduct research on their cities’ farmers markets. The New York City students carried out specific site research for their Beirut counterparts to allow AUB students to design market “pods” for Union Square producers of honey, mushrooms, flowers, wine, or salad greens. These small, city-based units allow farmers to grow and sell produce in situ in New York and give them the possibility of sleeping over on market days rather than driving back and forth to the country. Assessing this part of the collaboration Thomas told MainGate: “The collaboration with the students in New York enriched the studio for the AUB students on several
levels… The [AUB] students discovered a number of similarities as well as new techniques, technologies, and urban schemes that, in the end, enriched a lot of their design projects.

“The engagement with a group of people carrying out similar tasks allowed the students a bit of an ‘escape’ from the studio by giving them permission to use social media as a tool for learning. We explored a number of medias and while it wasn’t completely successful (slow internet, dissimilar social media sites, etc.), a good amount of information was exchanged—and one or two good friendships came out of the semester!”

The program’s initial proposition had provided for the AUB students to visit New York but this proved not to be possible. Thomas says, “If we could have financially provided for a trip to New York at the start of the semester, I am sure the collaborations would have been a lot richer. I guess it goes to show that we haven’t yet been able to replace the experience of sitting with another person to share a meal and brainstorm new ideas.” Steps are under way to repeat the program next year and it is hoped that this time AUB students will visit New York.

However, eight lucky New Yorkers did get to spend the summer in Beirut as hard working interns with various enterprises. Along with Kara, Danberg-Ficarelli organized a producers capacity building workshop on organic composting delivered by Ziad Abi-Chaker from the Lebanese company Cedar Environmental. “We’ve also done a crash course in quality assurance,” he explains, “which includes making sure the food safety rules and regulations at SET and Tawlet are maintained.” This emphasis on quality assurance necessitated spot check site visits to farms in various regions to guarantee SET standards of quality and production.

For Kara the summer has been an eye opener. She visited parts of Lebanon she had never seen before. Her work included conducting and writing up interviews with producers all over the country. “I learned about places and things I never knew existed,” she says. “And I got to know people I would never otherwise have met.”

Kara and Phillips worked together to structure Cooking 101, a Tawlet cooking class; then Phillips put his mind to work on a bicycle-sharing scheme. Both he and Kara, along with three students from FEA’s Graphic Design Department researched and helped
create brand images for five SET producers to be designed and executed under the supervision of FEA faculty members Jana Traboulsi and Maya Sakhaly.

FAFS student Chehab meanwhile has lived a summer to remember. "It has been a great experience; I have been involved in every aspect of SET's business, including managing the market for two weeks while the regular manager was away," he says. Chehab has taken responsibility for stock-checking and distributing and distributing SET's Dekenet products in Tawlet and in the signature Sultan Center in the Beirut Souks. "This summer has given me practical hands-on experience that has helped me learn so much," he says. Chehab and Kara were an invaluable bridge between the New Yorkers and the locals, helping expedite all their projects.

Sharing her time between SET and Karaj Media Lab, Hirumi Nanayakkara’s main task was to design SET’s new e-newsletter, to be launched soon. As their farewell project the three New Yorkers put their collective talents to work on a feasibility study and design for a permanent SET eco-market, theoretically grounded in the historic, largely derelict Mar Mikhael railway station.

"This has been an unbelievable work experience: it was trans-disciplinary, with a convergence of interests and expertise and lived experiences," said Danberg-Ficarelli on behalf of the group. "Beirut is not as saturated as New York. There is a lot of room for innovation and entrepreneurial ideas, which is so important."

As their visit to Lebanon drew to an end, their supervising professor Adriana Young summarized the experience. "Beirut was a rich context for studying urban design in an over and under developed context," she said. "The students were hungry for this kind of exposure and collaboration. They saw how Beirut has been propelled into issues facing other global cities: real estate speculation, destruction of heritage, the resulting class divide; only Beirut is worse off because there is no zoning, no intersession, no public space—the commitment to the idea of public space is just not there. In Beirut they discovered extreme cases of private interest.

"On the other hand, the students were inspired by the social entrepreneurs they worked with and by the opportunities for initiative. Here New York can learn from Beirut. Such things exist in New York, but there are many more constraints. My students were able to take initiatives and run with them in a way that is not possible in New York. They also added an international framework to their own issues—things like parking and other every day urban hassles; they found the context for their own frustrations linked to an international context.” Young hopes AUB students will be able to visit New York next spring and that a new batch of students will live the Beirut experience next summer.

Summing up the project as a whole Thomas said, “Overall, the collaboration was a success. There is no way you can NOT have a deeper learning experience when you involve more minds, more voices, and more perspectives… Our built environment is complex and has an impact on the public realm—we cannot design in isolation any more.”

For more information about the project consult www.cityaslab.com.

—M.A.
Reviews

*Lovesong* [Rimal Publications, 2011] by Afaf Zurayk

A portfolio of watercolors and poetry dedicated to the memory of her mother Najla Zurayk.

www.rimalbooks.com

*Forward:*
this portfolio speaks of love
love as light and love as shadow
transparent love as well as cloudy love
for me love become sight
and sight is light
love shed its light inward
making understanding possible
and I grew

*my childhood gave me*
a crystal bowl
for safekeeping
i broke the rim
it’s healing
My Father. Reflections (2010) by Afaf Zurayk and photography by Noel Nasr

Published in remembrance of her father Constantine Zurayk on the 10th anniversary of his passing.

Forward:

This essay in photographs tells a very personal tale. Yet in its scope, the essay moves beyond the particular to explore an understanding of a very complex relationship of a daughter with her father. The father, Constantine Zurayk, was a historian and a leading force in contemporary Arab thought. The daughter, Afaf Zurayk, is an artist. Drawing on this most basic and formative relationship, Afaf examines visually, through images of light and shadow, the deep roots of bonding as well as the concept of time as it unfolds for a historian and for an artist. These, in their depth, tell of the power of that quest through clay figurines, sculpted by Afaf and at times placed on her drawings, as seen through the subtle photographs of Noel Nasr. The music of Gabriel Fauré’s “Requiem” and Johann Sebastian Bach’s “Magnificat” is integral to the full creative experience of the artwork.
Although the air outside may be dangerously polluted (see “Gasping for Air,” MainGate, summer 2011, page 16), the indoor air in Lebanon is about to get a whole lot cleaner thanks in part to the efforts of a committed group of AUB students, faculty, and staff. On August 17, the Lebanese Parliament passed a national law banning smoking in closed public places, prohibiting tobacco advertising and sponsorship, and placing larger textual and pictorial health warnings on all tobacco products. The passage of this law, which went into effect on September 3 and will be implemented over the course of the next year, has been on the public health agenda of AUB’s Tobacco Control Research Group (TCRG) since 1999.

FHS Assistant Professor Rima Nakkash coordinates the multidisciplinary TCRG, which has spearheaded various initiatives to support implementation of a strong tobacco control law in Lebanon. With generous support from the Canadian International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and other donors, it also led the drive to make AUB the first smoke-free campus in the country. In both cases, the TCRG launched an extensive media advocacy campaign and marshaled lots of evidence-based research.

In January 2010, when it decided to make passage of a national tobacco control law one of its priorities, the TCRG reached out beyond AUB’s walls to partner with IndyACT and the Tobacco Free Initiative (TFI). Executive Director Wael Hmaidan (BS ’99) explains that it was IndyACT’s responsibility to make sure that the tobacco industry was not “corrupting the process and to work with MPs to make sure that the text of the law was strong enough.”

The three partners followed the discussions in parliament closely. In spring 2010, they learned that a significantly weaker law that would have exempted establishments that set aside designated “non-smoking” areas from the national law was being discussed. They responded quickly with a statement that “partitioning indoor spaces into smoking and non-smoking areas does not work, even when advanced ventilation and filtration technologies are used.”

As recently as last August, when final vote on the legislation was just weeks away, the TCRG again weighed
in with more evidence-based research. This time it was a study by FHS Associate Dean and Professor Rima Afifi and Nakkash evaluating the impact of pictorial warnings on cigarette packs that proved that pictorial warnings are more effective than textual warnings.

AUB's IFI also contributed in issuing a paper by FAFS Assistant Professor Jad Chaaban and FAS Assistant Professor Nisreen Salti—both TCRG members—that documented the social costs of tobacco consumption in Lebanon. Some of Chaaban and Salti's findings are quite alarming: smoking-related diseases cost about $146.7 million per year; the aggregate cost of environmental degradation totals $13.2 million; and working inefficiency due to smoking costs are $102 million per year.

One of the explanations for the high number of smokers in Lebanon is the popularity of the nargileh (also known as the waterpipe). Although many individuals believe that the nargileh is not nearly as harmful as cigarettes, the evidence suggests that they are wrong. Writing in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine, Virginia Commonwealth University Professor Thomas Eissenberg and FEA Associate Professor Alan Shihadeh note that “despite the lack of waterpipe specific epidemiologic studies of health risk, the weight of the evidence… suggests that waterpipe tobacco smoking is likely associated with many of the same tobacco-caused diseases as cigarette smoking, including cancer, cardiovascular and lung disease, and nicotine dependence.” Shihadeh and Eissenberg, who are currently collaborating on grants funded by the US National Cancer Institute and the National Institute on Drug Abuse, have demonstrated that “relative to a cigarette, a 45-minute waterpipe tobacco smoking episode generates more than 40 times the smoke volume.”

FM Associate Dean Ghazi Zaatari, a TCRG member and chair of the World Health Organization Study Group on Tobacco Product Regulation, says that one of the TCRG’s most important contributions is the research it is doing related to the nargileh. “We have only limited knowledge,” Zaatari explains, “both about the contents and emissions of toxicants and carcinogens in waterpipe smoke and also about the extent that it is taken up by the human body. There is a need to demonstrate the carcinogenic effect, the biological pathways to this effect, and the harm that is associated with the use of the waterpipe. We also need to assess the addictiveness of waterpipe smoking, the social issues that promote the use of this form of tobacco—especially among young people—and the health effects related to the second hand smoke that is caused by the large volume of smoke generated by the use of flavored and sweetened waterpipe tobacco products.”

Although passage of the new law that regulates all tobacco products including the narghile is reason to celebrate, the TCRG and its partners recognize that there is still a lot of work to be done to ensure that it is properly enforced. This is a concern for some restaurant owners such as Christine Sleir (BS ’94) who, although she describes the law as a “good thing to do,” is worried that it will hurt businesses like hers that “work by the book.” Hmaidan, however, says that if international experience is any guide, the new legislation may help many businesses as customers such as Shihadeh and his family, who have been driven away by cigarette smoke, return. “As a Beirut resident and a parent of young children, I am thrilled at the prospect of being able to take them out for meals without the constant worry that I’m doing them harm by exposing them to second hand smoke,” he says.

Learn more about the TCRG at www.aub.edu.lb/units/tcrg
“We entered Lebanon through Syria. We walked with our children for seven hours ... We left Syria at six in the evening. Of course the smuggler kept us in a house for a day before we left. The house was a wreck... there was no water even... We stayed down on the floor for four-five hours, with only the sound of our breathing... then darkness fell and we walked on foot though the valley, the mountain, the thorns, our bodies were pricked with thorns all over.” (Iraqi mother)

Struggling to survive in the Beirut “poverty belt”—the slum areas of the eastern and southern suburbs—Iraqi refugees often vie with internally displaced Lebanese families, Syrian migrants, and Palestinian workers for insufficient jobs and inadequate services. No one actually knows how many people are caught up in this degrading scramble for resources because so many of them fall through the “cracks” between under resourced government services, the NGO network, and international agencies ill-equipped to keep up with the ebb and flow of people seeking aid or shelter in Lebanon.

“There could be 40-50,000 Iraqi refugees,” says Faculty of Health Sciences Associate Professor Jihad Makhoul. “There might be more, there might be less; no one knows because there is no way of knowing. You need to count them but to do that you need to know exactly where they are. You need a list of who has registered with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) as refugees, but many don’t register for fear of persecution; others have made multiple moves back and forth trying to find a solution to their situation. Some are in hiding; some have been thrown in jail because of their illegal status. You don’t know when people arrive and when they leave because Lebanon is a transit country and the system can’t keep track.”

With support from the Arab Families Working Group funded by the International Development Research Centre in 2009–10 Makhoul led a qualitative research study into the experiences, living conditions, and coping mechanisms of Iraqi refugees, Christian and Muslim, to try to better ascertain their situation on the ground and the implications for their future. Some 38 in-depth interviews took place along with focus group discussions with Iraqi refugees and informal interviews with staff working at relief agencies.
“All my research is qualitative,” Makhoul explains, “which allows you to listen to the people and gives them a chance to tell their stories.”

It is the stories that bring the refugee plight into focus: “I am afraid that one day we will go on an outing and then the police would arrest us and make us go back to Iraq.” (A father of six)

“Even the embassy tells me: ‘Do you have someone, a connection in the General Security?’ God, oh God the connections! You are killing me with the dependence on connections in Arab countries!” (A mother)

Until now the Iraqis have suffered in silence. Being illegal, they stay mostly hidden, keeping their heads down for fear of attracting attention. Their illegal status leaves them vulnerable to exploitation from landlords and employers. Life is slightly better for the Christian Iraqis who gravitate towards the eastern suburbs where they interact more comfortably with the Lebanese population and with each other. “They live in communities and social support systems are established among families,” Makhoul says. “The offices of NGOs that serve them are close by and they have venues where they can meet.”

This comes in sharp contrast to the Muslims living in the southern suburbs where fear of the authorities and even of each other forces families to isolate themselves from their surroundings. “I was talking to one family,” Makhoul says. “Their is a Shiite-Sunni marriage. The couple is so afraid of local reaction that the husband lives with his parents in one place and the wife and the children live with her parents in another, and they only visit each other by day.”

Myriad problems including financial, health, inadequate education for the children, along with feelings of humiliation and inferiority manifest themselves in depression, low self-esteem, and often suicide attempts. “One man went to the authorities and asked them to throw him in jail just to relieve the pressure of trying to cope. Another caught his wife taking pills to end it all,” says Makhoul.

Husband: “One day I woke up at 1:30 am and found that she had swallowed all the pills.”
Wife: “I woke up and poisoned myself. I took out the pills and swallowed them all… This life, I don’t want it.”
Husband: “So if I hadn’t woken up and seen her, if I hadn’t done something about it, she would have been gone.”

Paperwork also provides a massive challenge. The Iraqis are essentially in transit hoping to find a more stable environment elsewhere. “Many did not want to come here in the first place. They were smuggled over the border from Syria; they had no clue where they were being taken,” Makhoul says. They want to move on but the paper trail involved is often Kafka-esque. “UNHCR requires all sorts of papers, while the US Embassy asks for things like a certificate stating that you did not work for Saddam Hussein. Where do you get such a document?” Makhoul asks. “Nearly everyone had to work in the army somehow even doing paperwork… The uncertainty makes life unlivable,” she adds. “Ambiguity is a killer. They say, ‘if you tell me we are here for two years, or your documents are missing, or there is something you need to do, then we have something to go on, but now it is as if we are in this limbo.’ This is what is so frustrating for them.”

What can be done to break the deadlock and process the refugees quickly and efficiently? “I think there are many implications for everyone involved. The government needs to relax its approach, to stop pressuring them, to support them, and help them while they move on. Offer them temporary work permits and cut down on the fees they have to pay. The fees required of them come to hundreds of thousands of pounds. Where can they get this money? They are required to show documents that most do not have and many are afraid to go to the General Security offices and admit they are here. Would an Iraqi refugee think, ‘Today I will forget about feeding my family and just go and explain that I don’t have these papers and get myself arrested at General Security?’”

Better communication at all levels would greatly alleviate the stress, Makhoul adds. The UNHCR
Over the decades since the Lebanese civil war ended in 1990, the pockmarked, derelict buildings that stood in silent testimony to the terrible toll of war have all but disappeared from Beirut. Nowadays one comes upon them only occasionally, as a sober reminder of violent times past. Out of sight, out of mind, they no longer trouble the consciousness. So too, unfortunately, those largely forgotten groups of people, known prosaically as the IDPs (Internally Displaced Persons), who fled from their homes in different parts of the country and later found themselves consigned to oblivion in obscure corners of the Beirut suburbs.

“They are overlooked and therefore un-served,” says Professor Jihad Makhoul, who led a qualitative research project focused on these largely low-income families. They are rarely supported by the government, except through the centers of the Ministry of Social Affairs. Whatever services are available to them are meager, Makhoul says. This takes its toll on them.

“There is no war anymore. However, people are slowly psychologically dying (because of) hunger.” (A displaced woman in Ramlet al-Aali)

The IDPs are found mainly in Nabaa in the eastern suburbs and in dispersed pockets throughout the southern suburbs. Some of them are on the NGO radar but as Makhoul points out, NGOs in Lebanon rarely coordinate, and if they ever do they rarely seem to involve the populations they serve in decisions about their services.

Makhoul’s 2006–07 research was designed to understand the point of view of women whose place of origin is by now almost a mirage and of their daughters who have known no other life:

“You are always psychologically strained. We had a forest. It was a very beautiful forest full of pine trees and flowers. We would walk 100 meters and spend the best weekend in spring there. Here, we are restricted.”

For some, trips back home, mainly to the south, bring relief and respite from the crowded, uncertain conditions in Beirut. For others, there is no going back because there is nothing to go back to. Displaced from the Beqaa, the IDPs in Nabaa have severed their links to their former villages, which were largely destroyed. Trapped in poverty in their new location, they pin their hopes elsewhere.

“Nuns from St. George used to visit my house. One nun used to bring the priest along with food rations. The priest used to continuously tell us to keep our faith strong. He would visit us often at our house and pray and preach to us.” (A 33-year-old mother in Nabaa)

Born and raised in insecurity and impoverishment, the children of IDPs have a bleak outlook:

“Here, I feel… when I come home, I get upset from this area. It’s as if it has crushed you, your heart… When my dad comes back home, he gets irritated.” (A daughter in Ramlet al-Aali)

One tactic to ease the situation is to marry the daughters off at an early age thus shifting the burden of responsibility elsewhere and in so doing renewing the cycle of early marriage, early childbirth, and more mouths to feed.

“We have a number of recommendations, of course,” says Makhoul. “One is that the government needs to be more in touch with the people, to conduct surveys and visit the places where impoverishment exists so that decision makers come to understand the dynamics of the situation. More funding for social and health services is needed, universal health care, support for education, and family allowance. Only 50 percent of the Lebanese population has access to these, and they are people already employed by the state or the private sector. So people like these IDPs—unemployed, semi-skilled, and displaced with large families—miss out.”

—M.A.
One day somebody will write a book about all the wonderful love stories that started on campus and ended in successful marriages. Until then, sit back and enjoy MainGate’s version of true love AUB-style.
Najwa Shaheen Haffar started her journalistic career in 1949 as a student in the first journalism class ever to be given at AUB and as a reporter and writer on the staff of the university newspaper, Outlook. For many years she was editor-in-chief of the alumni association publication Al Kulliyah. Her romance with husband-to-be Kamal kept the AUB community in thrall. He was a handsome, athletic Syrian and she was a headstrong Lebanese with a non-conformist attitude and a healthy disregard for parental control. It all started simply enough with an introduction in class. In the first volume of her autobiography, We Once Were Like That, Najwa writes, “On our second day in class Kamal suggested that I take the seat next to him... In that one move [I] set the course for my future.” However, the course of true love was not destined to run smoothly. Najwa’s parents disapproved of the liaison and did everything they could to put an end to it. Najwa did everything she could to keep it going.

“Where there is a will there is a way and boy was there a will!” said Najwa recently. “I would go to the movies with some friends and reserve a seat next to me. Kamal would walk in after the film started, hold my hand throughout the movie, then walk out before it was over. If we were lucky and there was no one we knew there, we would walk back together to Ras Beirut.”

Then came “Love and the Handbook,” a musical in three acts which related the story of life at AUB. The late Professor Emeritus Kamal Salibi composed the music and had a hand in writing the lyrics but was unable to attend the performance as he was studying overseas. Though Najwa was originally to be cast in the lead role, she too was unable to participate:

“The story included a campus romance which, it is believed, was inspired by our romantic relationship, and Kamal and I were to be cast in the leading roles. My parents lost it completely! No stage was large enough for Kamal and me to appear on together...” remembers Najwa. She was forced to sit out the performance and watch herself being played by someone else. “I was eating my heart out. Of course what my parents failed to realize was that I did not miss one single rehearsal. So it was as if I had actually played the role... Our campus romance went on for two years and I don’t think any girl of that time had as many love poems written for her. Our correspondence filled up a small trunk which, unfortunately, was lost years later when we were moving house. During the annual Field Day, Kamal sent me a note to the bleachers [where I was sitting] saying, “If we were in Spain, I’d be throwing you a rose, but now I’m throwing you my heart.” He then proceeded to send me his medals as he received them and they were many, with Moses Berziganian who was one of the ushers. The irony was that my father was right there behind him, timing, and measuring the track events.”

Kamal and Najwa eventually married several years later in spite of all the obstacles. Najwa writes with typical humor, “Finalmente, Mamma met ‘that young man’ who impressed her no end and they became friends forever. Everyone teased her after that about the wasted tears she had shed for the last five years and I told her if they had agreed to meet Kamal long before, it would have saved everybody a lot of grief. But it would also have done away with a source of entertainment for the community.
Nadim Homsi and Hala Mukhar met on campus in 1958. In those days freshman women had to pass a swimming test before beginning the sophomore year.

Hala writes, “It was the end of the year and I had to pass the swimming test. Coming from Jordan, which at the time had very few swimming spots, I simply did not know how to swim. A friend, Teddy Abdo, offered to teach me a few days before the exam, but he had to cancel because of a last minute seminar. Nadim was a swimming instructor and the manager of the AUB Life Guards; he was present when Teddy told me he could not make the appointment, so he offered to teach me. We met at AUB Beach the next day and in less than half an hour he managed to get me to swim across the pool on my own, which was good enough for the test. After the lesson he invited me to Uncle Sam’s for a coffee. I was so impressed by his manners, the way he held my elbow while crossing the street, pulled out my chair for me, etc. that I took a liking to him, and we began spending more time together. The rest is history.

Nadim remembers, “She was the most beautiful girl on campus and was totally oblivious to that fact despite her having been voted Miss Aggie 1958, as well as Miss Jordan later that year. I liked her down to earth attitude and her sense of humor. We clicked immediately and continued to see each other for the following three years. She then worked in Jordan for a year and was sent to the United States on a Fulbright scholarship. When she returned in 1962 I proposed to her and, as she says, the rest is history.”

Nadim and Hala are retired in Amman and have two daughters living in Greece and Jordan respectively. They are the proud grandparents of six children, the eldest of whom began university in the United Kingdom in September.


“Raja and I met in a Russian history class in College Hall. My majors were history and economics, hers was political science and through this minor we shared an interest in the past. We started to go to the Milk Bar for coffee and cinnamon rolls and then to “our” bench to exchange thoughts and comments on our courses and teachers and to get closer. We talked about our families, their traditions which kept us apart, and the future to which we both aspired.

“After 1961 Raja and I eloped to Canada where we have been living ever since. During our years at McGill University we frequently compared the mood at university in Montreal with that in Beirut, remarking that Lebanon had greatly contributed to our
growth. One often wonders what Lebanon might have become had all the people mingled in the way they do at AUB. We would never have met and later married had it not been for the haven of free social intercourse the campus offered us.

“McGill provided us with degrees to help us find and hold onto good jobs, Raja as a librarian and me as a teacher. We witnessed the cultural revolution sweeping through Quebec Province in 1960-67, transforming French Canadian society from its traditional, religious orientation to one that blended with the modern North American ethos. For us personally, this revolution of minds and institutions brought us closer to civilization. The intellectual, moral, and professional enrichment we acquired during our McGill years and during our marriage of 50 years would not have meant anything without our years at AUB.”

He wrote me a beautiful message (on a blank card) where he said that he would make me the happiest girl “south of Sahara”!

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Salma Ismail Paroo (BA ’70)

Salma writes, “The melodic voice of Fairuz fills the room while I reminisce on how my husband, Nizar and I met on the grounds of AUB in the late 1960s. In the fall of 1967 I was a young 20 year-old from Kenya and a proud recipient of a USAID Scholarship to study geography and secondary education. In the fall of 1968, along came a 24 year postgraduate student from Uganda. His chosen field of study was in modern Near East and Islamic history. We didn’t know each other; we didn’t speak Arabic, and this was our first overseas experience.

Nizar Nuraney (MA ’70)

“I lived on campus, and on my way down to Jewett Hall I’d often stop and study at the library. At the far end of the library corner was a carrel that was always occupied by the same student, a rather engrossed and studious looking one who seemed to be taking copious notes. He caught my attention as he seemed of South Asian origin, like me.

“A few weeks later we met face to face as I was walking towards my geography class at Nicely. We looked at each other and smiled! Somehow we felt drawn to each other as we briefly chatted. ‘Would I like to go for coffee?’ he asked.

“That was our very first date around the winter of 1968. Going up Hamra, Nizar spotted a nice little pizza parlor called “The Milk Bar.” Over a milkshake and pizza we got acquainted. We had so many common experiences to share from our language to our cultural background.

“On the campus, we had a very special spot on a bench under a lovely, shady tree overlooking the beautiful Mediterranean Sea. It was on that bench that Nizar proposed to me on March 21, 1969. He wrote me a beautiful message (on a blank card) where he said that he would make me the happiest girl “south of Sahara”!

“In 1971 we got married in my house in Mombasa, Kenya. We immigrated to Canada in 1972 and settled in Vancouver which has been our home for the last four decades. This year in 2011, we celebrate our 40th wedding anniversary.”

Nassib Jihad El Solh (BA ’77)

Hanan Budayr (BA ’77)

Hanan writes, “We met and fell in love on the beautiful AUB campus in 1974. I remember people insisting
that I should graduate with a diploma in one hand and a husband in the other… and I happened to meet the most extraordinary guy there. All the girls were in love with him… He used to be in all the plays at the Hyde Park which were meant to criticize the situation. He was very funny. When he declared he had chosen me as his girlfriend, I felt very lucky. I still feel very lucky. Nassib has proven to be the most extraordinary man on earth!

Haydar Abbas (BS ’81, MS ’83)
Roula Wehbe (BS ’82, MS ’84)

Roula writes, “We were both in the Agriculture School and we had a tutorial at the AUB Farm [AREC] in which I was supposed to help him with an experiment in the onion field. This is actually where we met: among the onions with knapsack sprayers on our backs.”

Makram Takieddine (BE ’85)
Suha Eid (BA ’86)

Suha writes, “It all started in 1983 when I first stepped through the AUB Main Gate. I was only 17 and I was petrified by the idea of leaving school and entering the oldest most qualified university in the Middle East. I was looking for someone to tell me what to do and where to start. It seems that I looked terribly lost when I suddenly heard the voice of a young gentleman [Makram] asking me if I needed help. I accepted with pleasure and he started showing me around. The second day Makram helped me to register for my courses. He was the only person I knew at AUB. He used to wait for me after every class to show me the way to the next one. I didn’t notice that he liked me until one day when he was waiting with a flower. “The political situation in Beirut was very bad at that time and on one day when we were with friends on the West Hall steps we saw students running around and heard others saying that we should all go home. I asked someone what happened and he said they have assassinated Sheikh Halim Takieddine in his home. This man was Makram’s father. I was shocked, scared, and I didn’t know what to tell him. It was the worst moment in my life. He started running from Bliss Street to his house in Sanayeh and I ran after him. When we arrived there was army everywhere, detectives taking fingerprints, photographers snapping pictures… and his father lying dead on the floor. You can imagine the situation. From that moment I decided to stay with the man who would become my husband, to help him overcome this tragedy and complete his engineering degree. I am so proud of what we did to help each other in difficult times.

“When we graduated from our beloved AUB, the place where we met against all the odds, I promised myself that I would serve AUB in the best way possible. I worked 15 years in the AUB Alumni Abu Dhabi Chapter until a few days ago when I was unanimously elected vice president of the chapter. I am also a council member in WAAAUB. We are very proud of our daughter Sirine, who graduated from AUB in June 2011 with a BS in nutrition and dietetics. We hope our son will join AUB in two years time when he leaves high school.

“AUB has done so much for my family. My father Ibrahim Eid, an AUB graduate (BBA ’57), passed away a few months after receiving his 50 year Class Reunion gold medal. My grandfather Sami Eid attained a BS in chemistry in 1934. Long live AUB.”

From that moment I decided to stay with the man who would become my husband, to help him overcome the tragedy.
Hassa Kassem Moussa (BS ’91, MD ’95) Hera Tashjian (BSN ’95)

_Hera writes_, “Moussa and I met at AUBMC in 2005 in the Coronary Care Unit (CCU). I was a staff nurse back then and he was an intern rotating in CCU. I used to get hidden “love” messages from him written in small letters on the board in the conference room of CCU; while distributing medications to my patients I used to get candies and chocolate! I am now an advanced practice nurse for critical care at AUBMC and my husband is a neuro-intensivist and practices at several hospitals in Beirut. We have two children, Adam (six and a half years) and Lynn (three and a half years).”

Rida Jaafar (BS ’94)
Samar Hossein Mundher (BE ’96)

_Rida writes_, “Our fairy tale is a story of friendship and love born at AUB 20 years ago and still growing. I met Samar in the first week, or maybe on the first day, of the first semester of our first year at AUB; we shared a few courses and friends. We became inseparable but not yet lovers. Thus we spent almost all our undergraduate life at AUB together but not “together.” In 1995 I decided that it was the right moment for our “friendly” relationship to become more serious; Samar went along with the idea for a few months then she confessed that she could not adjust to the notion of me as a lover instead of her close friend, so we broke up. I was completely devastated, but I found refuge in AUB; I started running every day at the Green Field, around the campus and outside on the Corniche, come rain or shine. I dropped about 30 kilos in less than a year. For two more years Samar and I did not talk but I heard her news from a mutual friend. I got a job in Abu Dhabi and when I returned to Lebanon for my summer vacation in 1999 our friend suggested that I talk to Samar, something I used to refuse to do. I agreed. We met again, talked, and fell in love. I proposed and in less than a year, we married and moved to Abu Dhabi. In 2004, we returned to Lebanon to continue our love story and raise our angels, Karim (eight years) and Lynn (three years), for their future AUB successes and love stories. In August 2011, we will celebrate our 11th anniversary as two heads on one pillow; or is it our 20th anniversary as two hearts in one soul? Thank God for Samar, Thank God for AUB.”

Mohamad Omran (BBA ’97)
Suzana Mitri (BA ’98)

_Mohamad writes_, “We first met in Chemistry 101 in the fall of 1993; both Suzana Mitri and I were freshman science students at AUB. We were also very different. She was short and I was tall. She listened to love songs and I listened to rock. She was risk averse and I wasn’t at all. She was a Greek Orthodox Christian and I was a Sunni Muslim.

“But, every time I spoke to her, I wanted to quickly finish my sentence so I could hear her voice. I loved her eyes when they narrowed as if to say, ‘I know you’re joking!’ and when they widened every time she was excited to tell me something.

“Her character was like no other. All she wanted to do was to help others. When she was 17, she spent time...”
in Brazil helping children and executives learn English as a second language. She took two different buses, risking assault, to get to work and teach. Her favorite story is when she put her makeup in her wallet and her money in her cosmetics bag and laughed after somebody stole her wallet on the bus.

“In June 2005, a group of friends were planning to go to Tam Tam Beach in northern Lebanon. They all changed their mind, but Sue and I didn’t. We had a good drive up and the sunset was perfect. I told her that I thought that I liked her and she told me that she thought she liked me, too. I told her that I don’t want our relationship to ever jeopardize our friendship and she said yes. I held her hand for the first time that night as we walked the beach. Two months later, I kissed her near the Engineering Department and I’ve never been the same. I knew from that moment that I wanted her to be my soul mate because I had discovered what true love was.

“Everything I am is because of her. She stood by me as I asked for her hand in marriage that broke both our parents’ hearts. She waited for me for nearly two years when I came to the United States after graduation to establish our beginning. She accepted that I couldn't afford to provide her with an official wedding dress when we went to Castine, Maine to get married at a small inn with only three guests that we knew. She encouraged me to pursue a higher degree and then supported me at home while she worked. She told me to follow my dreams in work and take risks that could have really hurt us financially had they not worked out. She fell one short of fulfilling the promise she made to me when we first fell in love of us having four daughters.

“In April, Sue was diagnosed with late stage triple negative breast cancer, and as I type this in mid-August, she fights on. She inspires me every single day as she endures bouts of pain that tear me up from the inside out. She amazes me with her sense of humor during times when crying seems to be the only logical thing to do. Her gravitational pull only grows stronger as she becomes weaker and friends from every corner of the world just want to know what they can do to help.

On September 23rd 2011, Sue passed away at her home in Cohasset, Massachusetts. Her spirit lives on in her “Moey” and in their three beautiful little daughters: Sireen, Leila and Samar. Sue was the most caring and nurturing pre-school teacher, whose pure and loving spirit was a bright light of strength and compassion for everyone who met her. She will always be missed.

Unable are the loved to die. For love is immortality.
—Emily Dickinson

Abdul Elkadri (BS ’00, MD ’04)
Jana Faour (BBA ’01)

Jana writes, “Abdul-Aziz and I were both members of the Ushering Club and the folk dance organizing committee, which is how we met and later fell in love at the AUB Folk Dance Festival. He was a Canadian Lebanese student who had just moved to Lebanon for his studies. I was very familiar with AUB, being the daughter of an AUB professor and having graduated from IC.

“The AUB campus holds many fond memories...
for us. The bench by the observatory is where Abdoo proposed to me—with a piece of yarn shaped into a ring. We were engaged shortly after and spent many memorable times together on the AUB grounds including endless hours in the library studying, at both our graduations, and as volunteers at campus events. We married on July 31, 2004 after Abdoo graduated with his MD from AUB. Two days later we started off on our journey together; and here we are, over 10 years to the day since we fell in love, celebrating the second birthday of our son Kareem. Every time I go to Beirut, I make it a point to visit AUB. Many of the friendships we made during those years have stayed with us despite the geographic distances that separate us. Life is so busy at times we forget to reflect on these special moments, so thank you for the opportunity to relive them. To my husband: Aboodi, I love you and am so proud of you. Thank you for giving me the greatest gift—our Kareem.”

Our fairy tale is a story of friendship and love born at AUB 20 years ago and still growing.

Karim Mansour (BBA ’00, MBA ’03) Ramona Khalil (BA ’00)

Karim writes, My wife and I met at AUB, in CS class. She used to say hi to me thinking I was another guy—funnily enough, one of my best friends. We ended up going out together and have been together ever since.

Mohamad Elfakhani (BS ’01, MD ’06) Maha Mrayati (BS ’03, MS ’07)

Mohamed writes, I first noticed Maha on campus during medical school. She was beautiful and had a lovely smile. On the rare occasions I would run into her, we would have a short conversation, far more pleasant for myself I suppose than for her. Somehow I got the idea that Maha was engaged, and was devastated. When I found out she wasn’t, I worked up the courage and spoke to her. A few months later we were engaged. I proposed as she sat on the bench overlooking the Green Field and the Mediterranean next to Jafet. She jokingly replied she would think about it and then said yes. One year later, we were married. We’ve now been happily married for five years and have two lovely children, Dalia, three, and Saeed, just two weeks old as I write.

In August 2011, we will celebrate our 11th anniversary as two heads on one pillow; or is it our 20th anniversary as two hearts in one soul? Thank God for Samar, Thank God for AUB.

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Fouad Philip Bardawil (BA ’48) and Madeleine Isbir (BA ’50, MA ’77) “courted” at AUB with campus as a backdrop for their social and cultural life. Married in 1952 they are strong supporters of AUB.

Musa Freiji (BS ’57) and Amal Ayyub (BA ’57, MA ’67) say AUB has always played a main role in their lives and dreams. They live near campus and have been married for 52 years and are blessed with five children and 14 grandchildren. They write: “Our journey continues, always keeping AUB in our hearts, aspiring to ‘have life and have it more abundantly.’”

Jad Karam (BBA ’59, MBA ’63) and Mary Besso (BBA ’59, MBA ’62) met as sophomores in 1957. They married in 1971. Their three children are AUBites. The family considers AUB its second home, where Mary has worked for many years.

Usama Al-Azm (BA ’60, MA ’64) and Murshida Shaaban (BBP Brief Business Program ’63) married 46 years ago. They live in Kuwait but love visiting AUB to sit on their special bench overlooking the Green Field.

Karim Abdulla (BS ’67) and Amira Zeineddine (BA ’68) met at a Friendship International Gathering in 1965. They’ve just celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary with their children and grandchildren.

They say “Love and Marriage go together like a horse and carriage.” We say “Love and AUB, is here for all to see.”

Campus Courtship

Lifelong Love
Iliyya Abi Antoun (BBA ’67, MBA ’69) and Violette Hajjar (BBA ’70) met at AUB in 1963 and married in 1972. Three of their four children, Rola (BS ’95), Marwan (CCE ’97), and Tania (MD ’04) are AUBites. Their son Ramzi is studying software engineering at Carnegie Mellon University.

Faysal Sharif (BS ’71) and Marilyn K. Lewis (BA ’70, MA ’73) met at AUB in 1968 as undergraduates. They married in 1969 and will soon celebrate their 42nd wedding anniversary with their children Ramsey, Karim, Nabeel, and Leila.

Ohaness Nersissian (BA ’78) and Sossi Doumanian (Nursing DIPLM ’80) met in 1977 at AUH when Ohaness's dad was sick and Sossi was a first year nursing student. They married in 1980 and have two children. Ohaness says AUB not only supplied him his education but also directed him to the “right partner for the right family.”

Ali Khalil (BS ’79, MD ’83) and Mona Nabulsi (BS ’79, MS ’05, MD ’04) met at AUB. Now their two boys are studying at the University.

Raja Abdallah (BS ’91, MS ’93, ME ’96) and Lucy Semerjian (BS ’94, MS ’00) met at FEA while pursuing their graduate degrees. They married in 2002, pursued their PhDs in the UK, and now both work at AUB. They have two girls, Larissa and Sophia.

Youssef Doughan (BS ’89, MS ’92, MS ’06) and Mona Al Hariri (BA ’88) went to elementary school together, but their love blossomed on campus. Married in 1997 they hope their two children will enjoy AUB as they did.

Andre Haddad (BS ’89, BBA ’91) and Roula Hawwa (MBA ’94) had a chance meeting at the business school in 1992. They didn't see each other again until 1999 at reunion. The rest is history. They married in 2003 and hope that their three daughters will meet their soul mates at AUB. “AUB was a blessing… We wish everyone as happy an AUBite life as ours.”

Houssam Hashini (BS ’89) and Maha Soubra (BS ’91) met in a nutrition course, FTN 221, during Houssam’s last semester, and they were engaged two years later, in 1991. They married in 1992 and spent time in Kuwait and Beirut and currently live in Ontario, Canada with their children Kareem (16) and Rami (12).

Ahmad A. Zayn (BS ’92) and Raghda Mugharbil (BA ’95) met when Raghda was a sophomore. She says, “We had many dates on the Green Field and we share so many romantic memories all around campus.”

Farid Michel Al-Khoury (BE ’93, ME ’98) and Aida Diab (BE ’93, ME ’97) were classmates at the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture. They married in 2010 and have a son, Michael.
Walid Dirani (BE ’92) and Thurayya Backour (BA ’94) met on campus in 1990 and married in 1996. They live in Toronto, Canada with their children, Mohammed Ali (eight) and Qays (two).

Ahmed Saleh (BBA ’02) and Mona Tiba (BA ’01) met in the fall of 1997. “On February 26, 1998, after our accounting class, we were sitting on the cafeteria stairs when Ahmed told me for the first time that he loved me. From that day on and on the 26th of each month we celebrated our love,” writes Mona. Married in 2007, they have two daughters, Jana and Nour.

Yorgui Armani (BE ’93) and Marie Carole Elia (BS ’94, MD ’98) met at AUB in 1990 and later in 1998 when Yorgui said, “Fate led us again to each other . . .” They married in 2001 and live in Abu Dhabi.

Adib Takieddine (BBA ’03) and Layal Harmoush (BBA ’03) first studied together when Layal realized Adib scored 95 in class. Fate separated them until 2005 when Adib declared his love in the middle of coffee at Paul’s. Marriage followed in 2007. Baby Ramzi was born this year.

Ahmed Saleh (BBA ’02) and Mona Tiba (BA ’01) met in the fall of 1997. “On February 26, 1998, after our accounting class, we were sitting on the cafeteria stairs when Ahmed told me for the first time that he loved me. From that day on and on the 26th of each month we celebrated our love,” writes Mona. Married in 2007, they have two daughters, Jana and Nour.

Firas Echtay (BE ’06) and Fatin Baz-Radwan (BBA ’07) met in 2003 and spent their first few years together on campus. They were engaged as undergrads in 2005 and married in 2008. They live and work in Jeddah.

Karim Alayli (BE ’99) and Rania Mehwi (BE ’99) met in class and became engaged just after they graduated. They married in 2001 and currently live in Abu Dhabi.

Faysal Zok (BA ’00) and Yasminah Abbas (BBA ’99) met in 1998. Every spot of AUB holds memories for them. They celebrate their ninth anniversary this year with their daughter and two sons. “To my lovely wife Yasminah… I love you… Faysal.”

Bilal Hallab (BBA ’07) and Ruba Sidani (BFA ’10). Ruba writes: “We first met when Bilal was a student affairs volunteer at my first orientation at AUB. A semester later we met again in the cafeteria and I found out that Bilal was about to graduate. We exchanged emails and we’ve been in touch ever since. We got married on September 15, 2010, the year I graduated with a degree in graphic design—four years after our first meeting on AUB campus.”
George Edward Post

Pioneer Scientist of the Middle East

As far as we know, he is the only one of AUB’s founding fathers to have his own website. Lauded as “the greatest surgeon and botanist in the East,” George Edward Post (1838-1909) played an especially important role in founding the Syrian Protestant College’s Medical Department. In a letter he wrote in 1873, Daniel Bliss tells his wife, “Dr. Post is doing more for this College than any other man in Syria. His energy and thoroughness make the Medical Department.2

Professor Lytton John Musselman, who created and maintains the George Edward Post Site (http://www.odu.edu/sci/imusselm/post/index.html), says that although Flora of Syria, Palestine, and Sinai, which Post wrote in 1884, is still consulted today, it is his study of the plants of the Bible that is Post’s most enduring contribution to the field of botany. (You can find out more about the plants described in Post’s Flora of Syria, Palestine, and Sinai at AUB’s Post Herbarium, http://www.aub.edu.lb/nhm/Pages/herbarium.aspx.)

This “pioneer scientist of the Middle East,” as Musselman describes him, was born in New York City. His father was a surgeon and professor of surgery at University Medical College of New York where Post earned his medical degree in 1860. After he was ordained in 1861, Post served as chaplain of the 15th Regiment of New York Volunteers for two years. Remarkably, while administering to the spiritual and medical needs of Union troops, he also managed to find time to enroll at the Baltimore College of Dentistry and was awarded a doctor of dental surgery degree in 1863. He married Sarah Read the same year. It was also in 1863 that the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions sent Post to Syria; he and his family spent five years in Tripoli before he joined the Syrian Protestant College as a professor of surgery and botany in 1868.

During his more than 40-year career at SPC, Post worked particularly closely with Doctors Cornelius Van Dyck and John Wortabet. Together, these three extraordinary men lay the groundwork for today’s AUB Medical Center. In addition to being a talented surgeon and teacher, Post also proved to be a skilled architect (he designed and supervised the construction of the old Medical Hall and Post Hall), a successful fundraiser, and a deft emissary who represented SPC on several important missions abroad. Post died of pneumonia at his summer home in Aley less than a year after he retired from the College. In appreciation for the care that he received from Dr. Post, Morris K. Jesup (who was president of the College’s Board of Trustees from 1884 to 1908), donated $20,000 for the construction of a science building on campus. Jesup insisted that it be named for Post, who had designed the building, which was completed in 1911 at a cost of $40,213. Post Hall has been home to the Archaeological Museum since 1962; the Geology Department is on the second floor.

1 Henry Harris Jessup, Fifty-Three Years in Syria, Volume 1, page 272.
2 Daniel Bliss, Letters from a New Campus, page 132.
All in the family

The founding families of the SPC have inspired, sheltered, and nourished this institution throughout its history. These are just a few of the branches of their family trees.

Daniel Bliss (1823-1916)
- Founding President Syrian Protestant College (SPC)
- President (1866-1902)
- (In 1920 College renamed American University of Beirut)

Abby Maria Wood (1830-1915)
- Emily Dickinson’s “particular friend”

Howard Sweetser Bliss (1860-1920)
- SPC President (1902-20)

Mary Wood Bliss (1857-1930)
- Established School of Nursing in 1905 with Jane Elizabeth Van Zandt

Gerald FitzGerald Dale, Jr. (d. 1886)

Harry G. Dorman, MD (1876-1943)
- Dean of School of Medicine (1918-25)
- Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology (1915-40)

Franklin A. Dorman, MD (d. 1927)
- SPC Trustee (1919-27)

Mary Bliss Dale (1880-1956)

Mary William Bliss (1890-1982)
- Granddaughter of Daniel Bliss

Mary Isabella “Belle” Dorman (1908-2011)
- Obituary in this issue (p. 68)

Harry G. Dorman, Jr. (1906-91)
- (AUB faculty “staffite” for 3 years in the 1930s)

Alfred H. Howell (1912-96)
- AUB Trustee (1967-83)
- President of the AUB Foundation
- Treasurer of AUB
- Board of Trustees (1972-85)

Ruth Rea (d. 1993)

NB: We made every effort to provide accurate dates and information with the resources we had available. If you find any discrepancies, or can fill in the blanks, please let us know. (maingate@aub.edu.lb)

Special thanks to Elizabeth Smith Rea, Bayard Dodge Rea, Helen Leavitt Campbell, and Kleber Alexander Campbell III for their assistance.
Marie-Joe Raidy was born to be a printer, but for a while she felt compelled to avoid her destiny. The daughter of Joseph D. Raidy, one of Lebanon's most successful printers, she may have printer's ink running through her veins, but she was not prepared to admit it. Petite, dynamic, and radiating confidence, after graduating from AUB with a major in graphic design and a minor in business ('05), Raidy decided to give the family business a wide berth because, she says, “I was worried it would interfere in my private life, my personal freedom, especially in Lebanon.”

Instead she went into advertising, followed by animation and website design.

“Eventually there was an opening here and my mother [vice-chairman at Raidy] told me, you fit the profile, but if you are not going to take it, we will give it to someone else and later, there may not be a vacancy,” she explains. “I decided to take it, get it off my conscience, and move on. But I discovered that I loved printing. I loved paper, and I loved ink, the whole process, everything about it. Business is business, family is family, and it hasn’t interfered in my private life more than it would have elsewhere. I guess when you prove yourself, and I was worried about that, it turns out all right.”

Now Raidy holds the title, creative director and quality control manager, of Raidy Printing Group, “the biggest printing company in the region.” Along with her brother Doumit, who runs the Emirates side of the business, she reports to their father, who started working at the age of 11 and built up his printing empire from scratch. “My father is the boss,” she says. “I call him Raidy. I always have since I was a kid; he is my dad and I love him but for me he is Raidy!” Clearly she respects the self-made man whose energy and dedication to work she has so patently inherited.

In Marie-Joe Raidy’s philosophy the term family business extends beyond the triumvirate of the father and two siblings: “I strongly believe you don’t have to be blood to be family; any employee who is really dedicated, who travels under the bombs just to get to the office on time every day, is someone I consider as family. Most of our employees are like family. We believe in empowerment of personnel to provide the best service in the best working conditions. Every department here is a link in a chain. If one link fails, the whole chain breaks; that is why we invest so much in our people.”

Raidy’s Beirut headquarters is housed in a brand new, state-of-the-art building that provides a “one-stop print shop” servicing clients throughout the Middle East, the Gulf region, Europe, and Africa. Construction began just prior to the outbreak of the 2006 war, which caused the Raidys pause for thought. The board voted to stop the work, but not Raidy. “My father waited
Last year she was one of four women selected to represent Lebanon for the program Policy Advocates for Women’s Issues in the MENA region, a one-year advocacy campaign for change. The role of women in the work place is clearly something close to Raidy’s heart. She is a regular attendee at high profile global initiatives for women and has twice been nominated for the Goldman Sachs and Fortune Global Women Leaders Award, one of only 20 women nominated annually out of 10,000 eligible candidates.

As an AUB alumna, this creative bundle of energy salutes her alma mater for the soft and hard skills it gave her. “They really teach you to be professional and humble; humbleness is important. When you graduate you feel like you are the master of the world and only with time and experience do you realize that you don’t know everything. AUB students are usually humble; they work harder, and are well trained. Some of the teachers that students complain about for being too tough or critical turn out to have been the most helpful. I recognized that earlier because I had worked in Raidy during summers and I knew what it meant when the teachers gave us a hard time. You don’t learn from someone who is always nice to you. Anyone can applaud, but not everyone can teach you something valuable.”

“When I was an AUB graphic design student I challenged myself to do what I hated most, business administration. That challenge turned into a passion because, as I noticed later, merging creativity and business is something really beautiful and rather rare. Graphic designers who start working usually say, ‘I wish I had done some business,’ and business people with a passion for art say, ‘I wish I had done some art courses,’ but they say it when it is too late, so I am glad I did it when it was not too late.”

Raidy seems to be ahead of the game in most things. Just before our interview started she had been saying hello to a visitor. It was the man who had produced her first CD when she was just 12. “I thought I wanted to be a singer,” she says with a broad grin. “It is good I got it out of my system then!”

–M.A.
Beyond Bliss Street
reflections

Those were the Days

After completing a BA at the Beirut College for Women (BCW, currently LAU) and an MA in philosophy at AUB, Luba Sinclair (then Luba Khairallah) taught at AUB between 1967 and 1976. She went on to study Plato, teach French literature, the classics, political science and brush up on her Arabic before finally settling in Austin, Texas, a university town which sometimes “fleetingly reminds [her] of Beirut, although never quite.” In 2000 she returned to academia as a part-time multi-lingual library assistant at the University of Texas (UT). She writes, “I’m still at UT 11 years later and have become a recidivist student, attending postgraduate courses, mainly in postmodern thought. I practice yoga and modern dance. It’s a great way to grow old, [spending] more time with my children and grandchildren.”

MainGate: When did you first arrive at AUB and what were your first impressions?
Luba Sinclair: I came to AUB as a graduate student in philosophy in 1965. After I received my MA, I started teaching in the Cultural Studies Program in 1967. I had just graduated from BCW and found the atmosphere on the AUB campus wildly exciting and intellectually stimulating. We were surrounded by so much innovation and renovation in all fields: music, art, literature, theater, politics—even furniture design. All of us were redecorating our homes with splashes of hippy orange and pink among the Oriental rugs.

Ras Beirut itself was a hub for many political refugees and émigrés from the surrounding Arab countries and also for many European and American ex-pats. Intellectually and culturally we all breathed freely. All you had to do was sit at Faisal’s Restaurant (filled with students, professors, politicians, and entrepreneurs) or Uncle Sam’s for a few minutes and you would be drawn into some kind of challenging dialogue ranging from politics to the wildest philosophical topic.

Where did you teach most of your classes?
I started out teaching in the European Languages and Literature Department. Then I taught in the Cultural Studies Program until 1976. Both my office and classrooms were in Nicely Hall, my second home.

What were the biggest changes you noticed while at AUB?
The first few years I was totally mesmerized by the agglomeration of talent on campus: brilliant teachers such as Sadik al-Azm, Tarif Khalidy, Kamal Salibi, David Gordon, and George Khairallah—I could go on forever. It was indeed a privilege to work with these professors. We were all highly dedicated to our teaching and were given the space to be experimental and daring. No one blinked, for example, when I introduced for the first time at AUB, the films of Alain Resnais, Antonioni, Jean-Luc Godard, Stanley Kubrick—and included them in my course reading lists. The students’ response was so enthusiastic that a group of us formed a Cine Club that would meet a few times a month. After viewing a movie, euphoric, we would all go across the street to Café Elissar and spend hours discussing the film.

Unfortunately, as the students became more highly politicized and the Lebanese politico-confessional feuds started being dragged on campus, the academic flow was constantly interrupted by strikes, closures, even occupation by the military. A group of us teachers did give them a bit of a hard time. We joined hands in a line, separating the students from the soldiers, keeping them from going after the students. However, it was hard for everyone, both students and faculty, to focus on our academic agenda. The gravity of the political situation put an end to our lightheartedness.

What do you think your students might remember most about your classes?
The Cultural Studies Program was a highly successful (and I hope still is) forum for exposing students to a truly open exchange of ideas. Weekly communal lectures encouraging debate among faculty and students were held for each course in Assembly Hall. After the lecture all the faculty members met for lunch in the Faculty Lounge and grilled whoever had delivered that
day’s lecture. Then that polemical spirit was carried back to the students in the classrooms and beyond.

I remember having students follow me after class to my apartment across the street where we would all continue debating. It was almost as though the fifth century Athenian agora had been transposed into the Beirut of the 1960s. I hope my students were imprinted by what Isidore Ducasse calls a ferociousness and boldness of the spirit that a true reading of great texts instills.

**Are you still in touch with any of your former students?**

So many of my former students have moved on to illustrious careers. Two in English literature I was fortunate enough to teach were Nabil Matar, PhD, Cambridge University, currently at the University of Minnesota, and Elise Salem, PhD, University of North Carolina, formerly at Fairleigh Dickinson University, and now vice president at LAU. Another great student is American playwright, film maker, and actor Michael Cristofer, who won a Pulitzer Prize for his play, *The Shadow Box*, in 1977. I still see these former students and hope to remain in touch with them for a long time, inshallah. In fact, Michael has promised to introduce me to Angelina Jolie. I can’t wait.

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**Do you have anything you would like to say to your former students?**

Yes. Call me if you happen to be in or near Austin, Texas (Luba Sinclair in the Austin Directory), or email lubasinclair@hotmail.com. I would love to see you again.

**When did you leave AUB? Have you been back?**

I left AUB in 1976. Yes, I have been back to Beirut many times. My old home on Bliss Street has been torn down to give way to another high-rise, but I now have a daughter at Balamand and three siblings in Beirut, Jounieh, and Balamand.

**What impact has AUB had on your life?**

At the risk of using a well-worn Hemingway cliché, I can say that AUB and the Beirut of the 1960s will always remain “a moveable feast” in our lives. Those of us fortunate enough to have lived through that period have been marked forever with the joy that true intellectual camaraderie induces when experienced in a situation of liberal openness and creativity. Not to mention the wild parties we used to throw. A large number of faculty members would gather for great food, drink, and conversation in each other’s homes on a regular basis. We would also all share the latest LP of the Beatles, “Hair,” the Rolling Stones, and every single new release available in Beirut and, of course, we danced until the early hours of the morning. We thought those days would never end. Yet by 1977 many of us were dispersed all over the world, but the Beirut of the 1960s remains forever to enrich our memory.

—J.M.C.
Beyond Bliss Street

All in the family

Howard Sweetser Bliss

Abby Maria Wood

Bayard Dodge

David Stuart Dodge

Q1 Who was Emily Dickinson’s “particular friend”?
Q2 Who said: “A university is an anvil upon which ideas are forged, and it is these ideas which influence civilization more than money or guns.”
Q3 Who said: “I am rich, as few men are rich, in friends, and I have a great and abiding faith in the College.”
Q4 Who said: “For four generations my family has been involved with educational and medical services in the Middle East. We have a great concern for the people of the area.”

Answers page 42.
WAAUAB 2011 Elections

Elections were held in the spring and summer for the leadership of WAAUAB. Under the newly implemented bylaws, the council elected all members of the WAAUAB standing committees and the remaining seats for the Board of Directors.

President: Nabil Dajani (BA ’57)
Vice President: Abdul Hamid Bibi (BBA ’64)
Secretary: Rani Daher (BE ’06)
Treasurer: Rima El Kadi (BA ’01, MA ’03)
Members at Large: Hiba Bitar (BE ’99, ME ’05), Ionnis Violaris (BA ’78)

New Board members:
Sami Haddad (BA ’71, MA ’77)
Nasri Kawar, Chair of the Chapter Committee (BS ’56)
Georges Riachy, Chair of the Outreach Committee (BAR ’00)
Ghada Rihani, Chair of the Programs Committee (BS ’84)
Fadlo Touma, Chair of the Governance Committee, Ex-officio (BE ’66)

For a complete list of council members and all standing committee members, please visit our website: www.waaaub.org/elections 2011

Alumni in Jordan held their annual reception on July 12 at the Alumni Club to welcome Jordanian alumni who graduated from AUB in 2011.

More than 275 alumni and friends were on hand at the Centro Ramadani in Amman on Friday, August 19 for the Jordan Club’s annual Ramadan night. To become a member or learn more about upcoming events, join the club’s Facebook group: AUB Alumni Jordan Chapter.

On April 1, the Qatar Chapter held a “family fun” trip to the sand dunes followed by a barbecue on the beach. One hundred alumni, families, and friends enjoyed the day and the excitement of “car
MainGate Fall 2011

Beyond Bliss Street
alumni happenings

The Ottawa Chapter’s iftar on August 18 at the Silk Road Kabob House.

(Top) Lina El-Esber, chapter secretary (BEN ’02), Nada Tamim (BA ’90), Nada Hamade, chapter vice president (BA ’99).

(Bottom) Left to right: Pierre El-Deek, Dunia El-Deek, Hala Boushey, Carol SteIr-Absi, Rene Skaff, Dr. Roger Milan (former faculty), and Samir Ghanem.

Skiing” on the sandy hills. On July 3, 70 alumni and their spouses got together for a night of music by a South African band at the Rotana’s jazz club. The popular quiz night, held twice a year, followed on October 8. Upcoming: the gala dinner on December 8.

The recently established Maldives Chapter held an inaugural gala dinner on September 14 in the presence of President Peter Dorman, his wife Kathy and a small delegation from AUB. Among the more than 100 alumni and friends at Dharubaaruge (Male) on Wednesday evening were Maldivian Vice President Mohammed Waheed Hassan (BA ’77) and State Minister of Education Ahmad Ali Maniku (BA ’83).

More than 100 AUB alumni, friends, and family attended the WAAAUB Toronto Chapter’s gala dinner on April 16 at Le Royal Meridien King Edward Hotel in downtown Toronto. After a brief welcome from Chapter President Rana El-Mogharbel (BA ’97, MA ’99), all eyes turned to featured speaker Janice Price, who is the CEO of the Luminato Festival in Toronto. She told the audience that hard work, networking, and collaboration had been the keys to success in her “journey to the top.” Alumni also enjoyed dancing and the chance to win some of the many raffle prizes donated by local businesses. The Executive Committee also honored Teddy Abdo (BBA ’61), who returned to AUB this summer to celebrate his 50th Class Reunion. Congratulations Teddy!
There was an air of excitement and expectation among both alumni parents and incoming students as the AUB Legacy Ceremony 2011 kicked into action. While the speakers exhorted students to seize the opportunities afforded to AUB undergraduates, parents nodded earnestly remembering the time when they themselves were embarking on the remarkable journey that is life at AUB.

Each speaker stressed AUB’s value-added components—its diverse educational offerings and student body; the crucial benefits of a liberal education; that the University is a place where lifelong friendships are formed and that its alumni network is second to none.

Addressing the audience in a DVD specially prepared for the occasion, HE Education Minister Hassan Diab urged students—and his three children—to “Make use of AUB days to enrich your knowledge through faculty, colleagues, and friends.” He called AUB a “driving force in creating leaders” and added that AUB friendships last a lifetime. Speaking as much to his own children as to the other students, Salim Kanaan (BS ’77, MS ’79, PhD ’85), director of admissions and financial aid, advised the incoming class to “study hard, have a balanced life, and enjoy AUB’s many extracurricular activities.” He added, “AUB is the main gate to great future connections in Lebanon, the Middle East, and the rest of the world.”

—M.A.
Clockwise from top left: May Monia Chmaytelly (BA ’87) and her son Issam; Mohammad Al Labban (BEN ’80), daughter Raccoel and Nada Shatila (BS ’82); Nawwar Diab with son Radwan [father is H.E. Hassan B. Diab (BS ’81, MS ’82, PhD ’85)]; Samer El-Jurdi (BEN ’78) and daughter Tamara.

Samer El-Jurdi’s (BEN ’78) daughter Tamara is an incoming student at the Olayan School of Business this fall. “An AUB education provides us with a passport and we do not need visas when using this passport… An AUB education teaches tolerance, ethics, respect for others, and above all no discrimination in theory and in practice.”
AUB is “a beautiful journey that is going to be tough… AUB will train you and mold you into becoming a leader. Build your strengths and you will become an amazing person,” said Dania Dbaibo Darwish (BBA ’87, MS ’07), psychotherapist and coach, here with her daughter Kinda Darwish who will be studying landscape design and ecosystem management at AUB.
FHS research associate Rouham Yamout’s (MPH ‘07) daughters chose to study abroad so she was thrilled when her son Rayan, who is pursuing an engineering degree, decided to attend AUB. She told him, “AUB allows students to get the best knowledge and at the same time allows them to get the best connections for their future.”
1940s

Suhail Bulos (BA ’46, MD ’50) recently retired from AUB after working for 47 years as an orthopedic surgeon and professor. Rimal Press has just published Rue du Mexique and Other Stories, a collection of short stories about his childhood in Jerusalem that “tell the tale of people getting on with their normal lives against the odds—occasionally losing, but often succeeding,” Bulos and his wife Shermine Rawlah (BA ’48) live in Beirut. They have three daughters and six grandchildren.

1950s

Muriel Angelil (BS ’55) had an exhibit last July at the New Century Artists Gallery in New York City. She showed paintings inspired by her childhood years in Alexandria, Egypt, which included abstract figurative works of dancers, Arab women, little girls, and horses rendered in bold strokes and colors. Angelil’s studio is located in Amesbury, Massachusetts. She is also writing a book on her experience in Egypt and the exodus of her family due to political upheavals. Her artworks can be seen at murielangelil.com

Amal Freiji (BA ’57, MA ’67) is an educator and author whose developmental programs and books for children include Lughati An-Namia (My Developing Language), Beituna (Our Home), Al’abuna (Our Games), and Ashabuna (Our Friends). Her work has been described as “based on a deep understanding of the child’s basic physical and psychological needs, the social-cultural needs of the community, the learning process in general, and Arabic language learning in particular.” [info(at)amalfreiji.com] [www.amalfreiji.com]

Lana Mahmoud (BA ’85) writes about two generations of AUB couples.

My parents, Samia Al Khairy and Junaid Mahmoud (BS ’64, MD ’68), met at AUB even though my mother actually graduated from the nearby Beirut College for Women (BCW). Their love story began when the AUB Medical Students Society was invited to the BCW campus for the first co-ed dance on October 17, 1967. They met at that dance and have been together ever since.

My paternal grandparents, Dr. Najib Mahmoud Ahmed (Jiddo) (MD ’35), a pulmonary physician, and Maida Al Haidari (Neneh) (BA ’40) were both AUBites. Neneh, my inspiration, gave the valedictorian speech at her graduation ceremony. She went on to become a teacher, an inspector of schools, and head of the Iraqi Red Crescent. In 1947, at the age of 31, she headed the Iraqi delegation to the International Woman’s Congress at the UN. She began her speech to the UN with, “I come from the land of Scheherazade and the 40 thieves. Alas, we no more have Scheherazade, but we have more than 40 thieves!” Jiddo loved my Neneh dearly but for years she was busy focusing on her education, career, and traveling the world representing her country. After seven years, my Jiddo managed to win the heart of one of the most beautiful and accomplished women in Baghdad at that time.

My maternal grandparents, Suhail Bulos and Shermine Rawlah (BA ’48), recently retired from AUB after working for 47 years as an orthopedic surgeon and professor. Rimal Press has just published Rue du Mexique and Other Stories, a collection of short stories about his childhood in Jerusalem that “tell the tale of people getting on with their normal lives against the odds—occasionally losing, but often succeeding,” Bulos and his wife Shermine Rawlah (BA ’48) live in Beirut. They have three daughters and six grandchildren.

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1960s

Teddy D. Abdo (BBA ’61) is a board member and former chairman of Meirc Training and Consulting. In 1965 he earned an MBA, majoring in labor and management, from the University of Iowa. Abdo and his spouse Diana Domian Abdo have two married children and four grandchildren. They live in Toronto, Canada.

Khalid Adbullah (BBA ’61) is dean, College of Banking and Financial Sciences, at the University of Banking and Financial Sciences in Amman, Jordan. Formerly, he served as minister of planning for Jordan, president of a private university, and professor at several universities. He received his MBA at Texas Tech University and his PhD in 1972 from the University of Georgia. Adbullah is the author of dozens of accounting books and numerous research papers published in reviewed journals. He has supervised more than 100 PhD dissertations. Adbullah has four children and lives in Amman, Jordan. [khalid_99_io(at)yahoo.com]

After spending parts of 2008-09 in Princeton, New Jersey helping NephroGenex Inc. launch a new clinical trial, Raja Gabriel Khalifah (BS ’62) returned home to Cary, North Carolina with his wife Lilla and is now semi-retired as a consultant to NephroGenex. This April, he and Lilla traveled back to New Jersey to attend the dedication of a stunning new chemistry building at Princeton University (where Khalifah and his son Peter both earned doctoral degrees in chemistry). While there, they attended a small private dinner for Alice Bliss Studebaker (MS ’67) (since deceased, see obituary, page 67) and husband Joel hosted by Barbara and Harry Purnell (former ACS students). Khalifah presented the Studebakers with North Carolina WAAUB Chapter-designed T-shirts in recognition of their enduring friendship and their steadfast and generous support of AUB. [khalifah(at)alumni.princeton.edu]

Wasi Naz (BS ’62) has retired after 30 years in the pharmaceutical quality and compliance field, though he is still working as a consultant. He writes, “Most of my old friends may remember me from my involvement with the Folk Dance Club while at AUB. After moving to Canada I lost touch with many of my old classmates and friends. I am anxious to renew contact, especially with my old friends Raja Asaad (BA ’62) and Madeleine Tashjian.” [Va3naz(at)rac.ca]

Looking for old friends and classmates!

Mary Arevian Bakalian (BS ’69, MPH ’79) is a clinical associate professor at the Hariri School of Nursing. [mb00(at)aub.edu.lb]

Riad Dimechkie (BA ’69) is a senior lecturer and the director of the EMBA program at OSB. In 1979 he earned an MBA at INSEAD and in 1992 he completed the Advanced Management Program at the Harvard Business School. Dimechkie has three children: Talal, who is an investment banker living in New York; Kenza, who works for Médecins Sans Frontières in Africa and South America, and Karim, who is currently enrolled in a master’s program.

1970s

Samir M. Hanash (BS ’68, MD ’72) is program head of Molecular Diagnostics at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle, Washington. [shanash(at)fhcrc.org]

Nizam Peerwani (BS ’72, MD ’76) has been appointed chair of the Texas Forensic Science Commission. He completed his residency in pathology at Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas and is board certified in clinical, anatomic, and forensic pathology. He is an advocate of child safety and human rights and serves...
Rima Shadid (MA ‘73) writes, [My father] HE Ambassador Joseph Shadid (BA ‘39) was born in 1914 in Jdeidat, Merjeyou. He is married to Salma Iskandar Hourani and they have four daughters, nine grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.

After graduation, Joseph (also known as Yousef) taught in Baghdad and Bir Zeit, Palestine. In 1944 he was appointed first secretary to the first Lebanese Embassy in London headed by Camille Chamoun. His postings then took him to Liberia, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa where he was in charge of the Lebanese missions. He then returned to AUB where he completed all coursework for his master’s degree, but he was posted to Liberia in 1952 before completing his dissertation.

In 1966 he was appointed ambassador to Turkey and, in 1970, ambassador to Austria. After retiring in 1978, he returned to Beirut where he served as adviser to the Institute of Palestine Studies. In 2001 he completed his autobiography Between Politics and Diplomacy (in Arabic) published by Dar Al Nahar and available at the AUB Library. He was honored at a signing ceremony on the occasion by the Lebanese Press Syndicate.

The Shadid family has a long legacy at AUB. It includes Joseph’s father Naguib Shadid (MD 1896), maternal grandfather Asaad Rahhal (MD 1883), brother Emile Shadid (MD ’34), brother Faris Shadid (BA ’32), who earned his MD in the United States, father-in-law Iskandar Hourani (MD ’13), uncle Adib Rahhal (MD ’09), and brother-in-law Farid Hourani (MD ’53). In addition, there are three sons-in-law (two MDs, one BEN), a daughter (MA), a grandson (MD 2009), as well as other family members who received their degrees from AUB in various disciplines.

In 1981, Shadid and other retired ambassadors founded The Circle of Retired Lebanese Ambassadors that publishes the quarterly La Revue Diplomatique in Arabic, French, and English. He is 97 years old and active. He is an avid reader who attends lectures and social functions and loves to visit with family and friends.

Decorations:

- Commander of the Order of National Cedars (2007) Honored by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in a ceremony at the Lebanese Press Syndicate
- The Star of Africa – Liberia (1953)
- The Grand Cordon of Austria (1978)

Rima Shadid teaches in AUB’s English Department.

Mohammad Qayoumi (BEN ’75) was recently appointed president of San José State University. He holds master’s degrees in nuclear engineering, electrical and computer engineering, and business as well as a doctorate in electrical engineering from the University of Cincinnati. Previously, Qayoumi served as associate vice president for administration at San José, president of California State East Bay, and vice president for administration and finance and chief financial officer of California State Northridge.

Bahij Riachi (BBA ’76) is the CFO of NESMA and Partners Contracting Co. in Saudi Arabia. He is married to Marie El-Khoury and they have two children who live in Saudi Arabia and in Beirut. [bahij_riachi(at)hotmail.com] and [bahij(at)nesma.com]

Ioannis M. Violaris (BA ’78) is an associate professor of economics and the dean of the School of Economic Sciences and

If your family has generations of AUB graduates, send your story to maingate@aub.edu.lb
Ranwa Haddad (BS ‘75) writes, "My great grandfather... Ibrahim Haddad was a man from simple origins who converted to Protestantism in order to better his life and that of his family. He worked as an assistant to Professor Edwin Rufus Lewis and helped him gather a great collection of fossils and set up a museum which is now the Archaeological Museum at AUB. Sadly, his mentor... [had to leave SPC] after making a pro-Darwin, pro-evolution speech [Editor’s note: at the College’s annual ceremony for awarding degrees in 1882]. In spite of that event, Ibrahim’s family benefitted immensely from AUB. My great grandfather’s three sons went to AUB for free and studied medicine, medicine, and pharmacy respectively.

My grandfather, Dr. Sami I. Haddad (MD 1913), went on to become a very successful physician who taught at AUB. His children went to AUB, including my father, Dr. Farid S. Haddad (BA ’41, MD ’48) and my uncle, Dr. Fuad S. Haddad (BA ’44, MD ’48), who also taught at AUB (neurosurgery). Their children went to AUB and did quite well. I am an admirer of AUB and I do appreciate its contributions to my family and to Lebanese society in general."

Ranwa Haddad is principal director at The Aerospace Corporation/GPS Program in El Segundo, California [Ranwa.haddad(at)cox.net]

1980s

Robert Moundjian (BS ‘80, MD ‘84) has been promoted to full professor in neurosurgery at the University of Montreal. He earned a master’s in neuroimmunology and glial cell biology at McGill University in Montreal in 1990. He also had a fellowship at Columbia University. Moundjian is married to radiologist Mona El-Khoury, and they have a 17 year old daughter, Camille. [moundjian(at)videotron.ca]

Adib Nuruddin (BEN ’80) is country manager at Eaton Corporation. He works in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. [AdibNuruddin(at)eaton.com]

Diana Touma (BBA ’77, MBA ’80) is vice president of operations at Medicines for Malaria Venture, a not-for-profit organization based in Geneva, whose mission is the discovery and development of new anti-malarial drugs. Touma is married to Dr. Khalil Cotran (BS ’70) and they have three children:

Gida, Ibrahim, and Ramzi. [cotrand(at)mmv.org]

Ahmad Jamal Anis Balaa (BS ’81) is general manager at Ed Zueblin AG, Abu Dhabi branch. He earned an MBA in structural engineering at George Washington University in 1983. Balaa and his wife, Hanan Riad Cheikh, who earned a fine arts diploma in 1983, have four children: Abdallah Balaa (BBA ’06), who earned an MBA in 2010 at Concordia University, Montreal; Omar, who earned a BS in civil engineering in 2010 at McGill University, Montreal; and Baha, who is a second year mechanical engineering student at McGill University. Balaa and his wife live with their 11 year-old daughter Dima in Abu Dhabi. [Ahmadbalaa(at)yahoo.com]

Edwin Bell Hanna (MA ’81) lives at Plantation Manor Assisted Living in McCalla, Alabama near the home of his son Richard Hanna. From 1947 to 1985, Hanna worked mostly in Lebanon, first as a teacher and later as a pastor.

Muhammad Ali Nsouli

(BBA ’81) is managing director and senior adviser at Bank Julius Baer & Co., Ltd. in Geneva. [ali.nouli(at)gmail.com]

Rana Zeine (BS ’83, MD ’87), who earned a doctorate at McGill University and is pursuing an MBA from Keller Graduate School of Management, is preparing a chapter on organizational culture in higher education for The Strategic Management of Higher Education Institutions: Serving Students as Customers for Institutional Growth to be published by Business Expert Press in December 2011.

Faysal El-Kak (BS ’83, MS ’85, MD ’90) is an obstetrician gynecologist and a public health practitioner specialist in women’s health at AUB. He completed his residency at AUBMC in 1995, spending part of it at Union Memorial Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland. El-Kak is also a senior lecturer at FHS, a woman’s health activist and consultant, and president of the Lebanese Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology. He lives in Beirut and in the Beq’a, and he has a fourteen year old son, Nadim. [fk011(at)aub.edu.lb]

Wafa El Ahwal (BAR ’82) is technical and contracts audit manager at Solidere in Beirut.

Amin Assaad Abou Ezzeddine (BA ’86) is journalist at Al Jazeera network in Qatar. Abou Ezzeddine and his spouse Maya Chams have two children: Raja and Adam. They live in Doha, Qatar. [aminai7(at)hotmail.com] [aminmaya(at)gmail.com]

Iman Idlibi Hatoum (BA ’86) is a consular officer assistant at the United States Consulate General in Dubai, UAE. In 2007, after living for 18 years in the United States, she relocated back to the Middle East with her family and is now happily residing in Dubai. Hatoum is married to Mohamad Hatoum, and they have two daughters: Nawal (19) and Sarah (12). [iman3808(at)yahoo.com]

Carol Tayyar Khoury (BS ’88, MS ’92) has over 22 years of experience in retail banking. Her current position is head of product development and customer management at Bank of Beirut. Khoury and her spouse Imad Khoury have two children: Christopher and Natalie. They live in Beirut. [khoury_carol(at)atlyahoo.com]

Adib Jaber (BS ’89, MD ’93) has been an ophthalmologist in private practice since 1997 in Beirut where he lives with his spouse Nada Sbeity and their three children. [adjaber(at)inco.com.lb]

Abdel-Rahman Ayas (BS ’90) is the business editor of Al-Hayat. He heads and directs the business news department and writes regular analytical and opinion pieces on current business and economic affairs. Ayas has worked in journal-

ism for the past 18 years holding executive positions at publications such as The Daily Star, The Middle East Reporter, and Monday Morning. He has translated several books including David Hirst’s The Gun and the Olive Branch and Joseph Stiglitz’s The Roaring 1990s.

Rabieh Khudr (BEN ’92) is business development and export manager at M/S Faisal Jassim Trading LLC. In 2007 he became a member of the Professional Engineers Association of Ontario. Khudr is married with two children: Dylan and Isabel. The family lives in Dubai.

Bassel Al-Khatib (BS ’94, MS ’99) is now a senior
Mohamad Z. Koubeissi (BS ’95, MD ’99) is an assistant professor of neurology and program director of the Clinical Neurophysiology Program at University Hospitals Case Medical Center in Cleveland, Ohio. Koubeissi and his wife, Maha Haddad, have two children.

Joseph Elkhoury (BEN ’92) is vice president of information solutions at Schlumberger. He has completed advanced coursework in business management and supply chain management at the International Institute for Management Development in Switzerland. Elkhoury and his spouse, Jocelyne Bou Khalil, live in Sugar Land, Texas and have two children: Mike and Thomas.

Mohamad Mokahal (BEN ’92, MEM ’95) is a senior project manager at BMO Financial Group. In 2010 he earned project manager professional certification from Project Management Institute. Mokahal and his spouse Iman Tabbara have three children and live in Mississauga, Ontario, Canada.

Tina Badran Kfoury (BBA ’94) is managing director for Business Lobby, Recruitment and Talent Management in Beirut.

Mohamad Mokahal (BEN ’92, MEM ’95) is a senior project manager at BMO Financial Group. In 2010 he earned project manager professional certification from Project Management Institute. Mokahal and his spouse Iman Tabbara have three children and live in Mississauga, Ontario, Canada.

Naji Mouaness (MMB ’95) is the head of consumer banking at Standard Chartered Bank Lebanon. He earned his financial management certification from the Institute of Management Accountants, New York. Mouaness and his spouse, Myriam Tohme, have three children and live in Lebanon.

Ramez Abdallah Wazzeh (DIPL’95) works as a picture archiving and communicating systems coordinator at AUBMC’s Department of Diagnostic Radiology. He graduated first in his class with distinction from AUB’s Radiologic Technology and in economic development from Harvard University. She lives with her husband Paul Khoury (BEN ’82) in Beirut.

Jaafar Sleiman Haidar (BS ’99) is a senior scientist at ImClone Systems. In 2007 he earned a PhD in biomedical engineering at Boston University. He lives in New York City.

Diala Aschkar-Martin (BGD ’00) and her husband Arnaud Martin, a software designer, are based in Paris. They recently launched a new social network, Seen This [http://seenthis.net], about social and political issues, digital media, and new internet technologies.

Leila Sawaya El Khoury (BEN ’00) earned two master’s degrees in construction management from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and in economic development from Harvard University. She lives with her husband Paul Khoury (BEN ’82) in Beirut.
Development. Currently, Kawtharani is pursuing his doctorate in business administration at Grenoble Ecole de Management. [Kawtharani(at)gmail.com]

Joseph Malkoun (BEN ’02) is a doctoral student in mathematics at Stony Brook University, New York. [joemalkoun(at)hotmail.com]

Maher Itani (MEN ’03) is a systems analyst at FEA. He and his wife Maya (MEM ’07) have just welcomed daughter Tala to their family. [mi19(at)aub.edu.lb]

Nader Jubaili (BA ’03) is the managing director at A.R. Jubaili & Co. (ARJ). Since 1979, ARJ has been one of the leading companies in power generating sets in the Middle East and North Africa. ARJ received the International Europe Award in 1999 for best quality in the Middle East. Jubaili currently resides in Beirut. [Nader(at)jubaili.com]

Azmi Sayadi (MBA ’03) is a strategy manager at Huta Hegerfeld. He and his wife, Najwa Kabbara (BA ’03), live in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. [azmi.sayadi(at)gmail.com]

Hamza Daroub (BS ’04, MS ’09) is an instructor in FAFS’s Nutrition and Food Sciences Department. [hd25(at)aub.edu.lb]

Dania H. El-Berjawi (BS ’05) completed her internship in nutrition and dietetics at AUBMC in 2006. In addition to working in her diet clinic in Mazraa, Beirut, El-Berjawi worked as a clinical dietitian at the Clemenceau Medical Center for about three and a half years prior to being recruited by the Ministry of Economy and Trade, Consumer Protection Directorate where she works on high-level projects and research. El-Berjawi and her husband Youssef Chaar have two boys: Mohammad and Hassan. [daniaeasydiet(at)yahoo.com]

Ali Abdul Sater (MS ’05) is a postdoctoral research scientist in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at Columbia University. He earned his PhD from the University of California in 2010. His wife, Samar Moussa (MS ’04), is a postdoctoral research scientist in the Chemical Engineering Department of Columbia University. They live in New York City. [aa3068(at)columbia.edu]

Mershed Al Samara (MPH ’05) earned his medical degree from Aleppo University, Syria. He is doing his internal medicine residency in Detroit, Michigan. From 2007 to 2009, he worked as a research associate at Oregon Health and Science University. In summer 2010, Al Samara married Dima Khoury.

Mona Shaban (BBA ’06) was selected as one of the top finalists in the Miss Arab USA 2011 pageant, which took place on September 10 at the Talking Stick Resort in Scottsdale, Arizona. Shaban writes that she is very proud to be an AUB alumna and to celebrate Arab-American culture by participating in this event. [http://www.facebook.com/pages/Mona-Shaban-for-Miss-Arab-USA-2011]

Sarah N. Aboulhosn (BBA ’07) is a program coordinator in the Office of Student and Community Relations at Texas A & M University, Qatar. Her job entails a great deal of logistical coordination and communication with the community, job and internship placement for current and former students, and organization of recruitment and outreach events for prospective students. Aboulhosn and her spouse, Mohamad Noueihed, live in Doha, Qatar. [sarah.aboulhosn(at)qatar.tamu.edu]
You were a young medical student at AUB at the height of Lebanon’s civil war. That must have been quite challenging.

The civil war started when I was in the sixth grade and was at its height when I was at AUB from 1981 to 1988. Growing up in an emergency war situation can make you a lot more flexible in dealing with emergencies. I’m not immobilized by unexpected events, which has served me well in my career at CDC responding to public health emergencies and dealing with global health issues.

How did your interest in epidemiology or infectious diseases originate?

I’ve always been interested in public health, but my interest really took root during my residency and fellowship at Emory University. I was getting somewhat frustrated with clinical medicine and the fact that patients were repeatedly coming in with recurrent medical conditions that could have been easily prevented, so I signed on for the two-year Epidemic Intelligence Service program at the CDC in 1993. It made me a very firm believer in prevention and the importance of good public health. I now work on vaccines, which are the ultimate prevention intervention.

Does your focus on vaccines mean that you’re mainly concerned with childhood diseases?

I trained as an internist and an infectious diseases specialist; my interest is broadly in public health with a focus on infectious diseases. The vaccines I work on now are also given to adults. Recently, my division played a major role in introducing the meningococcal meningitis vaccines. Meningococcal disease causes horrible epidemics in what is called the African Meningitis Belt, which is sub-Saharan Africa. Our group helped to develop the vaccine and to provide the infrastructure for implementation at the country level. The new vaccine was recently launched in Burkina Faso and is expanding to cover other countries. It may soon eliminate meningitis epidemics in the region.

You’ve been all over the world from South Africa, Thailand, Vietnam, Peru, the Middle East...

CDC is the national public health agency for the United States, but we also serve as technical experts and consultants for the World Health Organization (WHO) and for various other countries who appeal to the CDC for assistance. In 2001 there was a big outbreak of meningococcal meningitis during the Hajj. Being a Muslim, I was the only member of the CDC team able to make it all the way to Mecca. It’s interesting how my background as a Francophone in Haiti and as an Arabic speaking infectious diseases medical epidemiologist in Saudi Arabia helped get me to the front lines. However, background can only take you so far. It was my training in managing large outbreaks that made me part of the response team in the anthrax attacks in Washington, DC in 2001. The fascinating thing about epidemiology is that you’re not only looking at the clinical and pathological aspects of disease but also at the interaction with the environment, society, culture, and human behavior.

Are global travel and the ease with which people move around the world now leading to infections spreading more quickly?

Yes. Two recent examples are the 2003 SARS epidemic, which originated in Hong Kong, and the H1N1 influenza, which originated in Mexico. They both spread rapidly throughout the world. I was involved in the Hotel “M” investigation—the hotel in Hong Kong where the first SARS case occurred. From one case the virus spread all over the world within weeks. The Haj meningitis epidemic was due to a new strain of the meningitis organism. Again, weeks after the outbreak occurred in Mecca, small clusters began appearing in various countries, including places in Europe and North America as pilgrims returned home. Microbes are like humans, they keep evolving.
You returned from a cholera relief effort in Haiti last spring. What did you see there?

They haven’t rebuilt anything yet and there are piles of rubble still in the street. Water and hygiene infrastructure is almost nonexistent, which significantly contributed to the rapid spread of the cholera epidemic. I had to stay in a tent on the US Embassy grounds for three weeks because there aren’t many hotels in Port au Prince that are safe enough to stay in. In terms of the cholera, people in refugee camps actually fared much better than people outside because most of the refugee camps are operated by relief organizations and NGOs and they provide cleaner water than is available to the rest of the country. In Haiti, especially in rural areas, people go to the rivers directly for everything they need. Until the infrastructure in Haiti is rebuilt so that people have access to safe water, it will be very difficult to control the cholera outbreak completely and to prevent future outbreaks.

Are there a vaccine for cholera?

Cholera vaccines are not very effective. There’s a new one now, but it’s available only in limited quantities. The main intervention is to educate the public about the importance of using clean water. They hadn’t had a single case of cholera in Haiti for 100 years, so the population was completely naïve and vulnerable to the organism which spread very quickly. Even the physicians weren’t trained because they had never seen a case of cholera.

Are you seeing wider gaps in public health between developed and undeveloped countries?

Some public health interventions can be costly. In developing countries it takes a lot more resources to implement them. New vaccines that deal with pneumonia and diarrhea are much more expensive than routine vaccines, so they’re generally introduced in the United States and other high income countries at least ten years before they make it to low income countries.

However, there are many global efforts ongoing right now to change this trend, such as the work done by GAVI [the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization].

What makes you most hopeful about the work you do?

I strongly believe that the implementation of public health interventions is the way to better health for the world. You are literally saving thousands of lives as you go. To see so many children have access to life saving interventions and feeling that I’ve played a part in that is extremely rewarding.

— B.R.

More On-line
RECENTLY HONORED

Zaven Messerlian (BA ’59, MA ’64) was recently awarded the Golden Medal of the Ministry of Education and Sciences for the Republic of Armenia. The medal was presented by the Armenian Ambassador Ashod Kocharian at the 84th commencement exercises of the Armenian Evangelical College of Beirut. Messerlian is an educator, historian, and prolific author. He has been the principal of the Armenian Evangelical College for the last 44 years.

Nabil T. Nassar (BS ’61, MD ’65), professor of medicine in the Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases and director of the Executive Health and Travel Medicine Program at AUB, was recently honored at the 2011 annual graduation celebration of the Department of Internal Medicine for his long service to the department. While doing his residency at AUB, Nassar was selected for the competitive AUB/Hopkins exchange program for fellowship training at Johns Hopkins University where he earned an MPH. He returned to AUB in 1970 to teach in the Department of Internal Medicine and to head University Health Services, better known as “the infirmary,” which he restructured. In 2004, he established the Executive Health and Travel Center and has served as its director ever since.

Khalil N. Bitar (BS ’68, PhD ’76), American Gastroenterology Association Fellow, is a research professor and the director of the GI Molecular Motors Lab at the University of Michigan Medical School. His laboratory has pioneered research in neuro-gastroenterology and motility. Bitar was honored at the inaugural dinner for the League of Research Excellence in April 2011 by the dean of the University of Michigan Medical School.

Bitar’s research, which has been supported by the National Institutes of Health for more than 30 years, focuses on novel approaches using biomedical engineering and regenerative medicine to treat neuromuscular diseases of the gastrointestinal tract.

Marwan Refaat (BS ’99, MD ’03) received the Heart Rhythm Society Kenneth Rosen Award in cardiology pacing and electrophysiology and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Arab Students’ Organization Science and Technology Young Professional Achievement Award in 2011. At AUB, Refaat earned his medical degree with distinction and was a Penrose Scholar in 2003. He later completed an internal medicine residency at Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School, and was a recipient of its Department of Medicine Award in 2007. He completed a fellowship in cardiovascular medicine at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center and received the Pittsburgh Young Investigator Award and the Dr. Ziad Memorial Award for outstanding achievement in the care of cardiac patients in 2010. Refaat is a cardiologist specializing in cardiac electrophysiology at the University of California San Francisco Medical Center. He’s also a scientist at the Gladstone Institute of Cardiovascular Disease. [rifaatmarwan(at)hotmail.com]
Kamal Suleiman Salibi was a cherished member of AUB’s family. Of the outpouring of remembrances we received, here are just a few.

Professor Kamal Suleiman Salibi was a great historian of modern Lebanon, the Arab world, and the Bible; and a man of outstanding human qualities. No words can fully express what Dr. Salibi has meant to all of us who came to know him or know his work. He was a courageous critical historian, always willing to question received wisdom and even to change his own views in light of his findings. To us at AUB, he was an inspiring teacher who influenced generations of students and colleagues. We will always remember him for his intellectual integrity, passion, humility, and above all for the love and care he provided to his students and friends.

—Ahmad Dallal, AUB Provost

Kamal Salibi is best known for his interpretive, provocative histories of Lebanon and the wider Middle East, but to those of us who knew him, he was also a delightful raconteur and always good for a glass of whiskey and a cigar. But, when I first met him in 1970, he was... the intellectual guru of the rightist Lebanese student league on campus. And so when I appeared in his course, The Arab East, 1516-1920, I expected that I would be getting the Phalangist version of history, and that Mount Lebanon would be the center-piece of the story of the Arab East. Salibi did have a distinctive slant to his version of Arab history, but I found the course full of eye-opening comparisons that I had not anticipated.

My most valuable experience with Salibi occurred outside the classroom. On one Spring break, I ran into him in central Syria. When I saw him walking around first in squares and then in circles, all the while scribbling notes to himself, I thought he must be loony. I didn’t expect someone with his reputed political views to be traveling there.

Eventually, my curiosity got the better of me and I went up to ask him what he was doing. He didn’t seem surprised to see me. His response was simple and to the point and it is one that has remained with me all these years. He said that he could not write history without first imagination how the land he was writing about looked. He said that he was preparing a book on Syria in classical Islamic times and that he needed to get a feel for the countryside and the towns and the distances between places, and to establish some reasonable metrics. This is how he spent his vacations, walking the land. The desire to see and touch the land, to walk all over it, to imagine how it might have been, and thus to render the past somehow tactile is the most important lesson I took away from Kamal Salibi. I have tried to apply it to my own scholarship, but never with his imagination or success.

—Philip S. Khoury
Chairman of the AUB Board of Trustees

Most people don’t know that Salibi was a talented musician as well. Kamal led the AUB Men’s Glee Club when I was at AUB in the early 1960s. He wrote a number of excellent arrangements of well-known songs for the Glee Club, including one of the Lebanese National Anthem. Kamal’s late brother, Sami Salibi, who owned and operated a music school near AUB, conducted us during concerts.

—John Makhoul (BEN ’64)
Mohammad Diab (BA '51) passed away on August 8 in Damascus, Syria. Born in Damascus, Diab earned a master's degree from the University of Chicago, and a PhD, also in economics, from the University of Rotterdam in the Netherlands. A distinguished member of the AUB Economics Department, Diab went on to hold a number of important positions including economic adviser to the Syrian Ministry of Planning. He also authored many publications and helped to establish Capital Intelligence, now widely recognized as a leading credit rating agency in emerging markets. He is survived by his wife, Afaf, and their two sons, Amine and Zafer.

Tom Malone Sr. passed away last March after a brief illness. He was a longtime resident of Potomac, Maryland. Born in Raleigh, North Carolina in 1926 and educated at Harvard where he earned a doctorate in biology, Malone served as chairman of AUB's Biology Department from 1966-69. Malone was the number two man at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) under three US presidents. His son Tom Malone Jr. writes that although his father had a colorful and successful career, "none of his positions were more enjoyable than his time at AUB. Not only did we grow to love our neighbors, but the people of Lebanon as well! My father will no doubt be remembered by the hundreds of students he guided, both professionally and personally. His life was forever touched by AUB and I know he always felt he was a part of its past, as well as its future."

ALUMNI

Albert Y. Badre (BBA '34) passed away in October 2010 at the age of 98. He earned his master's and doctorate degrees in economics from the University of Iowa. For 25 years he taught at AUB where he became head of the Economics Department and chairman of AUB's Institute of Financial Economics. In the 1960s he worked for the United Nations as chief economic adviser for the Belgian Congo. He then taught economics at the University of Iowa and at Southern Illinois University. In 1973 Badre returned to Beirut as president of Beirut University College (now Lebanese American University) where he helped to navigate the college through the turbulent years of the Lebanese civil war. He retired to Atlanta, Georgia in 1983. For the next 10 years he served as a part-time professor at Agnes Scott College. Badre was an international educator, a scholar, and a recipient of many awards and honors from governments and associations. He is survived by his wife, Afaf, their five children, six grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

Khalil M. Kharma (BS '61, MD '65) passed away in August 2011. He served his residency in obstetrics and gynecology at Temple University Hospital in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Kharma had a private practice in Waterbury, Connecticut for 29 years before retiring in 2002. During that time he worked as a clinical professor at Yale University School of Medicine. He is survived by his wife Jean (Palmer), their three children, and his brother Ziad.

Nizar S. Nuwayhid (BS '62, MD '66) of Belmont, Massachusetts died in August 2011 at the age of 70. The son of the late Suleiman and Adele Alameh Nuwayhid, he grew up in Beirut where he met and married his wife of 41 years, Siham Tawfic Salih (DIPLOM Nursing '65). Nuwayhid began his career as a member of AUB's Faculty of Medicine. In 1987 he moved to Boston where he maintained a private medical practice. He was an
Alice Bliss Studebaker

was AUB founder Daniel Bliss’s great-granddaughter (see family tree on page 42). She spent much of her early life in Bulgaria, Istanbul, Damascus, and Beirut. After receiving a BS in zoology from Mt. Holyoke College and a master’s in biology from AUB, Studebaker taught science in private schools and worked as a research assistant to the curator of spiders at the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard University. She married Joel Studebaker in 1969 and they moved to Princeton in 1979. Her survivors include her husband Joel, children Anna of New York City and Daniel of San Diego, two grandchildren, and two sisters, Joan Wilson and Margit Orange. Her family will miss her generosity, her incandescent smile, and her flair for meeting new people.

Mohammed Tajuddin

was AUB Alumni Association’s Boston Chapter as well as a longtime supporter of St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital. He is survived by his beloved wife Siham; sons Ousamah S. Nuwayhid and Ramzi N. Nuwayhid; daughter Nadine Nuwayhid Nassar; six grandchildren; two brothers Bahij (BS ’64, MD ’68) of El Paso, Texas and Hikmat (BBA ’66) of Beirut, Lebanon; and one sister, Mona Nuwayhid Ibrahim of Beirut.

André Raymond

was AUB founder Daniel Bliss’s great-granddaughter (see family tree on page 42). She spent much of her early life in Bulgaria, Istanbul, Damascus, and Beirut. After receiving a BS in zoology from Mt. Holyoke College and a master’s in biology from AUB, Studebaker taught science in private schools and worked as a research assistant to the curator of spiders at the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard University. She married Joel Studebaker in 1969 and they moved to Princeton in 1979. Her survivors include her husband Joel, children Anna of New York City and Daniel of San Diego, two grandchildren, and two sisters, Joan Wilson and Margit Orange. Her family will miss her generosity, her incandescent smile, and her flair for meeting new people.

Mohammed Tajuddin (BS ’64) of Washington, DC, died last July at the age of 71. He was born in Delhi, India in 1940 and spent his childhood in Pakistan until he received a scholarship to attend AUB. He continued his studies at Columbia University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology where he earned a doctorate in biochemistry. His biomedical company RIA Products became part of Rohm & Hass and eventually of Dow Chemical. Tajuddin and his family moved from Massachusetts to the Washington, DC area in 1985. Tajuddin’s life passions were sports, theater, a love of learning, and limitless devotion to his family. He is survived by three daughters, one son, and four grandchildren.

Michael W. K. Malouf (BE ’71) passed away on July 27 in McLean, Virginia. He was a past president of the Greater Washington, DC AUB Alumni Chapter. Malouf earned a doctorate in operations research from the University of Illinois in 1980. He was the founder and CEO of Aztech, a US electronics and communications technology company. He also worked extensively in Lebanon and Saudi Arabia in electro-mechanical contracting, telecommunications, and systems engineer-
Robert Djerejian passed away in August. He earned a degree from Pratt Institute’s School of Architecture in 1955. Djerejian was the lead architect for HLW, the architecture and engineering firm responsible for rebuilding College Hall after it was destroyed in 1991.

Grace Dodge Olmsted Guthrie passed away in June in Falls Church, Virginia at the age of 96. She was the daughter of Mary Bliss Dodge and AUB President Bayard Dodge (1923-48) and the sister of longtime AUB Trustee and President (1996-97) David S. Dodge (see family tree on page 43). Guthrie was educated at Vassar College and the Peabody Conservatory of Music. She authored *Legacy to Lebanon*, which recounted her childhood experiences growing up in Lebanon and her family’s role in establishing American style higher education in the region. Her lifelong passions were playing the piano and choral singing. She is survived by three children, Dodge Olmsted, Mary Olmsted, and Stuart Guthrie; four grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Mary Isabella “Belle” Dorman Rugh was born in Lebanon in 1908 and passed away in Seattle, Washington on May 22, 2011. President Peter Dorman remembers his aunt, who was a member of both the Dorman and Bliss families, as “a remarkably warm and affectionate presence in our family, whose irrepressible humor and lively interest in everyone whom she met were matched only by her deep understanding and abiding affection for Lebanon and the Lebanese” (see family tree on page 42). After earning her undergraduate degree at Vassar, Rugh taught in Beirut at the girls school, Al Madrisi, and at the American Junior College for Women. With her husband Douglas Rugh, who predeceased her, she lived in China, Lebanon, and the United States. In addition to teaching, Rugh wrote three popular children’s books. She is survived by daughters Molly Newcomb and June Rugh; two grandsons; and four great-grandchildren. (Photo: Bruce Minturn)
The view from upper campus
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Contact the editor: maingate@aub.edu.lb

Medical faculty with Daniel Bliss (seated, center) 1898 (Moore Collection)