Dr. Joseph J. MacDonald, AUB professor of surgery, with a grateful patient who traveled many miles to bring the doctor a gift of two sheep. Spring 1948.
This lucky Phoenician would have lost six of his teeth without the help of a clever dentist who used a gold wire to deftly tie his teeth together. The mandible was discovered in a marble sarcophagus in Sidon in 1901 by George Ford, PhD. See this antique example of retentive dentistry at the AUB Archaeological Museum.
Cheers to Your Health!

**Partnership for Life**
In the last 30 years, the 5,877 miles separating the Cleveland Clinic and AUBMC have only become smaller.

**Treating Lebanon**
Catch cancer early. Love your heart. Diagnose diabetes. What you can do and what AUB is doing to protect against the greatest health issues facing the region.

**Artistic Legacy**
AUB celebrates the Rose and Shaheen Saleeby Collection with an inaugural exhibition showcasing the work of Khalil Saleeby, a founder of modern art in Lebanon.

**Building to Heal**
AUBMC is embarking on the greatest transformation in its 110-year history. MainGate looks back at past builds, shares early plans for the 2020 medical complex, and speaks to the architectural teams translating a vision of clarity and transparency into steel and glass (and perhaps a touch of local cedar).
The president speaks with MainGate about his journey through higher education, finding mentors, and recommends a reading list that is not for the faint of heart.

In your Opening Ceremony remarks in September, you reflected on the ways that AUB is a place where students, faculty, and staff can undertake personal journeys of exploration. Can you tell us something about your own personal journey in higher education and what you gained from the experience?

What I remember in particular was the many options I had in choosing a major. Unlike the Lebanese system where you apply to get into a major, at American schools you get two years to choose. After looking at fine arts, psychology, and others, I finally settled on anthropology. The program at Amherst College was focused on cultural anthropology and the way in which human civilizations interact. I also wound up doing a minor in psychology, exploring linguistics and how conceptual thinking is intimately tied to language. Ultimately, those two things came together in my graduate work in Egyptology at the University of Chicago, which was a way for me to explore ancient civilizations with a focus on language and the hieroglyphic writing system.

The other great opportunity I had at Amherst was joining the Glee Club. Extracurricular activities outside the classroom are something I feel is very important for young people to explore. My most memorable experience with the Glee Club was a world tour we did in the summer of 1969. One of our stops on this tour was Lebanon, where we sang at the Baalbek Festival in the Temple of Bacchus. Music has been a life-long interest of mine.

Looking back over my undergraduate experience, if I had to do it over again, I would certainly do a semester abroad, because that can be a life-changing experience.

Who were your academic mentors? Who does a university president turn to for mentorship?

I especially admired my undergraduate thesis adviser, Donald Pitkin, who formed my interest in cultural anthropology. The other person at Amherst was Rose Olver, who headed the Psychology Department and was the first female faculty member hired at what was then an all-men’s school. She was the one who really spurred my interest in linguistics. In Egyptology, I had two extraordinary mentors. One was Edward Wente, a brilliant philologist and expert in Egyptian religion. The other was Klaus Baer, who was a fantastic linguist and also a superb historian. Together they really shaped my graduate career.

As a university president, there are two groups of people I have turned to for mentorship. First are our trustees, who have remarkable competencies in different fields, from finance and government relations to hospital administration and academic affairs. They have been extremely important in broadening my understanding of how a complex institution like AUB actually functions. The other important people are other university presidents I know—not just presidents of American universities here in the Middle East, but also presidents back in the United States, because one often learns as much by stark differences as by similarities.
Are there particular books or authors that have enriched your personal journey in higher education or that you would recommend to our readers?

A book from high school that made a huge impression on me and that I’ve reread several times is Melville’s *Moby-Dick*. But I wouldn’t necessarily recommend it to Lebanese readers because it’s hard reading, even for English speakers. I also love reading history. One book that I found fascinating is *The Ornament of the World* by the late Maria Rosa Menocal. It outlines the remarkable centuries of Andalusian civilization and the intellectual flowering, huge diversity, and tolerance at that place and time, representing a unique mingling of Jewish, Christian, and Muslim culture in terms of architecture, poetry, arts, medicine, and more.

Another book which I found shattering to read, is *Eleni* by Nicholas Gage. It is a very personal and disturbing memoir of how his mother was murdered during the Greek civil war and how she was able to save him and his family.

If you are looking for something lighter, I can recommend the 17 books of Patrick O’Brien’s Jack Aubrey adventure novels about the British navy during the Napoleonic wars. Extraordinarily, they are based on actual, documented naval battles, and the dialogue is accurate for its time—not something you always find in historical novels. They also contain contemporary scientific insights and sudden flashes of great humor.

In your opening ceremony remarks, you noted that AUB was “propelled” upward by 50 places to number 250 in the world in the international QS World Rankings. Is AUB actively seeking to increase its ranking in this and other polls? If so, how?

We are very happy that we rose quickly in the QS World Rankings and do look at ways in which organizations rank universities, but we are not trying to influence those rankings by embracing priorities that are not part of our mission.

You say that the worth of an education should be measured not in the immediate outcome (graduation, a job), but in the journey itself. Have you found it difficult to persuade AUB students and parents of this?

I think parents realize, broadly speaking, that AUB provides excellent professional preparation as well as the opportunity to explore with peers from different backgrounds. But I would like to persuade both parents and students of the value of what goes on outside the classroom. I believe AUB graduates are especially attuned to dealing with people of different backgrounds and beliefs, working in groups and teams, treating people with respect, and leading in their chosen professions. These are vital aspects of an AUB education.

You said, “pure curiosity is yet another enabler of journeys, and an essential impulse in the search for knowledge.” What piques your interests when you open the newspaper or turn on your computer in the morning?

When I open a newspaper, usually on the computer, I look first at opinion pieces that reflect as broadly as possible different views on what is happening in current Middle Eastern affairs. It is important for me to keep informed of how events are being interpreted, both in the region and back home. What piques my interest in particular is the huge range of opinions about events in the Middle East. This has become even more critical in the days of the Arab spring, as things change quickly and unpredictably.

Another aspect that is important for AUB is to understand what is happening in Washington, and how the role of American universities in the Middle East is perceived.

For fun, I also occasionally look at reviews of musical events and new books that have been recently published.
If I could just find an AUB alum practicing dermatology nearby, every member of my family would be cared for by someone with an AUB affiliation. The primary care physician I’ve seen for years was recently named to the AUB Board of Trustees. The popular pediatrician getting rave reviews near my home, it turns out, has an MD from AUB. I don’t seek out AUB graduates. Like anyone, I just look for the doctor with the best references. It seems that if you’re looking for a good doctor, you can start, and stop, with someone from the AUB Faculty of Medicine.

We interviewed several FM alumni for this health-care themed issue. We were also pleased to speak with FHS MPH alumna Joumana Kalot, to learn how nursing students work within the community from Mary Arevian at HSON, and particularly enjoyed the stories of AUB alumni couples and siblings who have gone on to stellar careers in a variety of health-care fields (see their stories in Class Notes).

The AUBMC 2020 project continues apace as we learned when we checked in with the architects of NBBJ who are designing the new medical complex. Their renderings as you will see — a few are featured in “Building to Heal” — are inspirational. The view from the Medical Gate will never be the same. While we look forward to the physical implementation of this grand project, we never forget that it’s the day-to-day outreach, research, and patient care that is the hallmark of AUBMC today and will be its strength for years to come. In “Treating Lebanon,” we learn about the major health challenges facing the region and what AUBMC and other AUB faculties are doing to help win the fight.

Ada H. Porter
Editor, MainGate

MainGate Spring 2012, Vol. X, No. 3: Last Glance

On the back cover of the spring issue was a 1955 photo of a gardener with the tarboosh near the chapel. Malcolm and I used to walk past that garden every day, little knowing that that place would one day be the site of his memorial. It is almost a surprise to me when I pass the garden these days and don’t see Al-Haj watering the flowers! Peter Dorman was a youngster at the time, living with his missionary parents not too far from campus. We junior year abroad students, sponsored by the Presbyterian Church, always welcomed an invitation to their house for dinner.

I found the astrolabes [from the inside back cover] in the basement of the Observatory when I was gathering items of historical interest to display in Marquand House in 1983. They were in bad repair but some skillful craftsmen in the buildings and grounds workshop cleaned and repaired them. We had them in the living room, but now I think they are on display in the Senate Room where Howard Bliss had his library.

Ann Kerr-Adams
Los Angeles, California

Hidden treasures

AUB’s Jafet Archives is collecting items related to AUB history. Do you have anything in your closet or in a box in the garage that you would be willing to donate — old photographs, commemorative plates, personal diaries, etc.? If so, please email us at maingate@aub.edu.lb. We’d love to hear from you.

Wynn Weidner, daughter of the former dean of the School of Engineering C. Ken Weidner, sent these FEA charms in response to our call for AUB treasures. Thanks!

Thanks to Dr. Solange G. Abunassar (BS ’60, MD ’65) for sending us her posters from AUB’s 125 anniversary celebrations.

Errata

Page 54: Nadine Samara (BS ’02) is incorrectly listed as Nadim.

Page 56: Recently Elected incorrectly lists members as part of the Jeddah Chapter instead of the Riyadh Chapter.

upcoming magazine

AUB MENTORS

Did you study with someone at AUB who changed your life, or find an unlikely role model outside of class you’ll never forget? Write maingate@aub.edu.lb so we can help tell your story.
At AUB, more than 3,000 students received financial aid in 2011–12. Can you help one more?

With two younger brothers and an older sister, Assaad knew that his dream of attending AUB would be nearly impossible for his family because of the cost of tuition. Although his father worked hard and earned a decent income, he had an accident and had to undergo many surgeries. He struggled for two years with diabetes and cancer and passed away in February 2012. These last two years have been very difficult for Assaad and his family. “But,” he says, “I always had hope that in this vast world of pessimism there were great people who appreciated hard work and perseverance. Now that I have been given this scholarship, my will to succeed is even stronger. I plan to continue my studies and get a master’s degree in either aeronautical engineering or energy sources and conversions. I pray that I will be able to return to AUB one day as a donor and be able to change a student’s life and give him the chance that I was given.”

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

To speak to someone about supporting financial aid, contact us at giving(at)aub.edu.lb.
AUB picked up the pace this year and became a major partner with the Marathon Association, signing up 600 runners and 150 volunteers for the BLOM Beirut Marathon held under stormy skies on November 11. Congratulations to all the partners and participants. RUN AUB RUN!

2012 partners
- AUBMC
- The Brave Heart Fund
- The Nature Conservation Center
- Office of Student Affairs
- University Sports
- The AUB Wellness Program
- Center for Civic Engagement and Community Service
- AUBMC Multiple Sclerosis Center
- AUB Tobacco Control Research Group
- The Neighborhood Initiative
Seen and Heard

TOP 10 quick facts you need to know about AUB

1. Don’t search for “AUB sis” and the “Moodle” building. Even if you’ve been told it’s on lower campus, it’s not.
2. Whether you like it or not, cats will follow you, annoy you, and want your food. Get over it.
3. At AUB, you are automatically registered in a sprint running course, especially when you have a class in the lower campus right after another in the upper campus. The key is to run...and run fast.
4. West Hall is the hangout capital of campus. Evidence shows that people who hang out there the most end up skipping more classes.
5. The garden area in front of the cafeteria is called the “zoo.” Go there once and you’ll know why.
6. Students from the Department of Architecture and Design are rarely seen on upper campus.
7. The majority of the students at the school of business are girls. At the other end of the spectrum, at electrical and computer engineering, girls are almost extinct.
8. Running late to classes is an officially recognized sport at the University. A varsity team must be initiated!
9. New students look both sides before crossing Bliss Street. The third year, they start looking left, realizing the street is one way. The fourth year, they stop looking, and just jump into the street and resolve that it’s not their problem to look, it’s the driver’s duty to stop.
10. The security guard at the Main Gate is rarely interested in checking your university ID. The exception is when you’re running late to class and carrying six bags in one hand and 10 books in the other. Then they’ll insist that you unload all your stuff and show your ID.

Welcome to the amazing AUB! ;)

University News

Turning the Tide
A welcome new addition to the AUB Faculty of Arts and Sciences’ rich variety of academic centers, the Farouk K. Jabre Center for Arabic and Islamic Science and Philosophy will support research and raise awareness about these fields through outreach and education. Businessman, philanthropist, AUB alumnus, and trustee, Jabre (BA ’58) made his generous donation to encourage new interest in the rich legacy of Arab and Islamic heritage among young Lebanese. “Many young Arabs are under the misconception that neither the Arabic language nor its cultural environment is conducive to scientific thought, rational discourse, or knowledge production,” Jabre said. “Bright Arab minds end up leaving the region, discouraged from making contributions to science and technology in their native lands. This continuing cycle of emigration has perpetuated the endemic conditions of underdevelopment and condemned Arab societies to passive consumerism in the global knowledge economy.”

The late Edward S. Kennedy, an AUB faculty member for 30 years, pioneered research into Arabic and Islamic science. In addition to his own research and the handful of scholars he trained, Kennedy’s legacy includes some of the 1,400 manuscripts held by AUB’s University Libraries, which provide a
modest foundation for studies in the field. “In view of AUB’s founding role in establishing the field of Arabic and Islamic science, it is especially fitting that the Farouk K. Jabre Center for Arabic and Islamic Science and Philosophy finds a home within our walls,” said AUB President Peter Dorman.

Welcoming the establishment of the center, AUB Provost Ahmad Dallal said, “Centers such as this energize AUB’s intellectual environment, benefiting faculty, students, and the broader community and increase our ability to educate students at all levels for the future.”

—M.A.

Navigating the Arab Uprisings

AUB’s commitment to generating and disseminating serious academic analysis of the ongoing events known as the Arab uprisings was recently augmented by the launch of the University Libraries’ “Arab Uprisings Guide,” which provides a list of scholarly resources, news sites, and web archives as well as other useful internet sources related to these historic events. Launched in January, the guide is available on-line at www.aub.edu.lb/libguides.com/content.

The libraries are collaborating with AUB’s Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs (IFI), which is spearheading the University’s research on this topic. As well as its Arab Uprisings Lecture Series organized with the Provost’s Office, IFI hosted a two-day symposium in late May 2012 that brought together leading academics and analysts from the region in what Provost Ahmad Dallal described as a “truth seeing undertaking, both academic and pedagogical.” In six lively, in-depth sessions, participants, including historians, social scientists, writers, and other academicians, discussed topics including “Motivations Behind the Uprisings,” “Islamists, Coalitions, and Governance,” and “The Evolving GCC” (Gulf Cooperation Council).

You can find the schedule of IFI lectures, seminars, and research projects at www.aub.edu.lb/ifi.

—M.A.

From the Faculties

MA Media Blitz

This fall, the first cohort of media studies students in AUB history will start working towards their master’s degrees. The new MA in Media Studies officially approved in March 2012 has been long and eagerly anticipated. Although it was announced very late last year, the two-year program exceeded its recruitment goals for the fall with an acceptance rate of less than 50 percent.

Assistant Professor of Journalism and Media Studies Jad Melki says the program’s liberal arts curriculum and balancing of research, theory, critical skills, and digital media literacy make it unique in the Arab region. Melki, the acting chair of AUB’s Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Media Studies, explains, “What sets this program apart is its multidisciplinary curriculum and grounding in the social sciences—and in the region. The program offers four emphasis areas that reflect local and regional needs.”

In addition to selecting from among an attractive list of media studies, sociology, and anthropology electives, students may also take general electives in four general categories: political communication, health communication, visual literacy, and media management. The goal of the program is to ensure that by the time they graduate, these men and women will have the research skills and theoretical knowledge they need
to effectively and critically access, analyze, utilize, evaluate, and create media messages—and develop media policies and strategies as well.

AUB’s MA in Media Studies also offers students the flexibility to choose between a thesis and a non-thesis option. Students interested in pursuing their doctoral studies at some later date are encouraged to select the thesis track, which requires seven courses and a nine-credit research-intensive thesis. Those interested in working in the industry, public sector, or with civil society organizations are advised to take the non-thesis option, which allows for nine courses and requires instead of a thesis a three-credit research-based project.

**Core Required Courses**
- MCOM 300: Graduate Research Methods in Media Studies 3 cr.
- MCOM 301 (SOAN 313): Seminar in Communication Theory and Research 3 cr.
- MCOM 395: Comprehensive Exam 0 cr.
- MCOM 399: Thesis 9 cr.

**FEA**

**Going Greener**
Buildings generally dominate or block views, often both, but the Irani Oxy Engineering Complex (IOEC) will instead be a transparent corridor between two of the most appealing vistas in Beirut: AUB’s clock tower and the Mediterranean as glimpsed through the complex from the verdant hillsides that slope down to lower campus.

For that and an abundance of other climate-friendly innovations IOEC is, according to the architects, the first project registered for LEED certification in Lebanon. The European Centre for Architecture Art Design and Urban Studies and the Chicago Athenaeum Museum of Architecture and Design have recognized Nabil Gholam Architects with the 2012 Green GOOD Design™ Award for both the complex and the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture’s master plan.

Gholam says that the award accentuates the sweetness of winning the approval of AUB’s jury in 2006, which was sufficiently impressed to put its trust in an independent local firm. “They could have gone with a larger international competitor,” he points out, but they clearly found the firm’s plan for a “specific” yet “highly
adaptable” structure enticing.

Although bigger isn’t necessarily better, the urban plan covers a lot of ground (37,000 sqm) and aims to transform lower campus into a “convivial, comfortable network of pedestrian flows and connections between the schools and the faculties,” Gholam says.

“Because many of the people who are going to use the building are people who are going to make buildings,” explains Gholam, “it has to be exemplary.”

Construction is expected to be completed in fall 2013.

—S.M.

Spaces of Resistance

In July and August AUB’s Department of Architecture and Design hosted a ten-day conference drawing professors and students from several disciplines and areas of study to examine “Spaces of Resistance” and how Lebanon has been a site of conflict and struggle.

The conference, co-organized with the University of California Humanities Research Institute, combined theoretical lectures and discussions with visits to sites in Beirut and southern Lebanon to explore the modern history of these places particularly in the last two decades. They toured examples of Solidere’s construction after the Lebanese civil war, Hezbollah’s reconstruction post-2006 war, developments along Beirut’s Green Line, and a Palestinian refugee camp in the capital. The participants not only played the role of scholars, but also took part in the Beirut experience of residents and visitors alike.

Beirut has many stories from the past, memories of its ancient heritage, and competing narratives of war. The participants considered these narratives as they navigated through Lebanon’s complex history and constant reorganizations and negotiations of territory becoming part of the interactions between the city and its inhabitants.

“There are times when the built environment speaks in lieu of its inhabitants, where it conveys a capacity of assembled action, of which the residents are a part…” said Abdou Maliq Simone, urbanist and professor of sociology at Goldsmiths College, University of London.
As individuals we often view ourselves in direct relationship to our immediate surroundings, but those relationships are often determined by someone else. Disputes over territory and ideas play out in politics and economics. To understand how we as individuals can affect that process, we have to first understand how it occurred.

—A.B.

**OSB**

**Prerequisite: Multiskilling**

Assistant Professors Fida Afiouni and Charlotte Karam stumbled into gender research by chance two years ago when a colleague enquired about information pertaining to women in engineering in the Middle East. Their initial research into this query triggered a deeper interest; the pair switched their focus to women in academia and secured a research grant which led to their first paper in a body of work under the title “Women in Academia in the Arab MENA Region.”

“We wanted to explore gender from an organizational perspective,” the pair explains. “We were looking at national policies as well as university policies, but it is hard to find data in our region; there is very little in the public domain or available on websites. We wanted to see how HR policies could become more indigenously family friendly and what improvements are needed.”

Drawing on a qualitative survey of some 32 female academics from Egypt, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia, Afiouni and Karam were surprised to discover that overall women in academia seem to have a better situation in Islamic countries which draw on state (and sharia) law. Here, they say, there are more family friendly policies, especially when it comes to maternity leave, childcare, and family health care.

Qatar leads the field with child day care centers on campus, an area in which, the researchers say, AUB’s record is abysmal. This is also the case with AUB’s policy for maternity leave, which while generous for professors,
follows the Lebanese labor law for all other employees and is woefully inadequate when put into the context of American higher education. They also cite the fact that maternity leave was only included in HIP coverage two years ago (thanks to President Dorman) and for academic staff taking maternity leave, it was only recently that the seven-year “promotion clock” stopped ticking during this leave.

Their research also indicates that the role of the family remains central in the MENA region. Many of the women they interviewed cited their families as core to their conceptions of their success; almost without exception women from the Gulf countries and Palestine married and had children before they pursued their advanced degrees.

“We also discovered that especially in the Gulf and Palestine, the women considered service to the community to be of profound importance,” Karam explains. “Family, community, and work are all strongly interlinked with making a contribution or having an impact. Success was defined in these terms which is quite different and attractive compared to other cultural perspectives.” These women were heavily committed to a service role within their academic institutions, with extra curricular administrative roles, committees, and volunteer work which, they say, falls more readily on female than male shoulders.

Comparing their lot with that of their male colleagues, those women surveyed felt they were penalized in terms of promotion, recognition for service and in the allocation of resources—grants—where they say the process lacks transparency.

Perhaps in reaction to what they see as the deck stacked against them, the women stressed the need for solidarity, strong networks, and good relationships with other women, as a key to success. The pernicious “Queen Bee” syndrome—the dominance of a successful female over other females—has yet to be documented within higher education, at least by Afouni and Karam.

—M.A.
FHS Professor and Associate Dean Rima Affi and Dr. Samer Jabbour, senior lecturer in the Department of Health Management and Policy, recently co-facilitated a regional public health leadership program with Alastair Ager, PhD, and Dr. Jamie Eliades, of Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health (MSPH). Jointly organized and delivered by MSPH and FHS professors, the program was given at the Columbia University Middle East Research Center (CUMERC) in Amman, Jordan, from September 21 to 26. It used a hands-on approach, regional and international case studies, and innovative delivery methods to teach tools and strategies to manage the development of public health programming in the Middle East.

Affi and Jabbour point to the program as a wonderful example of how international and regional academic institutions can work together. As for the collaboration with Columbia’s School of Public Health, they say, “we hope that this will be the beginning of more joint work towards our common cause of promoting public health practice.”

FHS

Renewed Trust

FHS’s Graduate Public Health Program was reaccredited in June 2012 by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) in the United States. The reaccreditation followed a two-year self-study involving students, alumni, practitioners, faculty, and others. In 2006, the Graduate Public Health Program was the first to be accredited by CEPH outside of North America. According to Associate Dean Rima Afifi, “The reaccreditation attests to the quality of the Graduate Public Health Program that is competitive with any such program in the US. Equally importantly, reaccreditation provides international recognition and allows us to be more visibly engaged in dialogue on public health. This brings in the Arab voice and perspective, particularly to researchers seeking international experience in the Arab region.”

FM/AUBMC

Life Savers

Looking back at the Brave Heart Fund’s (BHF) achievements during the last 12 months Joumana Ghandour Atallah, one of the charity’s cofounders, was keen to emphasize the important role individuals play in raising lifesaving funds for children suffering from congenital heart disease. Even though the gala dinner in April was one of the most successful in the charity’s nine-year history—netting enough to cover 120 lifesaving operations—for Atallah it was the group of fathers and sons that set out to conquer Africa’s Mount Kilimanjaro to raise money for BHF that was especially...
poignant and inspirational. Wassef and Tarek Serhan; Naaman, Wassef, and Mohamad Atallah; and Marwan and Zeid Shehadeh braved altitude sickness and the cold to reach the 5,895-meter summit on behalf of suffering children.

“I want to emphasize that we should not just rely on the big ticket events, in spite of the amazing support we receive from them,” Atallah says. “These individual initiatives, which represent personal commitment and involve the local community, also help us to highlight the plight of children in need and their families. Take the case of Shireen Dajani, who took the initiative to participate in the Triathlon de Nyon in Switzerland a few months ago along with a team of athletes from the World Economic Forum. They created a Facebook page entitled Forum Triathlon and invited friends, family, and colleagues to support BHF by sponsoring the athletes. They finished the race with flying colors… and all funds raised by the athletes were matched by the World Economic Forum.”

Atallah also hails the enduring commitment to saving young lives of students from the International College (IC), headed by their teacher Riad Chirazi. Last year their combined fundraising efforts paid for life-saving surgery for five-year-old Maytham, whose parents had no funds to pay for his medical care. One hundred students, along with Chirazi, joined Lebanese desert runner Ali Wehbe in a fundraising coastal run from Tripoli to Tyre, covering 220 kilometers in less than 30 hours.

The BHF “family” also turned out in force once again for the BLOM Beirut International Marathon when an astounding 2,200 runners wore the Brave Heart colors. “The more runners we have, the more sponsors we get, and the more funds we are able to provide for lifesaving operations. This year, with our marathon team of runners and sponsors, we covered the expenses of seven open-heart surgeries. That is seven more lives saved,” explains Atallah.

AUB students also get a special mention. During a Trivia Night organized by the AUB Red Cross Club, all six faculties competed in a fiercely contested general knowledge competition hosted by the talented Nemr Abou Nassar. All funds raised during the event were donated to BHF.

This November Brave-Hearters are limbering up for the annual BLOM Beirut Marathon where BHF holds a number of records including “Best Achieving NGO” 2010, “Best Fundraiser” 2009, and “Biggest Team” (3,000 runners). The 2012 event was BHF’s tenth marathon.

Their hearts are dedicated to yours!

BHF highlights from the last 12 months:
- In Switzerland, a BHF team ran the Triathlon de Nyon with athletes from the World Economic Forum...
- One hundred IC students ran from Tripoli to Tyre...
- 2,200 runners wore the Brave Heart colors at the BLOM Beirut International Marathon, raising enough money to pay for seven open-heart surgeries...
- The AUB Red Cross Club brought together students from six faculties for a trivia night to raise money for BHF.

Learn more at www.braveheartfund.org

-M.A.
ABCs of Care
Despite his manically busy schedule, Dr. Khalid Yunis cannot resist taking time out for a quick tour of the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit that opened in a quiet corner on the seventh floor of AUBMC recently. The unit and the neo-natal network of 31 hospitals across Lebanon which Yunis and his team helped to kick start truly fire his enthusiasm.

“The members of the network [the National Collaborative Perinatal Neonatal Network or NCPNN] all work voluntarily,” Yunis stresses. “Our goal is to foster collaboration, quality care through surveillance, and research. We need accurate data, which we can only get with a reliable database. We did not have such a database in Lebanon, so in 1998 we started by visiting the main medical centers and university hospitals in Beirut to talk about collaborating on a database. We started with four hospitals; we ran a pilot project to find out what we needed and how we should proceed, and then we went from there. I believe in collaboration, where [the equality of everyone] is the basis for success, but you still need someone to coordinate the effort, and this is what we do here at AUBMC.”

The network concentrated on Beirut between 1998 and 2003. “We chose to begin in Beirut because it is better to start small and see how things develop before expanding to the rest of the country. Besides, 35 to 40 percent of the Lebanese population lives in the greater Beirut area. After 2003 we expanded throughout Lebanon,” Yunis explains.

“Our aim is to improve care for pregnant mothers and newborns leading to a better outcome for both of them. For a fair representation of newborns we need to cover at least 50 percent of deliveries nationally; right now we cover about 30 percent.”

“We study issues that are prevalent in Lebanon such as consanguinity and how this affects the outcome of newborns. Another issue we are interested in is preterm births. There are 13 million preterm births globally, out of which one million die, so prematurity is a major problem in the neonatal period. If you look at deaths...
in children under five years of age, neonatal mortality represents about 40 percent.”

At the national level, the network collaborates with the Lebanese Ministry of Public Health, which has designated the NCPNN to disseminate timely statistics on core maternal and newborn indicators. The NCPNN also collaborates with the World Health Organization, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the March of Dimes Foundation, the Universities of Iowa and Pittsburgh in the United States, the Shafallah Medical Center in Qatar, and the Lebanese American University. In addition, the network has led an effort with the WHO to initiate a regional collaboration with health care centers across different Arab countries including Bahrain, Kuwait, Jordan, Palestine, and Yemen.

The network has started several initiatives including training workshops for physicians and nurses from Lebanon and other Arab countries and, as of last year, a school lecture program for high school students on preconception. Supported by the Ministry of Education, the March of Dimes, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, physicians, nurses, and midwives from network centers visit high schools to educate future mothers about what they need to know prior to conception and to conduct question and answer sessions for the students. “We have a very limited window to get this information across,” says Yunis, “and have been very surprised at how successful this initiative has been.”

Surveying his small office with every surface piled high with papers, Yunis shrugs his shoulders and admits, “There is so much going on that it is hard to keep track of everything. We are so busy. We have an increasing number of research assistants, doctors, and students working with us. We also have an arrangement with the Faculty of Health Sciences for some master’s students to do their practicum with us. The dean of medicine is very supportive, so we just hope to keep going on and on. All this is dedicated to improving the outcome for mothers and babies so we need to network, network, and network—and anybody is welcome to join in.”

—M.A.

The NCPNN database has revealed
- Significant health disparities between different areas of the country.
- Much room for improvement of neonatal mortality in Lebanon.
- A rise in preterm births in Lebanon (and throughout the world)
- Increased rate of hospital-acquired infections in premature and hospitalized babies due to many vital interventions that strain their weak immune systems.
- Congenital heart disease (not peculiar to Lebanon) as the number one birth defect and muscular skeletal disease the second.

AUB Trustee and dermatologist Dr. David Bickers, of New York-Presbyterian/Columbia, and endocrinologist Dr. Jack Tohme (BS ’70, MD ’74) of Valley Hospital/Endocrine Associates, PA were cited in New York magazine’s 2012 “Best Doctors” issue.
MEDICAL PROGRESSION

Since the launch of AUBMC 2020, the Medical Center has introduced a number of new initiatives to bring expanded and improved services to patients. Along the way, they have also racked up some impressive achievements.

✔ Regional first: Multiple Solerosis Center
✔ Regional first: Clinical Research Institute
✔ Regional first: Specialized Children’s Clinic
✔ Regional first: Center in the Middle East dedicated to women’s breast health, Mamdouha El Sayed Bobst Breast Unit
✔ Regional first: Arab Regional Center for Research, Training, and Policymaking in Mental Health, established in collaboration with the World Health Organization
✔ Regional first: Academic center focused on bioethics and professionalism, the Salim El-Hoss Bioethics and Professionalism Program

With new and improved equipment and facilities, AUBMC doctors have been able to perform a number of new state-of-the-art procedures that are also regional and national firsts.

✔ First unrelated donor allogeneic bone marrow transplant in Lebanon
✔ First Acufocus Kamara inlay procedure for the treatment of presbyopia in the region
✔ First Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS) for treating severe depression in the region
✔ First renal denervation for the treatment of hypertension in Lebanon

HSON

All in a Day’s Work

For 42 years, Mary Arevian (BS ’69 Nursing, MPH ’79) has worked at AUB. She has watched it struggle and watched it grow. Just one of nine nursing students to graduate in 1969, she started teaching in 1970 as a clinical assistant instructor. Today, she teaches community health nursing to senior students in the bachelor of science in nursing program. Outside the classroom, Arevian trains and supervises her students at various sites: homes, primary health-care centers, schools, and work places. With a theoretical as well as a clinical/intervention component, the Community Health Nursing Course targets individuals, families, and larger groups in the community. Arevian regularly collaborates with international organizations such as WHO, UNICEF, the United Nations Population Fund, national governmental organizations such as the Ministry of Public Health and the Ministry of Social Affairs; in addition to nongovernmental organizations such as Ajialouna, the Child and...
The Community Health Nursing Course promotes and maintains the health of communities by working with families, the adult working population, and seniors over 60; plans, organizes, and delivers school health programs; and provides primary health-care services as recommended by the World Health Organization.

Mother Welfare Society, the Armenian Relief Cross in Lebanon, and public and private schools.

In addition to teaching, supervising, and guiding nursing students, Arevian is researching community-based interventions that address current and salient issues in the community. With an emphasis on health education and prevention, her research interests and publications have become increasingly specialized, from working with women and adolescents to handling patients with chronic conditions such as diabetes and coronary artery disease.

“Working with community agencies is a very satisfying endeavor,” says Arevian. “It helps me accomplish the mission of AUB and the school of nursing: mainly combining university education, research, and community service to advance scientific knowledge, evidence-based, best practice for improving and maintaining the health of our community. There are still many challenges for us in Lebanon to provide health for everyone in our community but I am optimistic we will be able to confront those challenges. Change will definitely occur.”

—S.J.S.

Busy Tuesday

**Leading the Community Health Nursing Course**

**5:00 am:** Up!

**6:00 am:** Leave home, commute by taxi from Zalka

**6:45-7:45 am:** Herbal tea-time, Arevian is at her desk planning the day

**8:00-9:00 am:** Supervise students training at AUBMC’s Family Medicine Department

**9:00-10:00 am:** Touch base with students training at Ajialouna NGO for community service in Tallet al Khayyat and working in public schools all over Lebanon

**10:00-11:00 am:** Check on students and programs at the Child and Mother Welfare Society in Aisha Bakkar

**11:00-12:00 noon:** Work with the clinic of the Armenian Relief Cross of Lebanon in Burj Hammoud

**12:00-1:00 pm:** Lunch break

**1:00-2:00 pm:** Post-clinical conference with students at HSON

**2:00-3:00 pm:** Prepare for next week
NameTag: Khaled Imad Ghattass, PhD, Cell and Molecular Biology, projected 2013

Life before PhD: My childhood was split equally between my father’s village, Barga, and my mother’s city, Saida. I attended Beirut Arab University where I had my best years and made my best friends. I joined AUB in 2006. I love sports, was a member of AUB’s varsity basketball team, and was chosen AUB’s Most Valuable Player in 2010-11.

What matters most: Although there have been numerous advances in cancer therapy, most people with advanced solid tumors, such as breast cancers, will relapse and die of their disease because the hypoxic (low oxygen) regions of their tumors are resistant to radiotherapy and chemotherapy. My research aims at investigating a suitable synthetic compound with moderate toxicity and enhanced activity against human solid tumors, especially those bearing hypoxic regions.

Research: Under the direct supervision of Professor Hala Muhtasib, I am studying the effect of tumor hypoxia on the mechanism of breast cancer metastasis. Additionally, we are testing the effect of a very potent quinoxaline dioxide, which Professors Haddadin and Issidorides synthesized at AUB, via their known “Beirut Reaction,” to inhibit this detrimental step in cancer progression.

10 am Tuesday, 10 am Saturday: I spend many Tuesday mornings in the hypoxia chamber surrounded by mice, cells, and colleagues. At 10 am on Saturday I have breakfast with my mother under the trees in our garden. She spends the whole week waiting for this moment.

Most admires: I admire my coadviser, who is also practically my best friend, Professor Marwan El Sabban, who guides me through every aspect of my life, along with my mentor Professor Hala Muhtasib, who demonstrates the perfect example of seriousness, dedication, and hard work. Fourteen years ago, I was inspired by a movie called “Patch Adams.” Ever since I have dreamed of establishing a free hospital in Lebanon that provides high quality care to all its patients within a happy and friendly setting. I even named my German Shepherd “Patch” to be constantly reminded about my mad and expensive dream.

Why this topic interests me: All people are interested in research that could help improve the quality of lives of cancer patients. Maybe one day it will be used to treat patients at my free hospital.
Cultivating Innovation

You may know that AUB has a campus in the Beqa’a Valley. You may also know that experiential learning is offered there in agriculture, as well as landscape design and ecosystem management at the Agricultural Research and Education Center (AREC). What you might not know, however, is that on that 100 hectares of agricultural land, our very own students are now cultivating plant tissue.

Chairman of the Agricultural Sciences (AGSC) Department Professor Mustapha Haidar says that the department is “working towards the introduction of new ways of organic farming and conservation agriculture, reaching out not only to farmers in the Beqa’a but to the whole region.”

Since AGSC established a tissue culture facility, AREC has worked closely with Ibsar and the Department of Landscape Design and Ecosystem Management to promote the use of native flora for ornamentals and to optimize protocols for the micropropagation of targeted species and their subsequent cultivation in greenhouses and in the field.

To maintain native plants, as well as conserve biodiversity, the new tissue culture lab allows for crop production through breeding techniques using tissues, leaves, or “cuts,” not seeds. According to AREC farm and facilities manager Nicolas Haddad, “Plant tissue culture is a practice used to propagate plants under sterile conditions, often to produce clones of a plant. Plant tissue culture relies on the fact that all plant cells have the ability to generate a whole plant (totipotency). Single cells (protoplasts), pieces of leaves, or roots can often be used to generate a new plant on culture media, given the required nutrients and plant hormone.”

An otherwise costly procedure, tissue culture is performed at AREC at a minimal cost through the services and expertise that the Agricultural Sciences Department offers, combined with sponsorship from the department and the companies or engineers they train. Students, professors, companies, and individual engineers learn this procedure alongside local farmers who also attend. They then use the knowledge they gained when they return to their farms in the ways they think best.

Local farmers recently benefitted from another AREC initiative: mushroom cultivation. A two-day workshop was held in May 2012 as part of the Farmer to Farmer Project, funded by USAID and implemented by ACDI/VOCA (Agricultural Cooperative Development International/Volunteers in Overseas Cooperative Assistance) who recruited a mushroom production volunteer expert from the United States in response to a request by AGSC.

The objective of the workshop was to train farmers as well as students of agriculture, nutrition, and food sciences on the production of mushroom spawn and the cultivation of three different species of edible mushrooms. AREC continued to produce oyster and shiitake mushrooms throughout spring and summer. Mushrooms may be sold at AUB at a later date.

This mushroom cultivation process offers easy to cultivate, fast-growing...
crops. All farmers need to get mushrooms growing in bags is a suitable substrate, such as peat moss; the mushroom spawns, and around four weeks (for the oyster) or three months (for the shiitake) in partial darkness and cool temperatures. Harvested mushrooms can be sold for $10 to $20 a kilogram. “Fruiting” (the actual mushroom growth) can take place every two weeks for two to three successive harvests. Once the production of mushrooms inside the bags has stopped, the substrate can be used as compost. It’s a productive and affordable investment for local farmers.

According to Chairman Haidar, “AREC is a unique place in the Middle East that has a very powerful and fruitful research and training center in the Béq’a valley. We are talking about 100 hectares of research and hands-on education that is equipped with all types of facilities (dormitories, labs, tractors, machinery, animals, etc.). AREC is a major strength that distinguishes our faculty from others in the region.”

—S.J.S.

**Student News**

**Female Fellowship**

Chosen as one of just 15 women worldwide for the 2012 L’Oréal-UNESCO International Fellowship for Women in Science, AUB PhD student Dana Bazzoun is matter of fact about her achievement. “It was a simple application procedure,” she says. “The hardest part was during the Paris ceremony week, attended by VIPs, fellows, and laureates, when we had to present our research plan in three minutes.”

That plan won Bazzoun $20,000 that she can spend on research in whichever way she thinks best. She is using it to research cell behavior in relation to breast cancer prevention as part of the International Breast Cancer and Nutrition (IBCN) Project at Purdue University. This is an “international multidisciplinary collaborative program to identify the impact of nutrition on breast cancer development and recurrence and to elucidate the cellular and molecular mechanisms, including genomics (genetic and epigenetic influence), involved in nutrient-induced breast tissue alterations and cancer development.”

Bazzoun, a second-year biology PhD candidate, is concentrating on communication between cells to understand their journey from normal to cancerous in the breast. More specifically she is tracking the role played in prevention by a particular protein, Connexin 43, which is found at the edges of cell membranes and helps transport molecules among cells, attracting accessory proteins that bind themselves to it and are recruited as important transducers. In their
absence the mechanism for pathways between cells is impaired, triggering cell structure malfunction and preventing vital cell polarization. Bazzoun is hoping to understand what triggers this chain reaction and what can be done to prevent it.

After four months in Purdue, she will be back at AUB for the summer before returning for a further four months in the United States, hopefully followed by another year as a L’Oréal-UNESCO Fellow.

—M.A.

Faculty News

CASAR Expanding, Brings New Professors

In advance of its new master of arts in transnational American studies starting in fall 2013, CASAR is hosting three visiting professors who are leaders in international relations, gender and sexuality studies, and cultural geography.

By bringing Professors Lisa Hajjar, Jaspir Puar, and Elena Glasberg to AUB, CASAR’s director, Alex Lubin, hopes to make the center a base for scholarly research and build on its successful lecture series and international bi-annual conference.

"CASAR’s new professors will help us achieve our mission to educate the Arab world about American culture and history, as well as to demonstrate the range of relationships between the United States and the Middle East and North Africa," Lubin said. "We are especially eager to expand AUB’s capacity in studies of gender and sexuality in the context of the US/MENA relationship."

A large part of the success of research in gender and sexuality will rest on the shoulders of Puar, who has been appointed the Edward Said Chair in American Studies. Puar, who is recognized internationally as a trailblazer in the field, plans to research gender and sexuality issues as they relate to Palestinians while at AUB.

"Professor Puar will offer a course on feminist and queer theory as well as on homonationalism and pinkwashing, the Israeli practice of touting its gay rights agenda in an effort to divert attention from its colonial practices," Lubin said.

Elena Glasberg, author of Antarctica As Cultural Critique: The Gendered Politics of Scientific Exploration and Climate Change, relocates Antarctica—the proverbial end of the earth—as a beginning point for understanding the current convergence of social, economic, and ecological “meltdown.” Glasberg has taught American literature, women’s studies, liberal studies, and writing at institutions including Duke University and Princeton University. She is visiting for the year from her current position in the Writing Program at New York University.

CASAR will also focus on current events and contemporary politics in the Middle East through the work of Hajjar, who has an interdisciplinary approach that explores the intersection of sociology, law and society, and Middle East studies. Hajjar says she hopes to start a new project tentatively titled “Following the Torture Trail through the Arab Spring,” with particular focus on Egypt, Libya, Syria, and Bahrain. This will build on her previous studies of the so-called “war on terror.”

“The most enduring theme of my research focuses on the relationship between law and conflict and debates over what is legal in war. I have a particular interest in torture,” says Hajjar. “While I am at AUB, I plan to complete my second single-authored book, which is a study of US torture and the anti-torture legal campaign that was catalyzed to challenge interrogation and detention policies in the ‘war on terror.’”

—A.B.
Partnership for Life

In the last 30 years, the 5,877 miles separating the Cleveland Clinic and AUBMC have only become smaller.

Fuad Jubran (MD ’64)
“When someone like him tells you to come,” remembers Dr. Fuad Jubran (MD ’64), “you don’t question it. You pack your bags.” He laughs remembering the conversation he had more than 40 years ago with his dear friend Hasib Sabbagh (1920–2010). An AUB alumnus (BEN ’41) and honorary doctorate recipient (2003), Palestinian businessman, and generous philanthropist, Sabbagh was also Dr. Fuad Jubran’s patient at the time that conversation took place. He had come to Jubran, who was a cardiologist at the American University Hospital (the forerunner of today’s AUB Medical Center), complaining of chest pains. When Jubran determined that Sabbagh needed surgery, he asked him, “where is the best place in the world to go for this?” “The Cleveland Clinic” responded Jubran. “Then, let’s go,” said Sabbagh. And off they went.

Jubran picks up the story. “After his successful surgery at the Cleveland Clinic, Hasib said he needed two things from me. He wanted to know what it would cost to set up a catheterization lab at AUB similar to the one at the Cleveland Clinic—and also what he needed to do to foster a relationship between the two institutions.” When Jubran reported back, Sabbagh responded—with a check for $250,000 to set up a catheterization lab at AUB—the first in the Middle East—and another one for $1 million to establish a fund at the Cleveland Clinic. Jubran was appointed director of the fund. That was the beginning of an almost 30-year relationship that has grown and expanded over the ensuing decades under the guidance of Dr. Jubran and others and with generous financial support from the endowed fund that Hasib Sabbagh established in 1984.

In 1986, Jubran was recruited from AUBMC by the Cleveland Clinic, where he currently occupies the Fuad Jubran Endowed Chair in Cardiovascular Medicine, Physician Director of Development for the Middle East International Affairs, and director of the Fuad Jubran Center for Middle East Medical Education. Despite his formidable responsibilities, he always manages to find time to promote the relationship between AUB and the Cleveland Clinic. In 1998, he traveled to AUB with Dr. Conrad Simpfendorfer, the chairman of the Cleveland Clinic Foundation’s International Center, to meet with then AUB President John Waterbury and sign a memorandum of understanding for visitor, student, resident, and physician exchanges. In some sense, the agreement merely formalized a relationship that had already started. Many AUB students (including AUB’s current Medical VP and Raja N. Khuri Dean of the Faculty of Medicine Mohamed Sayegh) had traveled to the Cleveland Clinic to do internships, residencies, and observations. Dean Sayegh completed his internship and residency in internal medicine at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation in 1987.

More than 60 AUB alumni are now working at the Cleveland Clinic as doctors and scientists, including Jihad Kaouk (BS ’89, MD ’93), who helped develop the robotic surgery program and the stereotactic kidney ablation program at the Cleveland Clinic. He credits Jubran for the fact that he is at the Cleveland Clinic today. So, too, does Loutfi Aboussouan (BS ’81, MD
who still remembers working as an intern for Dr. Jubran at the Coronary Care Unit at AUB more than 27 years ago. “I see him often now as a colleague and we share several patients.”

Also at the Cleveland Clinic since January 2012 is Dr. Fadi Abdul-Karim (BS ’75, MD ’79), who travels back and forth between the two institutions almost as often as Dr. Jubran does. With a master's in medical education in addition to his MD degree, it is not surprising that Abdul-Karim has been particularly active in that area. He spent 2010-11 at AUB as vice chair of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine and associate dean of medical education and was very involved in efforts to restructure MEMA (Middle East Medical Assembly), the annual gathering that has its roots as the medical conference, which was first started in 1911. He served as co-director of MEMA in May 2012.

"More than 60 AUB alumni are now working at the Cleveland Clinic as doctors and scientists."

Jubran points out that several people have recently returned to AUB from the Cleveland Clinic including Dr. Yusuf Comair (neurosurgery), attracted by the opportunity to join VP Sayegh and his team as they move forward with plans to implement AUBMC 2020. One of the components of this multi-year initiative is to position AUBMC at the forefront of medical education through the Faculty of Medicine, the Rafic Hariri School of Nursing, and the recently created Office of Continuing Medical Education (CME). Thanks to an historic partnership between the Cleveland Clinic and AUB, the CME office at AUBMC can now certify educational activities in Lebanon and the region.

Abdul-Karim, who continues to work closely with the CME Office, says that the office is making significant strides. “They take every remark, every suggestion seriously, and are making dramatic improvements. On their latest visit to the Cleveland Clinic, they impressed everyone with their capabilities, achievements, and professionalism.”

Although Jubran’s role in fostering the relationship between the two institutions is instrumental, Jubran credits the Cleveland Clinic for its enthusiastic and long-term commitment to reach beyond its borders. “Our current CEO, Dr. Toby Cosgrove, believes strongly that medicine is a universal profession. It belongs to no one place or institution or country. It belongs instead to the world. The Cleveland Clinic has always been very supportive of my efforts to build this partnership.” Abdul-Karim agrees. “I’ve only been here [at the Cleveland Clinic] for six months and am totally amazed at the commitment to international outreach.”

AUB is also enthusiastic about its relationship with the Cleveland Clinic—and with other academic and medical institutions as well. Associate Dean for External Medical Affairs Fadi Bitar explains that these strategic partnerships are critical to the AUBMC 2020 vision. “AUBMC is excited and delighted to have been able to establish a partnership with the Cleveland Clinic—a world renowned institution that shares its values and vision: a commitment to integrity, innovation, excellence, and diversity—and accountability to our communities and to the public.”
To breathe is to live, but any medical practitioner will tell you that in Lebanon and other developing countries, it is also the most effective way to get sick whether with cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, or osteoporosis.
Lebanese, divided by geography or sect, economic status or political preference, are more likely than not to share a predilection for smoking or, at the least, a blithe lack of concern for its presence.

According to statistics gathered in 2010 by AUB medical faculty, more than a third of Lebanese adults are smokers, and they consume a staggering 7.8 billion cigarettes per year. Lebanese women, on average, smoke more than women in any other country in the region. And those are just the numbers for adults.

More than 75 percent of Lebanese children are exposed to smoking at home compared to 53 percent in the United States (as of 2007–08), according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Among youth aged 13 to 15, more than 60 percent of boys and more than 50 percent of girls smoke shisha on a regular basis. Common attitudes toward the water pipe exemplify the misconceptions that challenge health-care practitioners, not to mention state coffers.

On streets plied by motorcyclists bearing nara, the lit charcoal that vaporizes tobacco, it has become almost a mantra that the water in water pipes filters away the “impurities.” It’s a mantra dismissed as worse than myth by AUB cardiologist Ziyad Ghazzal (MD ’82) among others: “The purpose of the water is to humidify the smoke . . . making it easier to inhale, and therefore more harmful.”

Serious harm generally takes years to manifest itself. In the meantime, due to the lack of regulations and general awareness, Lebanese youth hear far less about these consequences than their peers in other nations.

They may not know that four major diseases ravaging their grandparents and parents all claim smoking as a leading though not the only contributor. Smoking poses particular health challenges as it can take the guise of self-medication for other health problems: Obese smokers may believe it will help them slim down, whereas the anxious and depressed may light up to lighten up.

Smoking enjoys a unique local cachet as even Arabic language textbooks portray it as an authentic expression of Arab culture. Yet, the companies peddling the bulk of tobacco products in the Arab world are western. The rapid invasion of global goods and practices from the west has also generated a less active lifestyle that is quietly devastating vulnerable populations and driving medical faculty at AUB to step up their prevention and treatment efforts. They are buoyed by recent accomplishments.

A ban on smoking in all enclosed public places in Lebanon went into effect this fall and it owes its success, in part, to the work of AUB’s Tobacco Control Research Group, featured in the fall 2011 issue of this magazine. It’s a long anticipated win that will safeguard non-smokers. But forcing smokers to change location is not the same as persuading them to quit.

Spreading awareness, physicians agree, is just the beginning. People need to be prevailed upon to change their minds and their behavior.

Cancer remains both invisible and “taboo” across the region, and breast cancer cases are more likely to appear in an advanced stage of diagnosis than their counterparts in, say, the United States, where a growing number of AUB medical faculty have trained and worked.

“More than 60 percent of breast cancer cases [among Arabs] are locally advanced or metastatic at presentation,” compared with only 10 percent in the United States and Europe, says Dr. Nagi El Saghir, professor of clinical medicine and director of the Breast Center of Excellence at the Basile Cancer Institute.

There’s more to it than smoking. Thanks to a $250,000 grant from the GlaxoSmithKline Oncology International Ethnic Research Initiative, El Saghir and...
colleagues are conducting a major study to assess the role of family history in soaring breast cancer cases. Data-supported conclusions, however, remain the exception in the Arab world.

El Saghir and Garea are fairly typical among medical faculty in dividing their time between treating patients, researching what causes trends in disease incidence, and organizing or taking part in awareness campaigns.

That’s what it means to treat cancer in Lebanon whether your patients are Lebanese or Iraqi, who form on average 20 to 25 percent of the overall group. Garea says that Iraqis, along with Syrians, are increasingly likely to seek help beyond the borders of their own troubled medical systems.

Even as a massive investment in cancer treatment and research facilities forms a central part of the 2020 vision transforming medicine at AUB, cancer and its kin, formidable opponents even in much wealthier countries, require devilishly inventive opponents. “This is the real challenge,” Garea says. “To always provide the best care as efficiently as possible. You have to be creative and you have to have a lean and efficient operation.”

Even the most sophisticated equipment and the medical center operates, wherever possible, on the cutting edge, rarely exposes lung cancer before it has become serious. When it comes to prostate and breast cancer, however, El Saghir and Garea emphasize that early detection can make all the difference. Women should seek yearly mammography screenings starting at age 40.

“Cancer does not mean death anymore,” El Saghir says. “It’s important to keep repeating that information. If a woman has breast cancer, if we discover it early, she can live, [and] she does not have to lose her breast.”

When it comes to cervical cancer, doctors have to contend with something more complicated than ignorance and fear: a persistent idea of innocence rooted in a cultural exceptionalism that has been, to some extent, grounded in fact. The Arab region has the lowest incidence of cervical cancer in the world, but that’s expected to change as a result of evolving sexual habits among Lebanese youth, says Dr. Muhieddine Seoud (BS ’73, MD ’82), a professor of gynecology oncology.

Human papillomavirus (HPV), essentially the sole cause of cervical cancer, can spread even during protected sex, and any campaign to combat it requires mass vaccination of adolescent girls.

“There is less than 17 percent uptake of the vaccine in the United States, which is very bad,” says Dr. Seoud, comparing it with Australia where 88 percent of the target population has been vaccinated.

In order to have any chance of success, the vaccine (as currently priced) will have to prove cost-effective for Lebanon. The Amsterdam-based journal *Vaccine*, which Seoud edits, will publish an analysis of the cost effectiveness of the vaccine in its November issue.

♥ Your Heart

For whatever reason, heart disease, as it’s commonly known, doesn’t terrorize its potential victims as cancer does, but it kills more people. “The first misconception is that women are more vulnerable to breast cancer [than to heart disease],” says Dr. Samir Alam (MD ’72), professor and head of cardiology. The numbers tell a different story: “Across the world, one out of every two women above 40 dies of heart diseases, whereas one in 25 dies of breast cancer.”

The same risk factors cause or reinforce heart disease: smoking, family history, diabetes, hypertension, sedentary lifestyle, obesity, and elevated cholesterol levels. “And to some degree stress and type A personality,” adds Dr. Ghazzal, professor of cardiology and associate dean for clinical affairs.

Not to mention age itself, Ghazzal says: “As we grow older, our risk of heart attacks and stroke increases.” To that end, he points to two exciting new programs that will intensify efforts to prevent and treat cardiovascular disease.

Ghazzal and his colleagues have created a preventive cardiology program that they plan to launch soon and are planning an educational health fair for the
fall. While the clinic will offer personalized assessment and testing, general guidelines established by the American College of Cardiology and the American Heart Association remain widely applicable: Don’t smoke; get screened for diabetes and hypertension; follow a healthy diet low in fat and carbohydrates; and do a half hour of exercise several times a week.

In addition, AUB intends to partner with Lebanese First Lady Wafaa Sleiman and sponsor an initiative to offer Lebanese women free heart screenings. The initiative, which could start as soon as December, combines opportunities for service and research in what Alam calls a “tremendous platform” for AUB to fulfill its mission in the larger community.

“AUB will provide academic counseling…and be able to gather data to establish a database, the first of its kind, which will include a lot of information on risk factors, genomic factors, lifestyle issues and this will open the way for intervention,” he says.

For a variety of reasons, cardiovascular disease in women is underdiagnosed, which is a particular concern since earlier intervention can save lives, Alam says. “The first manifestation of [heart] disease, for many women, is sudden death.”

The same collusion between changes in lifestyle and family history that makes Lebanese and their neighbors vulnerable to cancer and cardiovascular disease also increases their risk of developing type two diabetes, says Dr. Ibrahim Salti, a professor of medicine and head of the Division of Endocrinology.

**Diagnosing Diabetes**

Approximately 13 percent of Lebanese adults are living with diabetes, meaning that their bodies fail to produce or effectively use the insulin necessary to absorb glucose from the bloodstream into their cells, causing excessive thirst and hunger, frequent urination, and other complications.

Lebanon’s numbers are low compared to some other Arab countries, but Salti cautions that they may increase if people are not made more aware of associated risk factors such as high blood pressure, triglycerides, and cholesterol, not to mention obesity and what they can do to counter them.

The overwhelming majority of people don’t realize they have the disease until they experience symptoms, at which point complications may already have commenced, Salti says. “Everybody above 30 should have at least an annual checkup for diabetes.” Pregnant women are routinely screened.

Under the umbrella of the Lebanese Order of Physicians and the Lebanese Society for Diabetes and Endocrinology, Salti and his colleagues observe the World Health Organization’s (WHO) Diabetes Day on November 14 each year. “For many years, we have had our own diabetes program at AUB. It’s a mini-program compared with what the country needs, but we are actively participating in both national and regional campaigns to improve public awareness of this disease and its management,” Salti says. “Of course, ultimately we would like to establish a major diabetes center but that’s something we hope to implement with the long-term plans of the medical center.”

**Brittle Truth: Osteoporosis Targets Men Too**

Osteoporosis operates in stealth mode. “It’s a silent disease until fracture occurs,” says Dr. Ghada El-Hajj Fuleihan (MD ’83, MPH ’97), professor of medicine and specialist in endocrinology-metabolic bone disorders and public health.

In other words, most people don’t realize that their bones are becoming more fragile and brittle until they break. Post-menopausal women above age 65 are most at risk, but some medical conditions and occasionally even
their treatments expose many other groups, El-Hajj Fuleihan says. It doesn’t require much of a mental leap to connect cancer and bone loss, but the potentially debilitating effects of medications for allergies, epilepsy, and depression may be less intuitive.

More people are seeking testing thanks to growing awareness, El-Hajj Fuleihan says. Since she moved to Lebanon in 1997, she established the Calcium Metabolism and Osteoporosis Program, and in 2010 the WHO Collaborating Center for Metabolic Bone Disorders, programs that played an important role in leading osteoporosis research and raising awareness about this disabling disease. In Lebanon, one out of five women and one out of eight men over age 65 have vertebral fractures, and the incidence of hip fractures is closest to that of Southern Europe.

Last fall, she led the first regional investigation to assess osteoporosis disease burden, covering the Middle East and Africa, an initiative spearheaded by the International Osteoporosis Foundation. The statistics may be bleak—hip fractures in Lebanon are expected to quadruple over the next 30 years—but El-Hajj Fuleihan believes that Lebanon can stay ahead of the curve and spearhead efforts to contribute to regional well-being.

Indeed, for the last decade, she has engaged several relevant stakeholders, officials at the ministry of health, ministry of social affairs, WHO, concerned national scientific societies, to push the osteoporosis agenda forward. These include the establishment of a national osteoporosis task force; various patient and physician educational campaigns and programs; national osteoporosis guidelines on “who should be tested” and “who should be treated”; scientific meetings sponsored by the Lebanese Society for Osteoporosis and Metabolic Bone Disorders, an osteoporosis academy course that trains physicians and residents from a range of related disciplines; and the creation of a Lebanese-specific fracture risk calculator, FRAX Lebanon, launched on-line in September 2009.

The composition of FRAX-based Lebanese osteoporosis guidelines will further aid physicians in deciding when to treat patients with or at risk for disease. Such parameters already vary across borders, El-Hajj Fuleihan explains. In the United States, for instance, physicians are advised to test anyone who shows a risk of more than 20 percent, whereas Canadians are more likely to treat someone who exhibits a lower risk.

Thus, El-Hajj Fuleihan alludes to a more general principle: Disease is universal, but the treatments need to be much more geographically and culturally specific.

### Teaming Up to Treat Obesity and Mental Health

Efforts to develop treatments for obesity and mental illness mirror one another in an important way. In both cases, two distinct professions emerged from universities—doctors and dieticians versus psychiatrists and psychologists—and they had to learn to work with one another.

When AUB began graduating dieticians in 1984, doctors were dismissive, says Dean Nahla Houalla, a professor of nutrition and dean of the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences. “I remember they used to call them ‘the girls in the kitchen,’” Houalla says. AUB’s graduating dieticians, however, have “made the profession look good,” Houalla says, and physicians have begun to accept them as partners. AUB itself sits at the heart of this transformation as new leadership at the medical school has accelerated the transition to a more holistic health-care approach, Houalla says.

By the time Brigitte Khoury, PhD (BA ‘88), became the first clinical psychologist appointed to the Faculty of Medicine in 1997, psychiatry was similarly becoming more welcoming, she says. “We see our work as complementary,” she says of her colleagues. “We really work in a biopsychosocial model where the patient is treated on all levels: medically, psychologically, socially.”

Such an approach is needed because the culprit in both cases is not an isolated phenomenon, but rather a sea change in how to live—one that is especially challenging for Arabs who must balance their own needs with that of their families and society at large, says...
Tima El-Jamil, assistant professor of psychology in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences.

Chair of Psychiatry Ziad Nahas says he has advised patients to try psychotherapy, in addition to or sometimes instead of medication. "Medication will not teach you new skills," he says. "It will relieve the symptoms and prepare the stage for learning, but it will not teach you new skills to cope with life's adversity." He adds: "Some patients refuse."

Houalla sees resistance to change as a major obstacle. "We didn't change our behavior to accompany the change in technology and innovation," she observes. "I see young people here waiting for the bus on lower campus to take them to upper campus."

These same young people are also the most likely to have adapted a western diet that is directly correlated with rising rates of obesity. "It's not a thought, it's a fact," Houalla says, pointing to research that has identified four dietary patterns in the country: western, traditional Lebanese, prudent, and fish and alcohol patterns. Of those patterns, only the western pattern has a "strong association with obesity and metabolic abnormalities."

On the flipside of obesity, El-Jamil says that she frequently sees patients with eating disorders such as anorexia and bulimia among her (mostly middle class) clientele. "The made-up woman, the plastic-surgery woman is idealized here to a very great extent, throughout all social classes. On the one hand, the family and society perpetuate unhealthy body images; on the other hand, they ignore genuine signs of ill health in their children or in the elderly."

The made-up woman, the plastic-surgery woman is idealized here to a very great extent, throughout all social classes. On the one hand, the family and society perpetuate unhealthy body images; on the other hand, they ignore genuine signs of ill health in their children or in the elderly.

PTSD of the Vietnam veteran dominates.

"We do not have higher rates of PTSD than countries like the United States, which is very interesting," El-Jamil says. "That's not to say that we have not been traumatized by the experiences [of war]. I just think we express our trauma a little bit differently."

Khoury is part of a group effort to revise mental illness classifications in the ICD-10, an initiative by the World Health Organization in Geneva to offer a European alternative to the American DSM-IV (the fourth edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders). The new ICD (International Statistical Classification of Diseases), scheduled for release in 2015, will include data specific to the Arab world, a significant advance.

"I think this will really put Arab mental health on the map," Khoury says.

Ever since she founded the Lebanese Psychological Association in 2004, she's been working with colleagues, including El-Jamil, on a law that would regulate psychological practices in Lebanon, mandating a licensing exam, among other stipulations, and helping to ensure that a pool of qualified psychologists will grow in step with Lebanese demand.

"Going to a psychologist is a fairly new concept for Arabs, and Lebanese in particular," El-Jamil says.

Cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, osteoporosis, obesity, and mental illness—they are all old diseases that are successfully exploiting the way modern life has accelerated even as people themselves are slowing down or stopping altogether.

Most worrying is the way the major diseases that turn middle age into a killing field are often characterized by degrees of silence: the mute terror of cancer, the gasping anguish of heart disease, the deceptive quiet of diabetes and osteoporosis, and the tormenting secrecy of obesity and mental illness.

Whether in Lebanon or around the world, the affected population has never been larger and the stakes have never been higher. But what is the chance that any individual will make a different choice─not tomorrow, but today?

—S.M.
During more than a century of continuous development, punctuated by a few ambitious large-scale expansions, the buildings and networks of people that form AUB’s medical center have adhered to a remarkably consistent vision.

1866 The Syrian Protestant College (SPC) is founded, renamed the American University of Beirut (AUB) in 1920.

1867 SPC establishes a school of medicine.

1871 The Medical School joins with the Johanniter Hospital, also known as the Prussian Hospital for clinical teaching.

1873 SPC constructs a medical building currently housing AUB’s Office of Regional External Programs.
On November 6, 1954, just one month before he passed away, President Stephen B. L. Penrose, Jr. dedicated a new hospital wing and seized the opportunity to remind listeners to look beyond the building: “A hospital building is of no value whatsoever regardless of its beauty or its wealth of equipment unless it is manned by devoted people, doctors, nurses and members of every level of the staff.”

Sixteen years later, in mid-June 1970, Dr. Craig Lichtenwalner, dean of the Faculties of Medical Sciences, told those gathered for the dedication of the then new medical center that “people are the heart of the medical center” and that it was otherwise “best defined by its functions and these are identified as medical teaching, medical care, and medical research.”

In 2009, Dean Mohamed H. Sayegh echoed his predecessors when he articulated a daring vision, the name of which—AUBMC 2020—aims to express not just a projected date for the completion for the new medical complex but a decidedly contemporary desire for clarity and transparency in vision.

That inclination for transparency can also be seen in the glassy structures that make up the centerpiece of the planned complex, as a global proclivity for glass adapts (yet again) to suit a hot climate and an urban fabric that already harmonizes brazenly modern edifices with their gracefully graying relations.

Over the coming decade of construction and cultural renewal, the current 350-bed hospital will transform into a 600-bed institution dedicated to education, treatment, and research that aims to surpass its counterparts in the region and distinguish itself on a world scale.

All that ambition, however, begins and ends with people, Sayegh says. “The bottom line is teamwork.” He’s already recruited more than 80 new faculty members from the United States and Europe, many of whom now serve on one of the interlocking steering committees, task forces, and working groups designed to ensure that the medical culture evolves in step with the construction.

“We’re not saying we’re going to build a building for you, then go and occupy it,” Sayegh makes plain. In order to best serve patients—and hospitals increasingly

Dean and VP Mohamed Sayegh and his team have worked tirelessly to develop a visionary master plan charting the future of the medical center. It is daring, it is daunting, and it will require that every one of us commits to ensuring its ultimate realization. The new 2020 plan is essential to the health of the University and will help ensure that future generations in the Arab world will have life and have it more abundantly!

—Trustee Dr. David Bickers at the meeting of the Board of Trustees, June 18, 2010
recognize that optimal values and revenues converge on this point—the buildings will also need to reflect the working ethos of the physicians and staff migrating into them, beginning with the new medical school café and administration building, both under construction, and the academic clinical center that broke ground this fall.

A floor-by-floor renovation of the existing hospital has been underway for a few years now and is expected to take several more years to complete, says Bassem Barhoumi, director of the Facilities Planning and Design Unit.

A project of this scale requires the construction of intermediary buildings into which people and programs can be decanted to allow for the real creative destruction to begin. “It’s an existing, thriving, operating medical center, so you have to ensure that that all still carries on while you’re doing the construction,” says Joan Saba, partner in the New York Office of NBBJ, a firm selected on the merits of its work (including Stanford University Medical School’s Li Ka Shing Center for Learning and Knowledge and Massachusetts General Hospital’s Lunder Building) and Saba’s own deep experience with academic medical centers.

The flagship buildings remain in their “infancy,” Saba says; construction on them won’t begin until 2015 at the earliest. She and her collaborators received the go-ahead only late last year, which means that all slide shows come with a caveat—anything and everything could yet change. Well, perhaps not everything.

The overall plan calls for unifying the main and medical campuses on one sustained and sustainable (LEED-certified) green-friendly note; integrating new and old buildings through sensitive design, locally sourced materials, and strategically-placed pathways; adapting under-used public space to make the area more welcoming to patients, families, clinicians, and students; enabling mingling and collaboration from the courtyard to the exam room so that the complex itself becomes a “beehive of connections,” in Saba’s words; maximizing access to natural light above ground and parking below ground; instituting repetitive design wherever it will aid orientation; and directing pedestrian and traffic flow via multiple access points.

Saba has seen the typology of the hospital change significantly in the past few decades to become more welcoming and amenable. That said, she knows the architectural equivalent of a euphemism when she sees one: “It’s not a spa, it’s not a hotel—I mean, it’s a hospital.” In contrast with, say, a community hospital, an academic medical center poses unique challenges, all the more so if it’s in an urban setting. Well before AUB trustees started working their way down the list of the world’s top 100 architects, they toured a project that seemed to have some similar elements, the newly constructed Lunder Building at Mass General, and met Bob Foster, a project adviser with 25 years of experience in real estate development.

Foster agreed to act as interim vice president for facilities to provide on-site consulting. “All [they] knew is that they had an immediate need for beds and that it
would likely have extensive repercussions on some other uses,” Foster says.

As a consultant, Foster tries to break down a potentially overwhelming enterprise into basic questions that can be answered: “What is it you have? What is it you think you need? What kind of resources do you need? What's the strategy? How do you build a team to execute something this significant? Do you have enough land area?”

“You don’t get into any kind of detail at that level,” he adds. “It’s just about: How big is it? How big can you build it? What can we afford to do? Does any of this make sense in regard to where we are?”

And the demands of the present are only the beginning. “Remember you’re trying to design something that doesn't really come on-line for 10 years,” Foster says. “You’re trying to imagine what this is going to be in the face of changing agendas and changing clinical practices, knowing that whatever you start with today is very likely going to be different at the end of the day”—in part because so many additional people will have a say in the proceedings, including politicians and government bureaucrats.

Barhoumi and his colleagues are drawing on what they learned about working with the Lebanese government during the last decade of overhauling the University’s master plan.

Even when the last stone slides into place, the hospital is going to continue to develop, albeit at a slower pace. “Medical centers, especially, grow organically,” Foster says. “Mass General was built back before the [American] Civil War and each incremental piece gets added onto something that came before it.”

Likewise, the former American University Hospital began to take shape with the purchase of something like the current plot of land in 1902. By the end of the decade, three linked hospital pavilions had materialized and the School of Nursing had been functioning for five years.

The Rockefeller Foundation funded additions to the pavilions in 1923 and, in 1931, the construction of Van Dyck Hall, then the medical sciences building now home to the Faculty of Health Sciences.

The next major renovation ushered in Lebanon’s war years and in 1987, the war came home when a bomb exploded in the lobby of the medical center, killing seven people and wounding 31.

In the event of a war or another catastrophe, Saba says, the access points will be easy to control, by design. “We’re required to have a war shelter on the lower levels of the hospital.”

“There has also been discussion about what happens in mass casualty events,” adds Domenico Lio, a senior associate with NBBJ. “The whole courtyard could… accommodate a greater amount of ambulances and entries.”

The medical complex serves as a reminder of how many different trends can proceed at one time in parallel—destructive, constructive, or both.
Looking at those programs that are going to need to grow and are going to enable more growth... All of this planning work that we're doing? It's important to get it right.

“The facilities are so stressed right now because of the demands on them,” Saba points out. “The workarounds that people have created—it’s phenomenal.”

“Looking at those programs that are going to need to grow and are going to enable more growth...” She concludes with understated simplicity: “All of this planning work that we’re doing? It’s important to get it right.”

—S.M.
Artistic Legacy
When Samir Saleeby attended the inauguration of the Khalil Saleeby (1870-1928) exhibition showcasing works from the exceptional art collection that he has generously donated to AUB, he felt his hopes and ambitions for the collection had been fulfilled. “When I went to the opening on June 8,” he said, “I knew that I had done the right thing. I had been thinking of a museum of fine arts for the collection since the seventies. Now I am already dreaming of the future, when the collection becomes the nucleus of an art museum at AUB to be named after my father and mother.” His father, Shaheen Saleeby, received his MD from the University, and Samir Saleeby and his five children all studied at AUB. Both father and son had distinguished careers as ophthalmologists.

The story of Samir Saleeby’s unique bequest to AUB has already stimulated interest from the art world throughout the region and beyond. It has also prompted academics and collectors alike to consider the potential for future donations to AUB.

A distant relative of Khalil Saleeby, one of Lebanon’s preeminent early painters (he is considered to be one of the founders of contemporary art in Lebanon), Samir Saleeby dedicated the collection to the memory of his parents, Rose and Shaheen Saleeby. It comprises 57 paintings and eight works on paper. Thirty-three paintings are by Khalil Saleeby; the rest are by contemporaries including Saliba Douaihy, Cesar Gemayal, and Omar Onsi. Initially started by Shaheen Saleeby upon the sudden tragic death of his artist-relative, once Samir took over the collection it became his passion. Augmented over decades, it graced the walls of his family’s home in Beirut for over 80 years.

Samir Saleeby staunchly resisted all pressure to divide or sell the collection. Concerned for its safety during the Lebanese civil war, he shipped it to London for safekeeping. In between he considered the possibility of building his own museum but finally rejected the idea as being less safe than a public institution. “I wanted the collection to remain in Lebanon and I wanted people to see it. I have made the correct decision. AUB is well equipped to look after the paintings and the new Rose and Shaheen Saleeby Museum planned by AUB for 2020 is a dream come true.” At 87 years of age Samir Saleeby is not sure he will attend its inauguration, but the thought of it gives him enormous pleasure.

President Dorman expressed his gratitude concerning the donation, affirming that the University shares Samir Saleeby’s vision of making the paintings available to the people of Lebanon and to all who have an interest in art in the region. That suits Samir Saleeby perfectly. “Lebanon needs a museum but the nation did not provide it, so AUB is the right place for the Saleeby collection.”

Pending the opening of the Saleeby museum, a new two-story gallery has been created on the ground and lower floors of the Mayfair student residence just off campus in Hamra. The current exhibition will be followed by a series of exhibitions that will draw upon other works in the Saleeby collection. The newly appointed curator, Octavian Esanu will oversee the gallery as well as a new contemporary art space that is being created on campus. He will also manage the University’s art collection that features other important works of art belonging to AUB.

AUB recruited a top international art restorer, Lucia Scalisi who spent months in Beirut restoring the Saleeby collection prior to exhibition. Seeing the paintings so meticulously renovated, Samir Saleeby declared Scalisi’s work to be “fantastic.” A seasoned professional formerly with the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, Scalisi was amazed by the collection. “It is such a rare thing to get this many paintings by one artist in a single collection and as a bequest to an institution,” she says. “Khalil Saleeby was a very good artist; he had formal training, was competent with his materials and techniques, and he was definitely talented. This collection of his works resonates at all levels, and it has been a huge privilege to work with such paintings in near original condition.”

Khalil Saleeby’s life story reads like a novel: Born in the village of Btalloun, an only son, his parents were disconcerted by his propensity as a youngster for scratching out designs on the ground with matchsticks. Later he attended the Syrian Protestant College (now AUB) and eventually he traveled to Edinburgh to study painting. There he met leading American painter John Singer Sargent, who encouraged Saleeby to study in Philadelphia. In the United States he met Carrie Aude, who later became his wife and muse, whom he painted many times.

The couple lived in Edinburgh, London, and Paris, where Saleeby became acquainted with other important painters including Pierre-Auguste Renoir and Pierre Puvis de Chavannes. He exhibited in the impressionist
In 1900, he and Carrie returned to Lebanon where Saleeby opened a studio on Bliss Street opposite the Main Gate of AUB and became an accomplished and respected portrait artist. Tragically, he and Carrie were murdered in 1928 over a long-standing dispute over access to water in his village.

Saleeby's glowing portraits dominate the collection. In addition to the lovingly crafted ones of Carrie, they include two arresting self-portraits, imposing renditions of local personalities like Amin Rihani and Dr. Simon Khoury, portraits of villagers and tradesmen, and several of young women, including a compelling portrait of his cousin that stands out from the rest. Four challenging nudes were painted between 1901 and 1922, and were recently loaned by AUB to the Institut du Monde Arabe in Paris. They clearly defy the local conventions of the time but represent an important chapter in the artist's oeuvre.

Lucia Scalisi found the works to be in remarkable condition given their age and the fact that they had been hanging in a private residence for so long. Most had been varnished with natural resin, which over time interacts with paint to cause surface discoloration. Stripping away the old varnish and replacing it with a new inert one, Scalisi was able to coax the original colors gently back to life. She was especially delighted by Saleeby's passion for opalescent violets and turquoises impressionistically applied.

Two thickly encrusted paintings of the Heliopolis Palace in Cairo provide sharp contrast with the rest of the collection. They were part of a series of four painted by Saleeby that were exhibited in the 1921 Beirut Industrial Fair. They still have their original frames and can be spotted in a photograph taken during the fair.

Art historians have already begun to scrutinize the collection to decipher the different influences that were brought to bear on Saleeby's work over the years and throughout his travels. This is the kind of academic study AUB hopes to encourage among its art students. Rico Frances, associate professor of art history at AUB, has called the donation “an extraordinary gift for Lebanon” and in particular for his students, many of whom have not had the opportunity to really study an oil painting closely.

Asked if he missed the collection after spending all these years with it, Samir Saleeby replied philosophically, “After 80 years on the walls they lost...”
their brilliance. Now I am pleased that they look so good. I don’t miss them. My dream was to share them with others. I have made prints of a few of them to remind me. I still have some other paintings, and I will keep adding to them. All the rest will go to AUB in my will. I hope other people will donate and have their collections exhibited like mine.”

—M.A.
One family—originally from Khiyam at the very south of Lebanon—has graduated four generations of AUB medical students. Dr. Karam Karam (BS '62, MD '67), the grandchild, son, and father of AUB alumni, has served as chairman of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology (OB-GYN) as well as Lebanon’s minister of health, minister of tourism, minister of state, and minister of culture between 1998 and 2006. Today, Dr. Karam is a clinical professor of OB-GYN at AUBMC.

I am asked to write about AUB. To me, Lebanon is AUB, and AUB means more to me than my hometown. Over the past 55 years at AUB, the institution has gone through a lot. During the civil war I did not spend a single hour away from its campus and vicinities. I taught and worked and slept at the hospital at night. People grow attached to objects as well as to humans. I grew attached to AUB’s trees, stone, campus, and all that the University stands for.

I had the opportunity of joining some of the best Ivy League medical schools, but in the early 1970s, the AUB medical school was even better than all of them at all levels: education, qualification, and services. Four decades ago, at AUB, I conducted the first minimal invasive surgery in the Middle East. Unparalleled in the region, AUB shared its knowledge and expertise of the newest techniques by sending physicians as trainers throughout the Middle East, myself included.

AUB’s medical school (and center) is the star of AUB. It has taught generations of physicians, many of whom have gone on to become pioneers in medicine throughout the world, and has offered its medical services to many who sought them from the Arab region.

AUB has been challenged by difficult circumstances, but remains a leading pioneer despite the growing competition. More can be done today: AUB can harness more of its resources to address the region’s pressing needs in education, medical care, and environmental health. It can further emphasize diversity in thought and opinion and productivity in teaching and in service, both in the arts and in science. It can keep instilling in its students the sense of civic responsibility and objectivity. Furthermore, AUB can strengthen and build upon its relationship with its alumni. Its alumni return to give back to AUB with all the values and goals it instilled in them.

My message to faculty and staff is to keep holding the torch. It has lit many dark alleys over the past century and a half and it always will continue to do so. To students, your presence at this great institution, though short, is rich with learning and education. Make the best of it. It was the best part of my life.

Benefit from the beautiful campus and classroom experience. The diversity you meet is unparalleled and the free discourse is illuminating. Be humble. As you have risen on the shoulders of your mentors and teachers, the future generations will rise on yours.

—as told to Safa Jafari Safa

★ As you have risen on the shoulders of your mentors and teachers, the future generations will rise on yours.
Nassif al-Yaziji

Literary Light

Although he was only a member of the faculty of the Syrian Protestant College for three years, he was one of the more prominent individuals to be associated with the College in those early days. When he joined SPC in 1866 as an Arabic teacher, Nassif al-Yaziji was widely recognized, along with Boutrus Bustani (see MainGate, “Legends and Legacies,” fall 2010, page 47), as one of the “two great figures who dominate the intellectual life of the period.”

A Greek Catholic, al-Yaziji was born in Kfarchima (Baabda) in 1800 and wrote his first poems at the age of 10. He would go on to become one of the important court poets—if not the most important court poet—of Prince Bashir Shihab II, who ruled from 1788 until 1840. According to AUB Arabic Professor Nadeem Naimy, al-Yaziji is noted especially for his contribution to the translation of the Bible into Arabic (1848-65), which he describes as one of the greatest literary achievements of the nineteenth century. As a skilled linguist who knew only Arabic, it was al-Yaziji who checked the Arabic text that Bustani translated from Hebrew, Greek, and Syriac.

Al-Yaziji also authored many books including some texts that were intended originally for the schools of the American Mission. Many of these books were later “adopted by a far larger circle of teachers and students and continued, long after his death in 1871, to govern the teaching of the science of Arabic.” His most famous work was Majma’ al-Bahrain, which is a collection of 60 short narratives that is still, according to Naimy, “considered to be a landmark in the renaissance of the glorious Arabic literature of the past.”

In addition to being a prodigious author, al-Yaziji is also remembered as one of the founders of the Society of Arts and Sciences that he helped to establish with Bustani in 1847. Although the society, which has been described as “the Arab world’s first literary society,” dissolved after five years, it paved the way for the formation in 1857 of the Syrian Scientific Society (al-jamiya al-ilmiya al-suriya). Unlike the earlier society that was restricted to Christians, the Syrian Scientific Society included Druze and Muslims and was, according to Antonius, “the first outward manifestation of a collective national consciousness” that would come to be known as the Nahda or Arab Awakening.

One of his 12 children, Ibrahim al-Yaziji, also went on to make a name for himself in the Arab world. He is especially remembered for a poem he recited during one of the meetings of the Syran Scientific Society calling for Arab unity and also for developing a simplified Arab font that led to the creation of the Arabic typewriter.

Nassif al-Yaziji died in February 1871.
The Moore Collection

Dr. Franklin T. Moore, a graduate of Princeton University who came to Lebanon in 1891 at the age of 23 to teach at the Syrian Protestant College (now AUB), left an important historical archive in the form of glass plates, which were taken between 1892 and 1902. Painstakingly restored, the images have been digitized and are now part of the AUB archives. Above: Eye Clinic. Patients sometimes brought food (Zawwadeh) in baskets to pay for their fees. November 1897.
A half century before AUB would inaugurate a new medical center as part of what will become AUBMC 2020, then-dean of the Faculty of Medicine Craig S. Lichtenwalner, MD, marked a different milestone. He not only witnessed the 1970 opening of expanded medical operations but also played a key role in their creation over the previous decade. He spoke with MainGate about the years of change and turmoil and the resulting accomplishments.

MainGate: When did you arrive at AUB?
Dr. Craig S. Lichtenwalner: In the summer of 1960. I had previously served overseas as a member of the US Public Health Service. I’d been in Ethiopia for a couple of years, in Vietnam for three years, and when I came back to the United States, someone on the Board of Trustees of AUB called me for an interview. They were looking for an assistant for Dean Joe McDonald [Dr. Joseph J. McDonald], then dean of the medical faculty. I had been overseas for about five years at that point with some assignments back in the United States, but I was interested in international health affairs and the idea of going to AUB appealed to me.

MainGate: What was your first impression?
Dr. Craig S. Lichtenwalner: Dean McDonald met me at the airport and took me to his house on campus where I spent the first few days. My family had not yet arrived. On visiting the campus for the first time, I was impressed with the modernity of the neighborhood and the peaceful tranquility behind the university walls. I remember Bliss Street was bustling with autos and bicycles and street cars and a lot going on there, busy shops, and so on, but it was entirely peaceful inside the University. Actually, I was surprised that most people spoke English. In Ethiopia and in Vietnam, I was mostly used to hearing foreign tongues.

MainGate: Where did you spend most of your time on campus, as an administrator and a teacher?
I taught preventive medicine to first-year medical students. My office and most of our classes were in Van Dyck Hall. I guess everybody who goes through medical education becomes a teacher and I considered myself...
a teacher, but I did not have a primary role as a teacher at AUB. In those days, the Faculty of Medical Sciences consisted of four schools—medicine, pharmacy, nursing, and public health—and the dean was also responsible for the university hospital and for the university health services, so it was quite a big administrative structure. It was no wonder that Dean McDonald needed some assistance. And meanwhile we were making plans for the new medical center and had an active planning committee that met regularly.

Shortly after I arrived, because of my background in public health, Dean McDonald appointed me as the director of the School of Public Health. I served as director for about 10 years in addition to other functions. I went from assistant dean to associate dean at one point and became dean of the medical faculty in 1969. My academic title was professor of public health practice.

The biggest change at AUB was construction of the medical center.

You gave a speech in 1970 in honor of the new medical center. What role did the center play in transforming medicine at AUB?

There had been a shortage of space and the different services had not been able to do as much as they were capable of doing. Also the buildings were old and modern medicine requires modern facilities.

The planning committee had just been organized when I arrived. We would meet regularly with each department and determine what they wanted to see in their new space and then, later, we met with architects to figure out how to achieve those goals. Dr. Raif Nassif [AUB Reflections, MainGate, spring 2005, page 40] was the secretary of the planning committee and he did an outstanding job throughout that period.

I guess anybody who builds a hospital has a lot of thoughts about rendering service, but an academic medical center does more than that. Of course it renders service through the community, but it also serves as the prime location for teaching and for research. We had high hopes and I think they were achieved. The completion of the center and the process that led up to that served to revitalize the teaching programs and it served to modernize medical care in that part of Lebanon.

Do you have particular memories from the outbreak of the civil war?

I remember that there was a resurgence of hostilities in the summer of 1975 that continued through the fall. We decided that my family—which at that time consisted of my wife and four children—should leave, which they did on Christmas Day of 1975. When President Kirkwood decided to leave in January, I was appointed acting president in Beirut and stayed on until the summer of 1976 to fulfill that function.

There had been periodic violence for at least three or four years before that. There would be an outbreak and then a peaceful interlude and then an outbreak and then another peaceful interlude. And there were undercurrents all along—from 1960 on there were undercurrents—and every so often they would come to the surface. In the early 1970s they came to the surface more often and were seen as being instigated by outside forces. Even though the University had friends
and supporters in Lebanon, the outside forces were not amenable to our influence.

On that Christmas Day in 1975, we were in fear that the airport would close and that my family wouldn’t be able to get out. And the airport did close shortly after that.

After my wife and family had been away for several months, it seemed that we would not be reunited in Lebanon in any near future, and so we decided to get on with our lives. That’s when I decided to leave. I think I gave the trustees something like three months’ notice.

After I left, I know that Dr. Sam Asper, who had been with us for three or four years, fulfilled the functions in the dean’s office, along with Dr. Nassif, who was director of the School of Medicine, and the hospital had its own director, so things were in stable hands when I left. Another dean, Jim Cowan, dean of the School of Agriculture, was appointed as acting president, so there was a smooth transition there. Meanwhile President Samuel Kirkwood was still president, but based in New York.

Over the years we had planned to become less and less dependent on faculty members from the United States. More and more Lebanese and other Middle Eastern nationals were taking over the responsible posts at the University, so that was all part of the plan that we would work ourselves out of a job.

When did you leave AUB? Have you been back?
When I left AUB in 1976, I went to Bahrain as head of the AUB Services Corporation. When it appeared that hostilities were going to continue for some time, some AUB trustees decided to form a for-profit consulting company that could engage some of our faculty members and keep them within range of the University and at the same time perform consulting services in the Arab Middle East, mainly in the Gulf area. The trustees formed a for-profit corporation called AUB Services. Trustee Najib Halaby was named by the board to be the president of that operation and I was appointed as executive vice president and in charge of our operations from an office in Bahrain. When I left Beirut, I went to Bahrain and I did in fact visit the campus several times after going there.

I can only say that I think the planners should always plan ambitiously. Don’t make any little plans.

I stayed in Bahrain for three years until the trustees decided that the time had come to fold up the company. They did so and I went back to Massachusetts where I spent several years as the medical director of the Middlesex County Hospital, which is just outside Boston. And then I decided to get back into straight public health work and I came to the Public Health Department of the state of Georgia.

What overall impact has AUB had on your life?
I can’t say that it changed my life. It was my life. My experience at AUB was the highlight of my medical career. My hope is that AUB will continue to inspire others.

Do you have something you would like to say to your successors at the AUB Medical Center, especially as they embark upon the creation of a new medical center?
I can only say that I think the planners should always plan ambitiously. Don’t make any little plans.

—S.M.
Joumana Kalot (BS ’89, MPH ’95) is coming “home”—back to the cocoon she left in 1995, older and (much) wiser than she was when she entered the “real” world of public health. She brings with her to the FHS Outreach and Practice Unit (OPU) a wealth of practical experience that she has earned during a series of managerial assignments with UNDP, the Lebanese Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA), as well as with international and national NGOs working in areas such as drug prevention, HIV/AIDS, and capacity building.

Passionate about AUB and her work in public health, Kalot’s mission is to merge her practical experience with the high quality, evidenced-based research for which AUB is famous, to devise effective community-based programs and training modules.

Working as a research assistant on a UNICEF-AUB water quality assessment project back in 1990 gave Kalot her first taste of field work. Along with five colleagues she traversed Lebanon interviewing people from different communities and performing on-site water tests. “It was a real eye opener,” Kalot says, “But at the end of the day I knew I was heading back to AUB and our nice offices.” The combination of practical and theoretical research and the opportunity to enjoy life at AUB for two more years appealed to Kalot and inspired her to tackle her master’s degree.
The real impact of her chosen profession was felt in 1995 when Kalot was hired by MOSA to work in a Bourj el Barajneh community center. “I had to get my father to take me there in the beginning,” she confesses. “I did not even know where it was. I arrived with my degrees and my ‘superior’ knowledge and I got a real shock. The first two weeks were terrible; after that I gained great experience. Nadia Tewtel, the director of the center, is a legend, an amazing person, and she threw me in at the deep end, sending me off to a gynecology clinic where for the first time in my life I witnessed a midwife in action and saw how she counseled the women. I realized then that if I was going to achieve anything I had better start working on my Arabic. We were used to speaking two words in English for every one in Arabic. [After that experience] it immediately became clear to me that I had better improve my communication skills. I learned so much from that center.”

Subsequent positions have included working as director of the NGO Resources and Support Unit for a joint UNDP/MOSA project where she worked on poverty reduction, followed by serving as training coordinator for a reproductive health project jointly supported by MOSA and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

Kalot considers the 2006 war another turning point in terms of experience. She was working with MOSA at the time and able to use all her professional, networking, and public relations skills to link international NGOs that were bringing aid to Lebanon with local NGOs on the ground to avoid duplication and make sure the aid reached those people most in need.

Later Kalot became director of planning and programs with Mentor Arabia, the only regional office of Mentor International, a worldwide NGO dedicated to drug prevention. “As the hub for drug prevention in the region, we did a lot to combine evidence-based research with drug prevention knowledge from around the world, Kalot explains. “We were not inventing the wheel, but we helped map what was happening and what was needed. The program is still running.”

Moving from one serious public health problem to another, Kalot accepted UNDP’s offer to become regional project manager of its Cairo-based HIV/AIDS regional program for Arab states. This was a big challenge for her both professionally, as she took on responsibility for countries like Djibouti, Somalia, Yemen, and Sudan, and personally as she adjusted to living in a new country.

While AIDS is stabilizing throughout the rest of the world, it is on the increase in the MENA region and Eastern Europe despite being limited primarily to injecting drug users, men who have sex with other men, and sex workers. “We need awareness and outreach programs through NGOs and under the umbrella of a national AIDS program,” Kalot says. “The best way forward is a combination of government, NGO, and private sector initiatives. Government should set policy and monitor the situation, but it is up to civil society [organizations] to implement the programs aided by technical support from the UN and others.”

Coming back to AUB was in one way a no-brainer. It was also, however, a difficult choice for Kalot. “It was partly a question of quality of life, partly an issue of doing something for my country. I had a good position in Egypt as manager of a regional program, but you have to come back home at some stage and where better than AUB?” Kalot says.

Joining the OPU as an instructor in public health practice, Kalot will be handling the portfolio of health workforce development in the region and developing the unit’s training strategy. The OPU provides evidence-based practice and outreach while engaging students in social responsibility. It works through building networks of researchers, practitioners, policymakers, and communities of practice that contribute to health outcomes for the region. Kalot brings a wealth of experience to the table from her 20 years in the field across sectors and organizations. The OPU, she says, is a great skills fit for her. She cannot wait to see what the year brings.

—M.A.
NORTH AMERICA

California | The Northern California Chapter got together for brunch on June 30 at the Water Front Middle Eastern Restaurant in the San Francisco Bay area. It was an opportunity for the newly elected board to meet chapter members and their families. The board shared its vision for the new term and received feedback from the alumni community on how to best collectively support AUB using WAAAUB’s professional channels and connections.

Montreal | The Montreal Chapter held a 5 to 7 event on Canada Day (July 2) at the Terrasse of Auberge du Vieux-Port. It was a pleasant get-together and a great way to introduce new committee members and hand over the reins to the new committee. Front, left to right: Hiba Tabbara (BS ’96), Aline Khayat (MS ’05), Zeina Chbaklo (BA ’02, MPH ’04). Back, left to right: Walid Accaoui (BEN ’95), Wissam Shaar (BEN ’02), Bassam Hajj (BBA ’98) | On July 29 the Montreal Chapter held its annual iftar celebration at Rumi Restaurant. Left, back to front: Wissam Shaar (BEN ’02), Mira El Oud (MS ’07), Bassam El Oud. Right, back to front: Hala Abu Assi (BS ’10), Nagham Sayour Shaar (BS ’06, MA ’09), Fadi Chlah (BS ’98, MBA ’08) | The chapter hosted a reception for President Dorman on August 25. It welcomed over 100 alumni from the greater Montreal area as well as fellow AUBites from other WAAAUB Canadian chapters in Toronto and Ottawa. The president’s remarks were followed by a rousing dabke performance by local dancers. President Peter Dorman with Canadian Chapter leadership. Left to right: Johnny Kairouz (BBA ’02), Aline Khayat (MS ’05), Elias Absi (BS ’75), Zeina Shbaklo (BA ’02, MPH ’04), Jihad

WAAAUB 2012 Election Results are on-line at www.aub.edu.lb/alumni. Thanks to everyone who cast their votes and participated in the elections.
Abdulnour, PhD (BS ’77, MS ’80), Peter Dorman, Wissam Shaar (BEN ’02), Naghan Sayour Shaar (BS ’06, MAFE ’09), Alumni Relations Director Eva Klimas, and Daniel Salti (BBA ’09)

Recently Elected
WAAAUB New York Chapter
Roland Abi Nader (BEN ’02), President
Mohamed Badaoui Najjar, PhD (BS ’01, MS ’04), Vice President
Ghada Issa (BS ’91), Secretary
Valerie Gebara (BS ’08), Treasurer
Member at Large
Ziad Azar, JSD (BEN ’02), Irene Cordahi (BEN ’05), Georges Ephrem (BS ’03, MD ’07), Zeina Hamdan Sabah (BS ’05, TD ’06), Wael Younan (BBA ’02)

North Carolina | 06 The North Carolina Chapter held a potluck picnic at Umstead Park on July 15. | 07 On August 11 the North Carolina Chapter held an iftar celebration at Aladdin Restaurant in North Raleigh.

Ottawa | 08 The Ottawa Alumni Chapter held its popular annual picnic at Vincent Massey Park last June. Chapter leadership, Left to right: Lina El-Esber (BEN ’02), Elias “Maroun” Absi (BS ’75), Nada Hamade (BA ’99), Elias Abou Hamad (BBA ’77), and Jihad Abdulnour (BS ’77, MS ’80). | 09 The chapter also held an iftar celebration on August 1. Alumni and friends joined new first secretary and chargé d’affaires of the Embassy of Lebanon Sami Haddad and Councilor Eli-Elchantiri and his wife Maha for the festivities.

Recently Elected
WAAAUB Toronto Chapter
Talar Sahsuvaroglu (BS ’98), President
Daniel Nasri Salti (BBA ’09), Vice President
Chadi Bou Karroum (BS ’95, BS ’98), Secretary
Tammam Al-Dandachi (BEN ’06), Treasurer
Adel Kanso (BBA ’09), Public Relations Officer

MIDDLE EAST
Beqa’a | 10 11 The chapter hosted a rafting weekend July 14-15 on the Al Assy River in Hermel. Alumni and friends stayed at the L’Kaa country lodge, a newly created resort by Jamal Farha
MainGate Fall 2012 | www.aub.edu.lb/maingate

Fourth Annual AUB Legacy Ceremony | "In a fast paced world where change is the norm, high quality education remains our only constant,” said MC Khouloud Kassem (BA ‘89), at the ceremony that welcomes the children of alumni who are enrolling at AUB. It was an event full of opportunities to reminisce about college days, but also reflect on the life-long impact of an AUB education as parents introduced the University to their children.

Keynote speaker Nadim Kassar (BBA ‘83) and Fransabank Chairman noted, “The real legacy of AUB, aside from education, was teaching me how to interact with my peers and understand that the ones who disagree with me aren’t my enemies,” he added. “It is what Lebanon is and the promise of what Lebanon can be.” Kassar’s daughter joined AUB this fall, following her two older sisters.

Fellow keynote speaker and alumni parent Riad Saleme (BA ‘73) stated, “AUB not only gave me knowledge and an education but helped me build my personality and put me in touch with the different religious groups and political factions of my country.” Saleme, who is the Central Bank Governor, added, “I was able to understand Lebanon and society, allowing me to build my own personal system to survive in an ever changing world. Like all young people, we thought we would not only change Lebanon but maybe the world as well.”

Mount Lebanon and South Lebanon | The South Lebanon and Mount Lebanon Chapters organized a tour of southern Lebanon last May. Sixty-five alumni enjoyed the visits to Saida, Mlita Shkeef Beaufort, Khima, and Hosn Wazzani—passing by Fatime Gate on the way back to Beirut.

(WEN ‘95), an alumus from the Beqa’a. On August 10 the Beqa’a Chapter held their annual fundraising iftar under the patronage of President Najib Mikati at Sama Chatra Resort. Minister Banos Manoujian represented the president at the iftar where guests included a diverse group of political and social personalities. Funds raised will be used for tuition assistance for needy students from the Beqa’a. The chapter organized a conference, The Reality of Food Safety in Lebanon, sponsored by HE Minister of Agriculture Houssein Haj Hassan. Dr. Rabih Kemleh discussed current practices and Lebanon’s proposed food safety law; Moussa Freiji (BS ‘57) discussed food safety practices in the industrial sector and Minister Houssein Haj Hassan wrapped up with a summary of the government’s successful efforts to raise food industry quality standards. Around 250 people attended from many different universities. Left to right: Ghada Karaawi (BBA ‘04, MPH ‘06) and session moderator Samar Salloum Araji (BS ‘84).
AUB alumni achievements took center stage at the WAAAUB fourth annual convention September 21-23, during which WAAAUB distributed awards to distinguished alumni, WAAAUB members, and chapters. “Our mission is to strengthen the ties between AUB and its alumni,” said Dr. Nabil Kronfol (BS ’65, MD ’69), secretary of the WAAAUB board, in his welcoming speech. “The objective of our annual event is to have our elected leadership meet in person, establish our yearly program, and discuss subjects of concern for both AUB and the alumni.” “Our annual convention is a great occasion to review and celebrate what we have accomplished and how to continue moving forward,” said WAAAUB President Nabil Dajani (BA ’57, MA ’60). “We want to reach all our alumni, those separated by great distance but also those who are in Lebanon.”

Convention keynote speaker Paul Salem, director of the Carnegie Middle East Center in Beirut, gave an address entitled “Between Arab Spring and Winter: The Promise of Progress, the Risk of Regression and the Role of Universities.” “We are living in the best and worst of times, where the mettle of men and the fortitude of women are tested… We are seeing historical drama unfolding in front of us in a multitude of layers and outcomes, with some succeeding more or less peacefully, while others sink into brutality and chaos,” he added.

Salem stressed the need to propagate quality education as the key to advancing change and democracy. Sadly, he said, the moneys spent in the past 10 years in Middle East conflicts would have established 1,000 AUBs all over the region. “The future will be won in classrooms and not in war theaters,” he noted.

The convention weekend continued with panel discussions, a visit to the AUB Art Gallery, a gala dinner at Eau De Vie, Phoenicia Hotel, a family excursion with wine tasting at Chateau St. Thomas, and lunch hosted by Dr. Fadlo Touma (BE ’66, ME ’69) at his farm in Kab-Elias, in the Beqa’a Valley.

WAAAUB Awards 2012

WAAAUB Distinguished Board Members Award: WAAAUB Founding Board

WAAAUB Distinguished Committee Member Award: Mahmoud Abdul Baki (BE ’60, ME ’66), Maha Zabaneh (BA ’84), Talal Farah (BA ’62, MA ’70), Genane Maalouf (BBA ’98), Mohammad Shatila (BE ’95), Ayman Kichly (BE ’03), and Elie Moussali (BS ’69, MS ’72), awarded posthumously

WAAAUB Outstanding Chapter Award: Abu Dhabi, Jordan, and Ottawa Chapters

WAAAUB Distinguished Alumni Award: Hagop M. Kantarjian (BS ’75, MD ’79) and Samih Darwazah (BS ’54)

Read the full list of 2012 awardees on-line.
1960s

William A. T. Haddad (BEN '60) writes: “I have cherished memories of AUB as the years that prepared me to meet the challenges of life. Soon after graduation, I went back to Syria and worked on two major projects before joining another great learning institution, Consolidated Contractors Group (CCG) in Aden. CCG then transferred me to Libya where I worked in the field—the desert—in the gas and oil industry. In 1968, I founded Mechanical and Civil Engineering Contractors Company (MACE), Ltd, which allowed me to expand into Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, and the Gulf Corporation Council countries. In spite of all the upheavals, MACE grew steadily and is now 44 years old. It has been cited as the 50th most influential company in the MENA and Gulf areas. The company motto is, ‘Service to Humanity.’”

1970s

Ronald Beylerian (BBA ’70) writes that he really enjoyed his college years at AUB and still has warm feelings for AUB after all these years. He submitted this photo he took of College Hall a few years ago. [ronaldbeylerian(at)gmail.com]

Iskandar Karam (BEN ’70) is a structural consultant. He owns Iskandar Karam Consulting Engineers, which designs steel and concrete structures for residential and commercial buildings, towers, bridges, and other structures. He is also the chairman and general manager of STEN, SARL Contracting and Trading. Karam is married to Dolly E. Wakim. They live in Ashrafieh, Beirut. [iskandarkrmm(at)yahoo.com]

Adnan Alsharif (BS ’73, MS ’75) received his master’s degree in geology at AUB and worked with the Saudi Aramco Oil Company in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia for 35 years. In 2010, he retired as chief geologist in charge of oil and gas exploration and field assessment for many giant onshore and offshore fields in Saudi Arabia. He is pictured with his wife Diala and youngest son Rami, who did some pre-med studies at AUB and received his MD from the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. [adnanalsharif(at)hotmail.com]

Tony Haddad (BEN ’75) After earning his degree in electrical engineering...
engineering, Haddad established Technica International SAL where he currently serves as general manager. Technica has a factory in Bickfaya and branches in seven countries throughout the MENA region and Africa. It manufactures conveyors and automation equipment. The company, which has earned a global vendor status with Proctor & Gamble, recently started a robotics division. Haddad writes, “We welcome talented engineers to develop their expertise in this field.” [technicaintl.com]

Nafiz Kabalan (BS ‘75) worked as a translator until 1979 when he became blind. He then worked as a switchboard operator at the Central Bank until 2010. Kabalan and his wife live on Saleem Bustani Street in the Watwat district of Beirut. [nafizroy(at)hotmail.com]

Issam Ahmad Hamed Mousa (BS ‘78, MPH ’80) received his MPH in hospital administration. In 1996, he shifted to the insurance industry where he now heads Special Projects at Corporate Life & Medical Insurance, a leading Jordanian insurance company. He has been married since 1989. [issamm56(at)yahoo.com]

1990s

Lina Balluz (BS ’83, MPH ’86) In 1989 Balluz earned her doctorate from the Tulane School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine. She joined the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as an epidemic intelligence officer in 1995. In September 2008, Balluz became the program director for the Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance System at the CDC in Atlanta, Georgia. [lballuz(at)cdc.gov]

Antoine G. Tohmeh (BS ’79, MD ’83) A physician with Northwest Orthopaedic Specialists in Spokane, Washington, Tohmeh is the founder of the Spine Research Institute of Spokane. He has received the XLIF Pioneer Award, is a member of the North American Spine Society, and is a founding member of the Society of Lateral Access Surgery. Tohmeh completed his residency and a spine surgery fellowship at the University of Maryland Hospital in Baltimore.

1980s

Lina Shebaro Germann (BS ’90) has been living in the United States for 22 years. She has been married to Tim Germann for 15 years and has two graduate degrees (a PhD in chemistry from Boston College and an MBA from the University of New Mexico). She is a chemistry instructor, a freelance consultant, a community activist, and the mother of two boys, Carl and Will.

According to older sister Rita, her mother’s commitment to education for women sowed the seeds for extraordinary lives of activism for these two remarkable sisters. Not only were the sisters educated at AUB, but they met their lifelong mates there too. Balian was married to the late Varkess Balian (BAR ’57) a Penrose scholar; Totah is married to Sami Totah (BBA ’66, MBA ’68).

Widely recognized for their effective leadership, philanthropy, and unyielding commitment to political, cultural, health, and gender-related issues, Balian and Totah have made a difference on a local, national, and international level. Both women have been particularly active in Armenian causes. Balian is the founder, president, and CEO of the Armenian American Cultural Association, which sponsors health and humanitarian assistance projects for the people of Armenia and promotes Armenian cultural, educational, and scientific endeavors in the United States. In 1997, she established the Armenian American Wellness Center (AAWC) in Armenia for the early detection of breast and cervical cancer—the two most deadly cancers among women in Armenia. In addition to health care, Balian is deeply committed to education and has been recognized with three honorary doctorates from prominent Armenian universities. Totah has a long and impressive record of fundraising for Armenia and women’s health issues in addition to high level political activism in Washington, DC.

Both sisters have won numerous awards and have repeatedly been honored by the United Nations, the US and Armenian governments, and major nonprofit organizations for their vision, selfless service, perseverance, philanthropy, and political effectiveness.
How did you meet?
We met as first-year students in the medical school.

How did you know s/he was the one?
Huda: I knew William was special when I first saw his smile and then learned how genuine he is.

William: Well it was love at first sight. As we got to know each other better it was clear we were compatible in thinking and philosophy and shared similar values.

Do you think you’ve influenced one another in terms of your work?
Absolutely. We approach work and family life as a team. Neither of us would have been successful without the support we passed back and forth. When our children were young, there was always one of us taking care of them when the other was in the midst of preparing a grant or taking a work-related trip. We also took deep interest in each other’s work and exchanged ideas, supported each other during challenging times, and cheered each other’s success.

Who or what were your main influences as students at AUB?
Huda: I loved my undergraduate education and the depth of the courses, especially “Cultural Studies.” In medical school I was most inspired by Dr. Suhail Jabbour (BA ’52, MD ’56) and my two neuronatomy professors: Drs. Adel Affi (BA ’51, MD ’57) and Ronald Bergman. These three individuals have left an indelible mark on me and nurtured my love for neuroscience.

William: I have fond memories of my chemistry professor, Dr. Costas Issidorides; during medical school, I thoroughly enjoyed the teachings of Drs. Adel Berbari and George Fawaz (BA ’33, MS ’35). These inspiring professors enforced my interest in physiology and the academic pursuit of medicine.
Wassim Mazraany (BS ’91, MD ’95) is a surgeon at Saints Medical Center in Lowell, Massachusetts. His wife, Monica Nelson, PhD, teaches clinical nutrition at Northern Essex Community College. Along with their children Ameera (9), Aayah (5), and Moussa (2), they enjoy a fabulous vacation in Houla, Lebanon every June and July.

Bana Kalash Kobrosly (BS ’95) is the country manager of Boecker Public Health, Lebanon. She is a certified trainer from the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health, UK, and a holder of an advanced diploma in food safety management from the Royal Society of Public Health, UK. Kobrosly is currently the president of the Rotary Club of Saïda where she and her husband Mahmoud Kobrosly reside with their two children. [Banakk(at)hotmail.com]

Ramez Wazzeh (DIPLM ’95) After earning his diploma, Wazzeh joined the Radiology Department at AUBMC where he is a picture archiving and communications systems coordinator. He and his wife Suzanne Harb live in Beirut and have three children Louna, Jouanna, and Abdallah Omar. [rw03(at)aub.edu.lb]

Sami Lahoud (MMB ’96) has been appointed vice president of communications for the Middle East and Africa at MasterCard. Previously, Lahoud worked for Barclays where he established the corporate affairs function for the emerging markets region and for leading communications consultancies such as Weber Shandwick and Hill & Knowlton. He was also the business editor of Al Iktissad Wal Aamal magazine, a leading pan Arab business publication. He is based in Dubai.

(Continued on p. 60)

Daouk is director of Extramural Clinical Services at the Children’s Hospital of Boston and assistant professor of pediatrics at Harvard Medical School. He earned his BS magna cum laude at Syracuse University and an MS in management of technology at MIT Sloan School of Management. Formerly a clinical director of pediatric nephrology at Massachusetts General Hospital, Daouk served on the AANA Board of Directors in the 1990s and currently serves on the Board of Visitors of his alma mater, Syracuse University. Kaddurah-Daouk is an associate professor in psychiatry and behavioral sciences and an adjunct associate professor in molecular psychology at Duke University School of Medicine. She is a pioneer in the field of metabolomics and has founded several biotechnology startups, the latest of which is Metabolon, Inc., one of the field’s leading biotechnology companies. Kaddurah-Daouk is the founder and immediate past president of the International Society of Metabolomics. She is the former president of the AUB New England Alumni Chapter. The couple has a son and a daughter and live in the Boston area.

How did you meet?
Rima was a biochemistry graduate student at AUBFM working in the same department where Ghaleb was conducting research as a medical student. Fate brought us to share scarce resources, and conflicts led to friendship and the rest is history.

How did you know s/he was the one?
Initially I knew that she was not the one, but Rima knew otherwise. We each went our separate ways for post-doctoral training in the United States. A brief encounter at JFK [airport in New York] made me realize that Rima really was the one. It was a meeting of the minds and the hearts.

Do you think you’ve influenced one another in terms of your work?
Absolutely. That was the basis of our lifelong collaboration leading to the formation of our first biotechnology startup, which we think of as our third child. Work was really our nourishment and special treat often discussed at the dinner table and among friends.

Who or what were your main influences as students at AUB?
Our professors, mostly Rima’s mentor, the late Professor Usama Al-Khalidi (BA ’51, MS ’54); Ibrahim Salti (BS ’59, MD ’63), Adel Afifi (BA ’51, MD ’57), Adnan Mroueh (BS ’57, MD ’61), Jean Rebeiz (BS ’58, MD ’62); residents, some of whom are Kamal Badr (BS ’76, MD ’80), Nakhle Tarazi (BS ’73, MD ’79); our friends whom we shared in common, such as Drs. Talal Chatila (BS ’79, MS ’81, MD ’84), Iman Nuwayhid (BS ’80, MD ’84), Salah Shorbaji (BS ’79, MS ’81, MD ’84), Ghassan Baasiri (BS ’73, MD ’79), and many other friends and teachers at AUB—too numerous to count.
Mohamed H. Sayegh (BS '80, MD '84) and his wife Samia J. Khoury (BS '80, MD '84) are back on the campus where they met more than 25 years ago. In 2009, Sayegh was appointed vice president for medical affairs and Raja N. Khuri dean of the Faculty of Medicine. Khoury has recently joined her husband in Beirut to head AUB's Multiple Sclerosis Center and the Abu-Haidar Neuroscience Institute. Both come from Harvard Medical School, where he was professor of medicine and pediatrics and director of the Schuster Family Transplantation Research Center; she was professor of neurology and codirector of the Partner’s Multiple Sclerosis Center. They both held endowed chairs at Harvard Medical School.

How did you meet?
Samia: We met in pre-med but started interacting after the first year of medical school when we worked together with two other students on a summer research project in public health. We had very intense intellectual discussions at the time and developed a great respect for each other’s intellect.
Mohamed: We met in 1980 at AUB Medical School when we were first-year students.

How did you know s/he was the one?
Samia: We faced a lot of family pressure because of our different religious backgrounds yet in spite of everything we felt that we belonged together.
Mohamed: I knew she was the one after I saw her eyes.

Do you think you’ve influenced one another in terms of your work? Who or what were your main influences as students at AUB?
Samia: We are both competitive and we playfully egged one another on professionally, but we also helped each other by exchanging ideas, working collaboratively, and reading and criticizing each other’s grants and manuscripts. I think we have synergy at work. I am sure that I would not have been able to achieve what I have achieved professionally without Mo’s support.

At AUB, we had several wonderful teachers and clinicians. The ones who influenced me the most were Dr. Adel Afifi (BA ’51, MD ’57) and the late Dr. Khailli Abou Faisal.

Mohamed: I can definitely say she has had a huge influence on my career starting when we were medical students. This has continued throughout my career. We, in fact, were collaborators on various research projects, published together, and even had NIH grants together. She is the smart one in the family for sure.

How does it feel to be back? Do you have a sense of renewal both personally and professionally?
Samia: Being back at AUB feels like coming home… in some ways it feels as if we never left. It is wonderful to be able to share in this special time of revival for the medical center, where I feel that everything is possible and where I can contribute to the positive changes that are happening.

Mohamed: Absolutely. We were both very hesitant and skeptical for many reasons related to the institution and the country. But now we know we made the right decision. AUBMC and the Faculty of Medicine are undergoing a transformational change and we are happy and proud to be part of it.
What prompted all three of you to become medical doctors? Were your parents or other close relatives in the health care profession?

Our mother’s dream was that the three of us would follow in her late father’s footsteps. He was a successful physician who died relatively young and she never got to know him. She hoped to uphold his legacy through her children. Our grandfather’s dedication to medicine, our parents’ determination, and our own scientific curiosity combined to make choosing the medical profession a fait accompli for all three of us.

How did each of you decide on your specialization? Who were your AUB mentors?

Ali was encouraged by the late Dean Raja Khuri (BS ’55, MD ’59), a renal physiologist and nephrologist who had spent time at Yale, and his wife Dr. Sumayya Makdisi Khuri (BS ’60), a mathematician, to pursue his love of mathematics as an undergraduate major and enter medical school later. This was a first for AUB students back in 1979. He decided on nephrology upon meeting Dr. Edmond Shuwayri (BA ’42, MD ’46), a true role model, a mentor to many and for whom Ali holds immense admiration and gratitude. Dr. Shuwayri recognized Ali’s analytical mind and unequivocal attention to details. Thus, Ali’s career started at Yale and came back full circle to AUB as division head, and as director for the Human Research Protection Program; and the Clinical Research Institute at the FM. Today he continues Dr. Shuwayri’s mission, striving for humanism and excellence in patient care, education, and innovation.

Amer was influenced by the late Dr. Amjad Mufarrij (BS ’72, MD ’76) who once told him that the pathologist is the patient’s advocate. He finds pathology a fascinating field that in essence tries to answer why and how a disease affects a particular patient at the cellular and molecular levels. For Amer, tissue on a glass slide belongs to an anxious patient wondering what went wrong and how to get better. He completed his fellowship in gastrointestinal pathology at Yale University where he subsequently served as a faculty member before joining Dianon Systems.

Ghassan’s interest in genetics and molecular biology led him to a career in medical oncology and hematology with a specialized interest in gastrointestinal malignancies. He was mentored by Dr. Ziad Salem (BS ’69, MD ’73), a great teacher whom Ghassan describes as a careful listener allowing students to discover things for themselves. After completing his training at Yale, Ghassan joined MSKCC where he focuses his research on gastrointestinal cancer and primary liver and biliary cancers. With a gift from Mamdouha Bobst and the Bobst Foundation, he helped establish a generously endowed fund to support an array of shared educational activities in oncology between AUB and MSKCC.

Do you have any special memories of your time together at AUB?

Actually, the three of us never studied together on campus, but we all have shared memories of our life on campus, which was and remains a peaceful island that provided much reprieve from outside strife. We were, however, all together at Yale during our postgraduate training. This created a short-lived confusion until it was clear that there were actually three Abu-Alfas on campus. Amer may have been called to dialyze a patient, Ghassan to review slides, and Ali to write chemotherapy orders.

Wherever we are, and whatever we do, we always feel grateful for our parents’ dedication and love, for our rich heritage, and for our alma mater. It may have been confusing at times for professors to figure out who among the Abu-Alfas they were dealing with, but we all managed to carve out our own professional identity thanks to AUB mentors.

* In the 1980s AUB had a program that allowed students to simultaneously earn a BS and an MD.
Mohamed Ali Hodeib (BS '97) is the managing director of Sukleen/Sukomi in Beirut. He earned an MBA from Ecole Supérieure des Affaires in 2005 and attended the International Executive Programme at INSEAD in 2008. Hodeib believes that FHS provided him with three essentials for a good start to any career in health or environmental sciences: an excellent educational foundation, exposure, and community involvement. His wife, Riham Sanjakdar (BS '96, MPH '98), agrees. She now heads the President’s Office at Hôtel-Dieu de France Hospital. Hodeib’s four sisters also attended AUB: Zeinab Sami Houdeib (BS '90, TD '06), Amal Sami Houdeib (BBA '92), Aya Sami Hodeib (BBA '98), and Heba Sami Hodeib (BA '02, MA '10). Hodeib and Sanjakdar have two children: Sami (7) and Maher (4). They live in Beirut. [mohamedali(at)hodeib.com]

Silvia Dakessian Sailian (BS '96, MPH '00) writes, “I am currently an instructor teaching nursing theory and practicum in the Nursing Program of the Faculty of Health Sciences at [the] University of Balamand. I strive to uphold the image of nursing and plant the seeds of professionalism in my students. I am married to Johnny Sailian and I have beautiful twin girls. AUB gave me high standards for excellence in education and service.”

2000s

Wissam Abbas (BEN '00) is a general manager at Future Pipe Industries in Houston, Texas.

Rihaf Yazbek (BS '02, MPH '05) is a certified quality review analyst at AUBMC. In 2005 she earned her MPH with a concentration in health management and policy. Yazbek and her spouse Ali El Hage (MEN '12) have two children Yara (4) and Ahmad (1). They live in Beirut. [ry03(at)aub.edu.lb]

Mohammad Baydoun (MUD '05) is a project manager at Millennium Development International. In 2009 he earned an EMBA from the Lebanese American University and, in 2012, he earned a doctorate in business administration from Grenoble Ecole de Management. Baydoun and his wife Ghinwa Bawwab have two children and live in Beirut. [mbaydoun1(at)gmail.com]

Mireille Daoud (BA '07, MA '10) graduated with a BA in public administration in February 2007 and then joined the Office of University Advancement as a gifts coordinator while pursuing a master’s degree. In August 2012, she was promoted to the post of stewardship coordinator in Advancement. She writes, “Through the Work Study Program I became a student assistant in Human Resources. After graduating, I became a full-time employee. AUB is such a wonderful and unique experience. It has provided me with a strong foundation for my academic, personal, and professional growth… I will always be AUB and PROUD TO BE!” [mmd_pa(at)hotmail.com]

Elias Ghanem (BBA '10) is a mergers and acquisitions analyst at GulfMerger. Upon graduation, he joined Ernst & Young, where he provided auditing services for financial institutions including one of Lebanon’s top banks. Ghanem is currently a member of the WAA/AUB Council and the Lebanon Chapter. He has successfully completed the Level I examination of the CFA® Program and is currently a Level II candidate. He lives in Beirut.

Mohamed Ali Hodeib (BS '97) Riham Sanjakdar (BS '96, MPH '98)

Beyond Bliss Street

Layal Mohtar (BS '08, MPH '10)
Tarek Abou Hamdan (BS '02, MD '06)

Layal Mohtar (BS '08, MPH '10) is a quality review analyst at AUBMC. In 2010, she earned her MPH in health management and policy. Mohtar met her husband, Tarek Abou Hamdan (BS '02, MD '06), at College Hall on October 10, 2007. They live with their six-month old baby, Imad Abou Hamdan, in Khaldeh, Lebanon.
RECENTLY HONOURED

Nuhad Daghir (BS ’57), FAFS dean emeritus, has been inducted into the International Poultry Hall of Fame, which is the highest honor that the World Poultry Science Association (WPSA) bestows. The induction ceremony was held in Salvador, Brazil during the 24th World Poultry Congress last August. Daghir is the first Arab to receive this distinction. The WPSA has branches in 90 countries on five continents with a total membership of 8,000. In 1963, Daghir helped establish the Lebanese branch of the WPSA and served as its president from 1963 to 1984. The plaque that Daghir received from the president of the association, Robert Pym, PhD, reads, “In recognition of dedicated contributions to Poultry Sciences, and the world-wide poultry industries, above and beyond the call of duty.”

After earning an MS and a PhD from Iowa State University in 1959 and 1962 respectively, Daghir returned to AUB and became a full professor in 1975. In 1996, he was appointed dean of the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences and served in that capacity until 2006 when he became AUB’s only dean emeritus.

Daghir’s eminence in his field made him an inevitable choice for membership in several important committees. He served for many years as the sole Middle East representative for the Animal Nutrition Committee of the International Union of Nutrition Sciences and chairman of its subcommittee on Poultry Nutrition. He was also the only Middle East representative on the Standing Committee on Nutrient Requirements of the World Poultry Science Association. He helped establish the Lebanese Nutrition Society in 1970 and served as its president until 1975 when the civil war broke out in Lebanon.

Daghir has published extensively and his scientific texts are classics in the field. He has led seminal projects in poultry production and animal nutrition from Saudi Arabia to Canada. He was selected by the International Biographical Center in Cambridge, England as one of the 2,000 outstanding people of the 20th century and by the American Biographical Institute as an honorary member of its research board of advisers. Daghir’s resume has appeared in Who’s Who in Lebanon, Who’s Who in the Arab World, and Who’s Who in the World. For more on Dean Daghir, see MainGate’s “Reflections” interview, Spring 2008 Vol. VI, No. 3.

Kevork Karajerjian (BAR ’58) has received the 2012 Ellis Island Medal of Honor, an award that recognizes immigrants who have made outstanding contributions to the United States. Since the 1960s, Karajerjian has been involved in the building and restoration of landmark buildings and community centers in Lebanon and Los Angeles, California where he currently resides. Shortly after his graduation from AUB, Karajerjian helped build the Shell Building, the first high-rise to be constructed on the Mediterranean coast in Beirut.

For his renovation of the Catholicosate of Cilicia in Antelias, Lebanon in the 1960s, he was given the honorary title of “National Architect” by His Holiness Catholicos Khoren I. Rebuilding Los Angeles after the 1994 earthquake and providing extraordinary leadership in other large scale development projects brought Karajerjian commendations from the mayor of Los Angeles, the governor of California, and the president of the United States, as well as a US Congressional Medal of Honor. Throughout his life he has served on the boards of cultural, architectural, educational, and social institutions. A devoted family man dedicated to preserving Armenian values and Lebanese traditions, Karajerjian is married to Sato Yerevanian, a renowned artist and a certified interior designer. The couple has three grown children.

George Kyrala (BS ’67) of Los Alamos National Laboratory is among a team of researchers honored with the 2012 John Dawson Award for Excellence in Plasma Physics Research for its work on a far-reaching discovery about laser-matter interaction. Established by the American Physical Society (APS), the Dawson Award was bestowed officially at the annual meeting of the APS Division of Plasma Physics in Providence, Rhode Island last October. The citation reads “For predicting and demonstrating the technique of laser scatter on self-generated plasma-optics gratings that enables generation and redirection of high-energy laser beams important for indirect drive inertial confinement fusion and high-power laser-matter interactions.”

Leila Fawaz (BA ’67, MA ’68) has been named a chevalier in the French National Order of the Legion of Honor...
in recognition of her “exemplary personal commitment to French-American relations.” She is the Issam M. Fares Professor of Lebanese and Eastern Mediterranean Studies and was the founding director of the Fares Center for Eastern Mediterranean Studies at Tufts University. Kawaz served on the governing boards of Harvard University as an overseer between 1996 and 2012 and was elected president of the Board of Overseers for 2011-12. A Carnegie Scholar (2008-10), she also served on the Advisory Board of the Council for the International Exchange of Scholars (CIES) and chaired the CIES Fulbright Review Committee. She spent time in France as a visiting professor at the Université de Provence and at l’École des Hautes Études en Science Politiques et Sociales in Paris. She also served on the steering committee of the European Science Foundation in Strasbourg, France for the Individual and Society in the Mediterranean Muslim World program (1994-99) and was a member of that organization’s planning committee (1993) and publications committee (1996-99). Currently she serves on the Comité Scientifique de la Maison Méditerranéenne des Sciences de l’Homme at the Université d’Aix-Marseille in France. She earned MS and PhD degrees in electrical engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology in 1992 and 1995 respectively. Karam is currently a professor at Arizona State University where she also serves as the director of their Image, Video, and Usability, the Multi-Dimensional DSP, and the Real-Time Embedded Signal Processing Labs. She was the technical program chair of the 2009 Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) International Conference on Image Processing, an associate editor of the *IEEE Transactions on Image Processing*, and the lead guest editor for the special issue, “Visual Quality Assessment” of the *IEEE Journal on Selected Topics in Signal Processing*. Karam serves on the technical committees of IEEE conferences, including International Conference on Acoustics, Speech and Signal Processing (ICASSP), International Conference on Image Processing (ICIP), International Symposium on Circuits and Systems (ISCAS), and Asilomar. She is the recipient of a National Science Foundation CAREER Award.

Zaha Hadid (former student 1968-69), the architect of the Issam Fares Institute’s new building, was recently awarded the title Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire (DBE).

Lina J. Karam (BEN ’89) has received the 2012 Intel Outstanding Researcher Award in High Volume Manufacturing. She earned MS and PhD degrees in electrical engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology in 1992 and 1995 respectively. Karam is currently a professor at Arizona State University where she also serves as the director of their Image, Video, and Usability, the Multi-Dimensional DSP, and the Real-Time Embedded Signal Processing Labs. She was the technical program chair of the 2009 Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) International Conference on Image Processing, an associate editor of the *IEEE Transactions on Image Processing*, and the lead guest editor for the special issue, “Visual Quality Assessment” of the *IEEE Journal on Selected Topics in Signal Processing*. Karam serves on the technical committees of IEEE conferences, including International Conference on Acoustics, Speech and Signal Processing (ICASSP), International Conference on Image Processing (ICIP), International Symposium on Circuits and Systems (ISCAS), and Asilomar. She is the recipient of a National Science Foundation CAREER Award.

This comes to us from proud father Zaki Marashli (BEN ’74): Wael El Maraachli (BS ’98, MD ’02) received an award for outstanding overall performance and dedication to patient care and the practice of medicine during his fellowship at the University of California, San Diego.

Atter graduating from AUB as a Penrose Scholar, Salman completed his training in otolaryngology at AUBMC and Johns Hopkins. In 1988, he returned to AUB to start his chosen career in academic medicine. He climbed the academic ladder to become the professor and chair-
man of AUB’s Department of Otolaryngology.

In 1986, the Lebanese war drove him and his family to move to Boston, Massachusetts to continue an academic career. He became a surgeon at the prestigious Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary, the founding director of its Sinus Center, and a lecturer at the Harvard Medical School.


In 1972, he was the Lebanese minister of public health, and from 1976-79 he served as minister of the interior and minister of housing and cooperatives. He is a member of the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society. In 2010, he retired and returned to live in Beirut. [http://scrubbedoutdoctors.com/]

Arda Arsenian Ekmekji (BA ‘71, MA ‘74) has annotated and translated from Armenian to English the memoirs of her grandfather, Hagop Arsenian, who was a pharmacist and survivor of the Armenian genocide of 1915. Arsenian documented his early life in the suburbs of Constantinople, his family’s eventual deportation to Aleppo, Syria, and his life in Palestine from 1919 until 1940.

Ekmekji is dean of arts and sciences at Haigazian University. After earning her master's in ancient history at AUB, she received her doctorate in archaeology from the University of Paris. Ekmekji is the daughter of Noubar Arsenian (PhC ‘35), the wife of Jacques Ekmekji (BEN ‘71), and mother of Karma Ekmekji (BS ‘04).

Towards Golgotha, published by Haigazian University Press, is available in bookstores throughout Lebanon, at amazon.com, and the Armenian Missionary Association, [amaa@amaa.org] A description of the book can be found at [amaa@amaa.org]

The Samir Zaabri Endocrinology Laboratory at the AUB Medical Center

“I promised Dr. Salti that I would donate a laboratory for diabetes in his honor. Please make sure you transfer the funds this week.” This was my father’s last wish on March 21, 2011, just hours before he went into a deep coma.

My father, the late Samir Ahmad Zaabri (BAA ’70), always believed that the success he had achieved in life was due to the skills and experiences he acquired at AUB. He always said that it is only after we grow up that we begin to realize the important role our education plays in our day-to-day life. He valued not only the education he acquired, but also the opportunity to participate in student activities—and even more the lifelong friendships he forged during those years.

My father established the Samir Ahmad Zaabri Current and Endowed Scholarship in 1991 because he was always happy to support students at AUB. One of his proudest moments was the inauguration of the Samir Zaabri Science Lecture Hall that we celebrated together in February 2011. During his speech at the ceremony he said, “What we give to our university is not a contribution, but a duty and an expression of gratitude.” The Science Lecture Hall was the duty and expression of gratitude that my father felt to AUB: The Samir Zaabri Endocrinology Laboratory is the greatest gift I could give to my late father and to AUB.

Ahmad Zaabri (BA ’00)
Abu Dhabi

Nidal Mawas (BA ‘09, MA ‘12) is AUB’s web editor.

Is there an oversupply of physicians in Lebanon? According to the latest Kaiser Family Foundation global health data, Lebanon has 35 doctors for every 10,000 people; the United States has 24.

Lebanon also has more hospital beds per capita than the United States. It has favorable rates of childhood immunization and much lower rates of obesity. Yet it appears that having more doctors and hospitals may not lead to better health outcomes. Lebanese infant mortality is more than twice that in the United States, and life expectancy is more on a par with Turkey’s than with America’s.

Lebanon does not lack high quality medical education. The small nation has seven accredited medical schools—the oldest and largest being the Faculty of Medicine at AUB, which has graduated more than 4,200 doctors since its founding in 1867, shortly after the founding of the University itself.

Yet, according to Dr. Alexander Geha (BS ’55, MD ’59), a Lebanese-American cardiothoracic surgeon and trustee emeritus of AUB, “Medical practice is very competitive in Lebanon. In addition to our Lebanese medical schools, many people also study in Eastern Europe, so there are a large number of people with medical degrees. The oversupply of physicians requires young doctors to be truly outstanding in order to succeed. Some of our best graduates look at this situation and decide to leave the country to pursue further training. Many do not return.”

Dr. Geha’s long and successful career in the United States is a case in point. After receiving an MD in 1959, he remained in Beirut as a surgical resident at the AUB Medical Center (AUBMC), becoming chief resident in surgery in 1962. At that time—and as they do today—AUB students received an American-style medical education, with many members of the faculty having close ties with leading American institutions.

In the 1960s, young Dr. Geha enjoyed international mobility within the medical profession largely because, from 1957 until 1988, the AUB Medical School was a member of the Association of American Medical Colleges. It was also accredited for nearly 20 years by the US-based Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO)—a rare privilege for a medical school outside the United States—one that ended in 1983, when the Lebanese civil war prevented regular site visits by members of the commission.
Dr. Geha continued his education at the famed Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, where he served as a resident and research fellow from 1963 to 1967. He went on to teach at medical schools in Vermont, Missouri, and Connecticut, where he rose to chief of section in cardiothoracic surgery at the Yale University School of Medicine.

Leaving Yale in 1986, Geha served for more than a decade as the Ankeney Professor and director of the division of cardiothoracic surgery at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine in Cleveland, capping his career with eight more years as chief of cardiothoracic surgery at the University of Illinois–Chicago School of Medicine, where he is now professor emeritus.

Married in 1967, he and his wife, Diane, have three daughters—two of them physicians and the third a lawyer. Dr. and Mrs. Geha now live in Rancho Santa Fe, California, where he teaches part-time at the University of California–San Diego Medical Center.

Dr. Geha reached the pinnacle of professional success in the United States. He became an American citizen and raised an American family, yet like millions in the Lebanese Diaspora, he also retained close ties to his homeland. His parents never left Lebanon, and both his sister Samia and her husband, Dr. Usama Khalidi, taught at AUB until the civil war prompted them to move to Bahrain. The war also caused his brother, Raif S. Geha (BS ’65, MD ’69), who joined the AUB faculty in January 1974, to leave for Harvard Medical School and Boston Children’s Hospital in 1976. Today he is the James L. Gamble Professor of Pediatrics at Harvard Medical School and chief of the Division of Immunology at Boston Children’s Hospital.

The Lebanese diaspora is also referred to as “Greater Lebanon.” According to the United States Committee for a Free Lebanon, there are more than 12 million Lebanese and their descendants living outside the country—including two and a half million in North America and eight and a half million in Latin America and the Caribbean—all from a nation with a current population of a little over four million. Greater Lebanon is a formidable engine of influence and economic support for the home country—largely through remittances, variously estimated at between $500 and $1,500 per Lebanese citizen each year, plus other forms of financial, political, social, cultural, and religious involvement.

“Lebanese migrants have maintained pulsating networks with each other and with their homeland,” writes scholar Guita Hourani. “Their memory and vision of the homeland, further stirred by visits or news, and their commitment to restoring Lebanon to its old glory, have driven them to maintain and nurture a continuing relationship with the homeland.”

Except at the height of the war, Geha visited Beirut at least twice a year, sometimes lecturing on cardiothoracic surgery at the medical school. He deepened his ties to AUB as a representative of the North American Alumni Association on the Board’s Academic Affairs and Health and Hospital committees, becoming a full member of the Board in 2005, and emeritus in 2012. Among his family’s philanthropic contributions are an endowed lectureship fund in Dr. Geha’s name and support for the education of children in the Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut.

Medical education—and especially surgical procedures—has changed radically since Geha attended medical school more than 50 years ago, yet as a teacher as well as a clinician, he has seen generations of students and doctors adapt to each advance. “The greatest change,” he observes, “has been the decline in highly invasive surgeries and the resulting reduction in surgical trauma. Instead of surgeons looking down into an open surgical field, they are now operating looking up at monitors while specialized instruments do their work through small incisions. Even some heart and lung surgeries are being conducted using these ‘scopes.’”

Geha says that AUB’s medical educators are keeping up with their American counterparts. When Geha attended, he was taught largely by American-born professors; now, he says, more members of the faculty are native-born Lebanese. Most of them have received some training in the United States.

With the end of the US-based Joint Commission Accreditation, the path to advanced training in American teaching hospitals became less automatic. But, Geha says, those pulsating networks of the diaspora are still doing the job: “We try to help AUB students find further training or residencies in academic medical centers in the United States.”

In 2007, AUBMC gained accreditation by the Joint Commission International—an arm of the US commission. Geha is not optimistic that the school’s clinical programs will regain their former direct pipeline to American hospital residencies. International competition for such accreditation is very fierce, and the US Joint Commission occupies itself largely with US-based programs.

With the country and AUBMC looking forward again, the medical school and hospital complex are being remade under the 2020 vision, which articulates—and has already implemented—parts of six paths toward becoming “the leading academic medical center in Lebanon and the region by delivering excellence in patient-centered care, outstanding education, and innovative research.” In addition to expansion and improvement of facilities and technology, one of these paths is to reverse the “brain drain” of highly talented physicians and teachers.

Dr. Geha puts it this way: “The country needs talent and these young people have tremendous potential. We need to harness that to further their educational standard. Superb talent needs to be nurtured—and there needs to be a political and economic climate to come back to, to serve the country in return.”

—J.L.
at his residence in Albany, New York last May. He served his orthopedic residency at the Albany Medical Center and at the Children’s Medical Center in Boston. From 1959 to 1962 he ran the Danish Mission Hospital in Nebek, Syria. He then returned to Albany to start a private orthopedic practice and retired in 2004. A true pioneer in his field, Jabbur was the first orthopedic surgeon in upstate New York to successfully perform total joint replacement. In 1963, he earned his doctorate at the University of Michigan in Middle Eastern studies with a specialization in Islamic Batini studies. A renowned Arabic and Islamic scholar, a calligraphy expert, and a longtime professor at AUB, Makarem taught part-time until his death. The son of Sheikh Nassib Makarem, the most celebrated Arab calligrapher of his generation, Makarem was a respected scholar of mysticism. During his years at AUB, he twice held the position of chair of the Department of Arabic Literature and Near Eastern Languages (1975-78 and 1993-96) and also served as director of the University’s Center for Arab and Middle Eastern Studies (1975-78). Makarem was a member of the Board of Regents of the Lebanese Foundation for Permanent Peace, secretary general of the Druze Council for Research and Development, and head of the Department of Scientific Studies and Research at the Druze Heritage Foundation. During his career, he received awards and honors from the city of Houston, Texas; the Lion’s Club; the Union of Arab Historians; the Lebanese Ministry of Culture; and the Antelias Cultural Movement, among others. He is survived by his wife, Leila Adel Makarem; daughters Sahar and Rand Sami Makarem Kaedbey (BA ’86); and sons, Nassib (former student ‘54); and two brothers, Samir Jabbur (BBP ‘60) and Munther Jabbur (BS ’68).

Philip Nasrallah (BA ’46) passed away on June 8. After graduating from AUB, he joined the California Polytechnic Institute to study poultry sciences before entering Stanford University, where he specialized in chemistry. In 1962, Nasrallah was instrumental in founding the Lebanese branch of the World Poultry Sciences Association and served as its president in 1964. He also founded the Syndicate of Chemists in Lebanon. Returning to Beirut after his studies in the United States, Nasrallah joined Imperial Chemical Industries (ICI) where he was the technical source engineer for Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan.

Throughout this period, he maintained a small poultry farm in the Beka’a, which helped him realize that poultry was his first love. He then resigned from ICI and with two partners from his birthplace of Zahleh, started a poultry business called United Foods (Unifood) with the produce brand name of Lipoul. During Lebanon’s civil war the business was destroyed, rebuilt, and destroyed again, along with his family home in Ras Beirut.

Undaunted by these setbacks, Nasrallah joined with his lifelong friend from Zahleh, Moussa Freiji (BS ’57), and established Wadi Poultry in Egypt. Nasrallah managed the new company for ten years assisted by his son Ramzi and Tony Freiji (BS ’81), Moussa’s younger brother. This new venture grew to become one of Egypt’s biggest enterprises, expanding into a wide array of agricultural produce and products. In retirement Nasrallah published vol-
umes of Zajaliyat (popular Arabic poetry) about his life, his family, and his friends. He is survived by his wife Emily Nasrallah, a renowned novelist and writer, and four children: Ramzi; Khalil (BS '86); Maha (BAR '83), an architect at FEA; and Mona (MD '95), an endocrinologist at AUBMC.

Elie Ibrahim Moussalli (BS '69, MS '72) was born in Beirut in 1947 and passed away on September 3 in Ottawa, Canada.

He taught biology at International College before moving to North America to do graduate studies at the University of California, San Diego, and the University of British Columbia. An oceanography and fisheries expert, he worked for many prestigious international organizations including the Food Agricultural Organization of the UN, the UN Development Programme, and the World Bank. In the midst of a decade long battle with prostate cancer and myeloma, he undertook on-site projects in Yemen and Egypt.

An active member of WAAAUUB's Ottawa Chapter, Moussalli served as its secretary and president in the early 2000s. He also served on AANA's board of directors and as founding editor of the WAAAUUB e-newsletter Al Jame’a.

Moussalli leaves behind many close friends in the AUB community who remember him as a true citizen of the world and as a gentle soul with a talent for explaining any subject no matter how serious, funny, sad, scientific, simple, or complicated. He was known as someone who pursued his passions, supported worthy causes, and wholeheartedly loved his beautiful wife Kathleen Day and talented daughter Rima Elizabeth, who survive him. He will be missed.

Edwin Bell Hanna (MA '81) Born in Staunton, Virginia, Hanna passed away on July 26 at the age of 85 in a nursing home in Alabama. An advocate for peace and social justice, Reverend Hanna served the Presbyterian Church (USA) for nearly 35 years and worked as a missionary in Lebanon during the civil war with the National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon. After his return to the United States in 1985, he served as a pastor in Kentucky. Throughout his ministry he was joined by his wife, the late Arpiné Yenovkian Hanna from Acre, Palestine.

Hanna was a graduate of Miami University in Ohio and held graduate degrees from the Louisville Presbyterian Seminary and the University of Kentucky. He was also a student at Berea College under the US Navy’s V-12 program. Survivors include his three sons: C. Philip Hanna, Edwin A. Hanna, and Rev. Richard B. Hanna; his brother Charlie Hanna; his sister Bette Sikes; four grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. A class note appeared in the fall 2011 issue of MainGate.

**FORMER FACULTY AND FRIENDS**

**AUB Trustee Emeritus Sir Andrew Duncan Crockett**

FORMER FACULTY AND FRIENDS

**AUB Trustee Emeritus Sir Andrew Duncan Crockett**

Andrew Duncan Crockett was born in 1943 in Glasgow. He passed away after a long illness at his home in San Francisco on September 2.

Of his service as a dedicated AUB trustee, 2004-08, Board of Trustees Chair Philip S. Khoury commented, “Andrew was a wonderful friend to AUB and its Board of Trustees on which he ably served. He cared about our institution deeply, especially about the complex issues surrounding finance and audit. He made everyone he encountered feel very comfortable in his presence. He was genuinely distinguished and yet so modest about his accomplishments. I will remember him with great fondness.”

Former Board Chair Thomas Q. Morris remarked, “As chair of the Audit Committee he laid the groundwork for fiscal accountability and transparency at AUB. His leadership was outstanding.”

Crockett was honored by Queen Elizabeth as knight bachelor in 2003. He finished his career at JPMorgan as an adviser to the bank’s chairman. He is survived by his...
wife of 46 years, Marjorie, and their three children, two grandchildren, his mother, and two brothers.

The AUB community is saddened by the passing of Wadad Geryes Sabbagh Khoury on July 18. She was the wife of Said T. Khoury (former student), who cofounded the Consolidated Contractors International Company in 1952 with her brother the late Hasib Sabbagh (BA ’41). Survivors include her daughter Salwa Said Khuri (BA ’82), her son-in-law and Salwa’s husband, Samir Nayif Khuri (BEN ’73), and her niece, AUB Trustee Sana Hasib Sabbagh.

The US Presidential Medal of Freedom was posthumously awarded last May to Gordon Hirabayashi who boldly defied Executive Order 9066 which sent tens of thousands of Americans of Japanese ancestry to internment camps. Hirabayashi, who taught sociology at AUB from 1951 to 1954, earned his PhD at the University of Washington and had a long career as a noted professor of sociology at the University of Alberta, Canada. His obituary appeared in the spring 2012 issue of MainGate.
This lucky Phoenician would have lost six of his teeth without the help of a clever dentist who used a gold wire to deftly tie his teeth together. The mandible was discovered in a marble sarcophagus in Sidon in 1901 by George Ford, PhD. See this antique example of retentive dentistry at the AUB Archaeological Museum.
Dr. Joseph J. MacDonald, AUB professor of surgery, with a grateful patient who traveled many miles to bring the doctor a gift of two sheep. Spring 1948.

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