



**AMERICAN
UNIVERSITY
OF BEIRUT**

Commencement Address 2025
By Fadlo R. Khuri

May 31 – Introduction of Student Speaker – Yasmine El Berjawi

President: IT IS NOW MY DISTINCT PLEASURE TO INTRODUCE THE STUDENT SPEAKER FOR THIS COMMENCEMENT, **MS. YASMINE EL BERJAWI**, CANDIDATE FOR THE **DEGREES OF BACHELOR OF ARTS IN POLITICAL STUDIES AND BACHELOR OF ARTS IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION**.

Yasmine El Berjawi is a remarkable example of leadership, determination, and service. Throughout her time at AUB, she has excelled academically, maintaining a remarkable GPA of 3.9 while pursuing a double major in political studies and public administration, along with a triple minor.

Yet, Yasmine's impact extends far beyond her studies. As Director of Operations for AUB Outdoors, she helped organize an event that brought together over 10,000 people and raised more than \$50,000 for scholarships. Her work with the Malala Fund empowered over 40 girls from marginalized communities, and through her founding of LaBa'aed Social Initiative, she provided critical support to thousands during times of crisis.

Yasmine has demonstrated her commitment to human rights, civic engagement, and public service, both at AUB and outside, working with our Good Governance and Citizenship Observatory as well as the Asfari Institute for Civil Society and Citizenship, and interning with the United Nations System Staff College, among other impactful activities. We expect great things of Yasmine, as we do all of you.

It is my great pleasure to invite Yasmine El Berjawi to the podium.

May 31 – Introduction of Keynote Speaker – Christiana Figueres

It is my great honor to welcome today's keynote speaker, Christiana Figueres—a prominent figure in the landscape of global climate leadership whose achievements speak to the power of conviction, diplomacy, and action.

As Executive Secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change from 2010 to 2016, Christiana Figueres led the world through one of its most critical turning

points: the adoption of the historic 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change. In the wake of the failed Copenhagen talks, she rebuilt trust, rallied nations, and secured consensus from 195 countries on a shared commitment to climate action. A strategist, negotiator, and founder of the Center for Sustainable Development in the Americas, Christiana has consistently been at the vanguard of climate innovation. Through her Global Optimism initiative, her bestselling book *The Future We Choose*, and her acclaimed podcast *Outrage + Optimism*, she continues to inspire citizens, companies, and countries to act with urgency and hope. Her accolades are global, but her message is deeply human. Please welcome to the stage, Christiana Figueres.