



**AMERICAN
UNIVERSITY
OF BEIRUT**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AUB and graduates celebrate Alumni Reunion 2023

The American University of Beirut (AUB) held its highly anticipated annual alumni reunion events that spanned over three eventful days from July 6 to 8, 2023, providing a memorable opportunity for the university and its graduates to reconnect, reminisce, and celebrate their shared experiences. The reunion events witnessed an overwhelming turnout, with thousands of celebrating alumni, their families, and friends of AUB enthusiastically participating in the festivities.

The alumni reunion events were not only a time for celebration but also a testament to AUB's commitment to providing educational opportunities for bright and financially disadvantaged students. All proceeds from the reunion events were dedicated to supporting scholarships at AUB.

Alumni Reunion 2023 commenced with a prestigious honoring ceremony that took place at AUB's Assembly Hall on July 6. This remarkable event paid tribute to alumni celebrating their more-than-55-years milestone, the Class of 1973 on their 50th graduation anniversary, and the Class of 1998 on their 25th graduation anniversary.

Salma Oueida, Associate Vice President for Development, Alumni Relations, and University Events, warmly welcomed the alumni, highlighting the significance of their contributions in shaping the AUB legacy. She remarked, "This reunion is not just about the buildings and structures that surround us, but about all of you who have filled these halls with dreams, ambition, and the pursuit of knowledge." She added, "You have shaped the fabric of AUB and its legacy, and for that, we are grateful... Together, we can inspire greatness, change lives, and forge new paths for those who will follow in our footsteps."

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AUB President Fadlo Khuri delivered an inspiring address, recognizing the significant milestones and the bonds being celebrated. “When we honor you, we also honor our university and the power of the connection that we share that transcends not only years, but great geographic distances.” He added, “Every one of you, from Africa, Asia, the Americas, Australia, Europe, know that you carry within you, like the seeds of the immortal Cedar, the confidence, ability, know-how, and desire to make a difference not only where you are planted, but in your ancestral lands, where your roots run deepest.”

The honoring ceremony featured three distinguished alumni speakers representing each celebrating class. Dr. Boushra Jabre (BA '65) represented the more-than-55-years graduates, reminiscing about her time living in Beirut during its vibrant era as an international hub of business, culture, and diversity. Dr. Jabre attributed her ability to thrive in different settings and cultures to the invaluable experiences she gained during those transformative years. Expressing her heartfelt gratitude, she acknowledged the profound cultural and professional grounding instilled in her by AUB. She emphasized, “No one can deny the seeds that AUB planted in us all: acceptance of others, tolerance and respect for differences, and the pursuit of education and achievement.” Dr. Jabre expressed her hope for the continued growth and prosperity of the university, underscoring the pivotal role that AUB graduates play in its future. She also expressed her hope for their return to contribute to the revival of Lebanon.

Class of 1973 keynote speaker, Former Minister Roger Dib (BEN'73), emphasized the significance of their alma mater as a reference point, highlighting the seriousness of their academic background and opening doors of professional opportunity. “Let us channel the resilience forged through adversity and work towards rebuilding bridges, fostering dialogue, and creating an environment that embraces tolerance, diversity, innovation, and collaboration,” he said.

Akram Okaily (BS '98, EMBA '10), founder of Okeilico, a leading family business advisory firm in the region, was the Class of 1998 keynote speaker. He passionately recounted his journey in business and credited AUB for shaping it and laying the foundation for his success. “The rigorous curriculum, expert faculty, diverse student body, the unwavering commitment to excellence, the deep-rooted sense of community and social responsibility, all embedded in this mind-blowing spectacular campus, makes AUB-and proudly speaking-the only true university in the region.”

The event also featured the distribution of medals, honoring the three groups of celebrated senior classes. The ceremony was followed by a memorable group photo on the iconic

AUB Main Gate stairs, capturing the collective spirit of the reunion, and a delightful reception at the Assembly Hall Plaza.

The celebration continued at the Green Oval, where the Alumni Relations Office organized the highly anticipated Alumni Party, "An Electric Night With Rodge," offering a vibrant atmosphere filled with music and excitement.

On July 7, the AUB campus was abuzz with alumni who eagerly signed up for half-hour tours of the AUB Museum, exploring its treasures. Additionally, many alumni visited the AUB Jafet Library, immersing themselves in the "Unveiling Your AUB Memories" exhibition. The exhibition showcased a plethora of archival materials, including photographs, event posters, yearbooks, and student publications like the Outlook newsletter. The evening came alive with the captivating Ziad Bourji concert at the AUB Green Oval, filling the air with melodies and an electric atmosphere.

On July 8, AUB alumni embarked on two exciting "Family Day Out" tours, exploring the scenic wonders of Lebanon by the sea and in the mountains, fostering a deeper connection to their homeland and creating cherished memories with loved ones. As the celebratory events drew to a close, the American University of Beirut remains dedicated to fostering a strong sense of community among its alumni and providing them with opportunities to reconnect and celebrate their shared journey.

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Note to Editors

About AUB

Founded in 1866, the American University of Beirut bases its educational philosophy, standards, and practices on the American liberal arts model of higher education. A teaching-centered research university, AUB has more than 800 full-time faculty members and a student body of over 8000 students. AUB currently offers more than 120 programs leading to bachelor's, master's, MD, and PhD degrees. It provides medical education and training to students from throughout the region at its Medical Center that includes a full-service 365-bed hospital.

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