

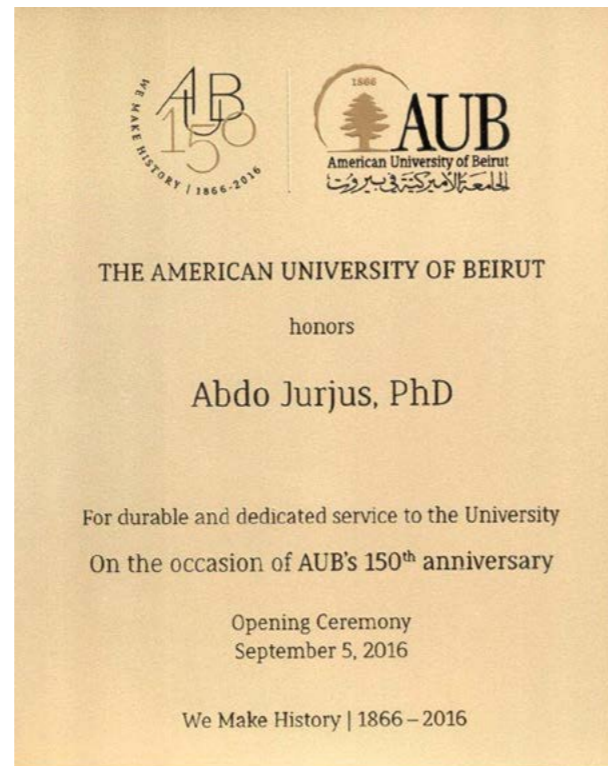
# Longserving Professors Who Never Stopped to Count the Years



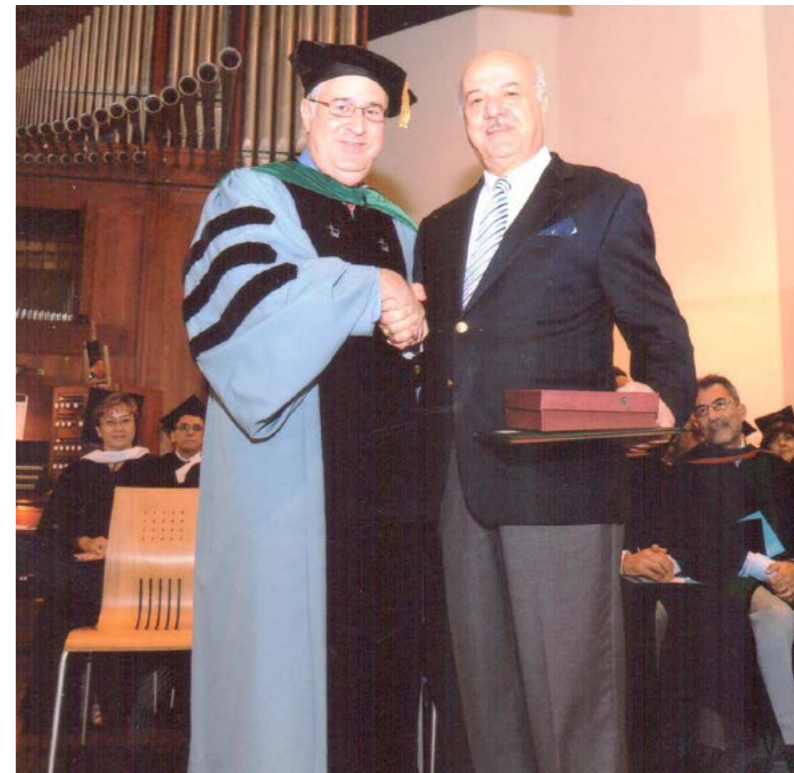
*These professors served for a minimum of 40 years*

The 24 professors honored by President Fadlo R. Khuri at the 2016 Opening Ceremony have for many years served AUB's mission "to provide excellence in education, to participate in the advancement of knowledge through research, and to serve the peoples of the Middle East and beyond." Their unremitting commitment to the University and all the values it stands for has been key not only in keeping AUB running no matter the circumstances, but also in keeping it indispensable to Lebanon and beyond. Having served for a minimum of 40 years by the end of this academic year, these professors witnessed the Lebanese Civil War and the waves of socio-political change the region has undergone. The longest serving of the honorees was Dr. Joseph Simaan who has taught pharmacology, toxicology, and therapeutics to 55 cohorts of medical, nursing, and graduate students. He served as Associate Dean with then Dean of the Faculty of Medicine the late Dr. Raja Khuri as the medical center lead a rescue process but also had to endure in the midst of Lebanon's hardship and violence. "Those of us who were called upon to shoulder academic and administrative responsibilities resolved to

start each of those darker days with a recitation of an act of faith that there ought to be a brighter day ahead and that the University should survive. The energizing spirit for perseverance was derived from an optimistic attitude that permeated the Dean and the faculty ranks in a contagious manner." "Even in the darkest of days, leaving AUB was never really an option," said Dr. Samir Seikaly, Professor of History specialized in Social Intellectual and Economic History in the Modern



Middle East. "I had known AUB as a student in its heyday, I was not about to quit it during its and the country's moment of desperate need. AUB symbolized life, the affirmation of human dignity and survival. Teaching pupils who daily risked their lives to seek education became an existential response to the madness of generalized killing on the frontlines." Like 737 9/19/2016 2/2 Dr. Makhlouf Haddadin, a Jordanian who came to study at AUB on a government scholarship in the early 1950s, has been teaching and doing research in chemistry at the University since 1964. When asked why he stayed throughout the civil war, he put it simply: "Loyalty is synonymous with liking what you do. AUB has generously provided all that I needed for me to 'like what I do' over my years of teaching and research. Both Lebanon and AUB value and protect freedom of expression and that kept me at AUB." Teaching and Service "You give because you love to give and I enjoy giving," said Dr. Farouk Abi Khuzam, who has been teaching mathematics at AUB since 1976. "I think teaching is the best job because you are paid for doing the things that you really love to do. What more could one ask for!" "It is rewarding not only to teach but to serve communities," said Dr. Laila Farhoud, who has been working at AUB's School of Nursing and the Department of Psychiatry for almost 45 years. "As a trusted school of nursing in a known University, we became known for our service in the community and the region as we helped countries build competent nursing schools and offered consultations, helped in curriculum development, ran courses and programs, and built competence on the undergraduate and graduate levels. There is immense satisfaction in being able to do this." "A professor succeeds in winning the appreciation of students mostly when she or he views the learning process as a two-way track, involving students as active participants, not mere receivers of 'information'," said Dr. Nabil Dajani who has been teaching in the field of communications and media studies at AUB for 47 consecutive years. "I gain from the student discussions and I tell my students early on in my course that unrestrained disagreements spice class meetings. This approach helps me enjoy my teaching experience and develop lasting friendship with many of my students who stay in contact after graduation." Dr. Munir Bashour, Professor in the Department of Education at AUB for 53 years, referred to President Fadlo Khuri's speech at the 2015 Opening Ceremony entitled "Learning to Fly without a Safety Net" and said that he challenges his students to fly and tells them that he will not offer a safety



*President F. Khuri and Prof. A. Jurjus*

net for them but will in fact fly with them in a journey of learning and exploration without fear. "Think," I tell them. "Think on your own, read the newspapers, read and think and reflect. Sure you must go through academic channels and go after courses and grades, but always think about the bigger picture," Bashour said. Dr. Helga Seeden, who first came to AUB as Assistant Professor in Archaeology in 1970, recalls "there were times when we were doubtful if the University would survive the circumstances, but now it is picking up beautifully. New schools, programs, buildings... AUB has become a botanical garden... And our student body has more than quadrupled in size since I started my career at AUB; we only had 2,000 students back then!" These professors have a lot to tell about the identity and history of this iconic foundation. But they might be too busy to share their countless but priceless stories. It is enough that the longest-serving amongst them, Dr. Simaan, sent us the following reply when first approached "I am in the midst of a very heavy teaching schedule and the medicine and nursing classes and sessions with students in the Department Graduate Program are taking all my time and attention." These professors have not stopped to count the years. They are too busy giving.