

Founders' Day  
Monday, October 12, 2015

### **President's Word**

Ambassador Kocharian,

Distinguished friends, colleagues, and dear students,

The 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary events commenced a year ago in this place on Founders Day, and here we are a year later, having completed our celebratory year with many activities in Lebanon and the USA.

While this event ends our formal 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary journey in Beirut, more is still to come in Dubai, Los Angeles, and Yerevan in November and next February.

This year, on Founders' Day, as we remember the visionary and generous ones who founded our university, Stephen Philibosian, Stephen Mehagian, the AMAA, and the UAECNE, we focus on Service; service in general, but social service in particular.

Service would be a vague and impotent term if it is directed to oneself. When you think about service, always ask, where is the other, my neighbor, even the stranger in this? Our definition of success should always include the component of having others live better lives, better served. And the better is also social and psychological and spiritual, not only economic.

I was pleased to see that in a survey of our graduates last year 11.4% said they would want to be involved in volunteer service. This is quite in line with who we are and what we want our students to learn.

It is such a pleasure that among the numerous student clubs at our university, a number of them are also geared to serve society, and to meet the needs of others: therefore, I would like to recognize four clubs whose representative are among us. I will invite them to stand as I give the name of the club and we can appreciate them by applause:

- The Desert Streams Club
- The Peace-Building Committee
- The Spiritual Life Committee
- The Social & Behavioral Student Society.

Today, we will specifically honor five graduates of HU, who are leading institutions or organizations that serve society in core and critical matters. While honoring them, we want to also recognize every single Haigazian graduate who has devoted himself/herself to serving the most vulnerable in society. In a way, we are also honoring the ones who taught our students and those who inspired them, and led them by example. Our gratitude

Note that we are proud of our Social Work BA program, reminder of things that really matter: that is, society and its members. Equally important is that those who did psychology, or business also can do great work in society. Or any major for that matter.

Now, it feels like the ME is on the move. Millions are on the move, displaced, misplaced. So, new social problems are developing for them and for the host communities alike. It is not top policies and theories that will help. Field work will make a change. If all people write checks to support the socially disadvantaged, but no social servant goes to visit, meet and counsel, feed and protect, then the checks would be fruitless.

We at HU would hope to prepare leaders as well and we have done so. But the best are those who can be servant leaders.

That is our example of pride in merit repeated so many times this past year.

So, congratulations Haigazian for entering our 61<sup>st</sup> year and graduates, our main capital for the good service you bring to you respective societies.

Thank you.

Paul Haidostian  
President