



Ghassan Aouad

Chancellor of Abu Dhabi University, Past President ...
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The Story of My PhD - Part 2

I was overwhelmed and happy with the feedback I received about the story of my PhD that I posted on [LinkedIn](#) last week. For those who missed that post, I am including the link:

<https://lnkd.in/dejAgGht>

In this part, I will talk about the human side of my journey and how my parents and siblings were eagerly awaiting my PhD as much as I was. I had my viva on the 19th of June, 1991; however, my father (may God bless his soul and send him to heaven) passed away on the 21st of March, 1991—just three months before I completed my PhD. I dedicated my PhD to his soul. He was looking forward to celebrating this accomplishment alongside me, as was my dear brother [Marwan Aouad](#), who was a PhD candidate at [The University of Texas at Austin](#).

The journey toward earning a PhD from my beloved [Loughborough University](#) in the UK, is not just a personal achievement; it is a collective aspiration that often encompasses the hopes and dreams of our families and communities. My parents instilled in me the values of hard work and determination, which fueled my pursuit of higher education. The pride in their eyes, reflected in the joy of my village, was a powerful motivator. My family's sacrifices, their unwavering support, and our shared dreams of success made this journey truly meaningful. I could feel the anticipation of my relatives and neighbors, all eager to celebrate this milestone together, reminding me that I was not alone in this endeavor. Their pride in my achievements was as profound as my own.

I know today is a sad day for me as my father passed away on this day in 1991, but today is also Mother's Day in the UAE 🇦🇪, Lebanon 🇱🇧 (start of spring) and most countries of the Arab World. Happy Mother's Day to all the mothers of the world, and may God bless the souls of my mother and all mothers who have left this world.

I am sure my parents would have been very proud of my achievements at [Abu Dhabi University](#) (ADU) and other universities I worked for including: [The University of Salford](#) 🇬🇧, [University of Wollongong in Dubai](#) 🇦🇪 🇺🇸, [Gulf University for Science and Technology](#) 🇦🇪, and [Applied Science University Bahrain](#) 🇧🇪, and the achievements as President of [The Chartered Institute of Building \(CIOB\)](#) 🌐.

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