

## 2021 HONORAND

**Philip S. Khoury**  
*Trinity Class of 1971*  
*Doctor of Humane Letters*



Academic leader, scholar of the Middle East, champion of the arts and sciences, and devoted Trinity College alumnus. You, Philip Khoury, have had a profound influence in higher education throughout your 40-year career.

As associate provost and Ford International Professor of History at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), you hold a pivotal role at one of the world's top institutions of higher education. You are a true proponent of interdisciplinary collaboration and of the MIT motto, *mens et manus*, meaning “mind and hand.” As you have said: “Studying the arts, in combination with the extraordinary discoveries in science and engineering, prepares ... students to make creative and innovative contributions in multiple fields.”

Born and raised in Washington, D.C., you completed a self-designed Arab studies major at Trinity, which included studying at the American University of Beirut during your junior year. You earned a Ph.D. in history and Middle Eastern studies from Harvard University. In 1981, you were hired by MIT's history faculty and 10 years later appointed dean of the university's School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (SHASS). In 2002, you were named Kenan Sahin Dean of SHASS, a position you held until 2006, when you were named associate provost. You have served for the past 30 years in MIT's leadership.

Your associate provost responsibilities include overseeing and promoting non-curricular arts programs and initiatives, such as the MIT Museum and the

List Visual Arts Center. You also focus on MIT's strategic planning around international education and research. You work across time zones to identify hubs of innovation—or future hubs of innovation—and to forge mutually beneficial partnerships and collaborations.

As a historian who specializes in the Middle East's political and social history, you have authored and edited many books, including *Syria and the French Mandate* (Princeton University Press, 1987), which won the George Louis Beer Prize of the American Historical Association. You have received prestigious fellowships, including from the Thomas J. Watson Foundation, the Fulbright-Hays Foundation, and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. You are an elected fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

MIT has bestowed multiple accolades upon you, including naming you an honorary member of its alumni association, and you hold an honorary doctorate from EARTH University in Costa Rica. You serve as chairman of the Board of Trustees of the American University of Beirut and are an overseer of Koç University in Istanbul. You have been a director of the Harvard Cooperative Society and a member of the Academic Research Council in Singapore. Further, you are a trustee emeritus of the National Humanities Center and a past trustee of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston.

At Trinity, you have been a dedicated leadership volunteer in numerous capacities, including two decades on the Board of Trustees—from 2000 through 2019—with 12 of those years as vice chair. Your fellow trustees, many with careers outside of academia, have been ever grateful for the insights you have shared from your experiences in higher education. In 2006, Trinity honored you with its Alumni Medal for Excellence, given to those who have made significant contributions to their professions, to their communities, and to Trinity. Today, your ongoing service to your alma mater includes helping lead the planning for Trinity's Bicentennial Celebration, set to kick off in September 2022.

In recognition of your distinguished career and your unending contributions to academia—particularly your steadfast loyalty and service to Trinity College—I have the honor of presenting you, Philip S. Khoury, for the degree of Doctor of Humanities, *honoris causa*.