Nursing students and staff now have a hi-tech, multimedia educational space at their disposal, thanks to a generous donation from long-time philanthropist and donor Hisham Jaroudi (Bachelor of Architecture, 1966).

The recently-inaugurated Hisham Jaroudi Auditorium seats 168 people and boasts of the latest technology in a user-friendly configuration, thus providing the Rafic Hariri School of Nursing (HSON) with more opportunities to host video-conferencing sessions, telemedicine workshops and other educational and interactive initiatives.

An active AUB donor who had already contributed to a number of campus projects, Jaroudi wished to show his appreciation and support of the nursing profession through this donation. “The decision to donate was no coincidence. It was the logical response to the humanity, nobility, service, and care-giving which the nursing profession and its workers are known for,” he said.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Jaroudi himself and members of his family, as well as Bassem Shab, representing Prime Minister and AUB Trustee Saad Hariri, AUB President Peter Dorman, Khalil Makkawi, the president of the Worldwide Alumni Association for the American University of Beirut (WAAAUB) and a number of medical staff and faculty.

Designed by the FPDU to house video and web conferences, lectures, seminars, workshops and student presentations, the Hisham Jaroudi Auditorium operates automatically with user friendly systems and offers a space for better learning, communication and interaction.

Both President Dorman and HSON Director Huda Huijer thanked Jaroudi for his support and generosity. Huijer reminded the audience that HSON is the first accredited nursing school outside the United States by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) in the United States.

This is not the first contribution by Jaroudi to AUB. Alongside being a member of several boards devoted to philanthropy and social welfare, Hisham Jaroudi has helped renovate the Bechtel building entrance and has contributed to both funds for the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture and the College Hall.