



## AUB Receives Key Gifts and Pledges from Donors

The American University of Beirut was the fortunate recipient of several leadership gifts and pledges in the 2000-01 academic year.

**C**harles W. Hostler (MA '55), former U.S. diplomat, international financial advisor and businessman, and member of AUB's International Advisory Council, pledged the largest gift ever made to the University. His pledge of \$11.7 million will establish the Charles Hostler Student Center on campus and promises to transform student life at AUB. The center will be home to a variety of recreational facilities, including a gymnasium, swimming pool, international-level track and field area, spectator seating, and a theater-auditorium. Ambassador Hostler hopes the student center will help strengthen the economy of the "incomparable" Lebanon, where he lived for eight years, and invigorate the growth of AUB and its relationship to the United States. A formal dedication ceremony with Ambassador Hostler took place February 27 on the site of the proposed center. "This is a great day for AUB and for Lebanon," said AUB President John Waterbury. "A loyal son of AUB and a great friend of Lebanon has come home. His pledge focuses our attention where it should be, and where it must be – on our students."



**T**he AUBMC will get a boost from a generous \$2 million gift from the late Pierre Youssef Aboukhater who was chairman and CEO of the Globe Group of Companies. The gift will completely rehabilitate AUBMC's Outpatient Department and create a new Wound Care Center. President Waterbury expressed his gratitude saying the gift will, "make the restructured building a state-of-the-art clinical outpatient facility that will allow our gifted clinical faculty to serve their patients according to the highest standards with the most advanced equipment." Mr. Aboukhater had been a supporter of AUB's health care programs, including nursing scholarships. The Outpatient Building will be dedicated to Pierre Y. Aboukhater (Fahed) and the Wound Care Center will be dedicated to Graham and Meredith Rooke.





**T**he University also received an exceptional gift of \$3 million from an anonymous North American alumnus to create a Center for Neurology and Behavioral Science in the Faculty of Medicine.



**M**unib R. Masri, a newly elected member of the AUB Board of Trustees, made a leadership pledge of \$2 million in unrestricted support to the University. Mr. Masri is chairman and CEO of the Nablus, Palestine-based Edgo Group, a multinational integrated network of companies in the Middle East and Africa whose operations include contracting, industrial development, trading, distribution and representation, project development, operation and maintenance, and project financing. He is also Founder and current Chairman of PADICO, a \$200 million capital company formed to invest in the infrastructure and industry in Palestine. Commenting on Mr. Masri's gift, President Waterbury said, "We

at AUB have as our mission serving the entire region and educating its children. Mr. Masri's generous pledge will further that mission."

**A**UB Trustee Kamal Shair established a new \$1.5 million endowment for engineering research through his company, Dar Al-Handasah Consultants (Shair & Partners). Dr. Shair is senior partner and managing director of Dar Al-Handasah Consultants (Shair & Partners), a top international engineering consulting firm whose home office is in Beirut. A former member of the AUB Faculty of Engineering and Architecture (FEA), Dr. Shair continues to be active in University affairs as a Trustee. The gift will promote and energize research by engineering professors in the FEA, which is the second largest faculty at AUB and is a leading professional school in the Middle East. Commenting on the pledge President Waterbury said, "Trustee Shair has always been committed to making AUB the center for applied and theoretic research in this part of the world. His gift speaks eloquently to his commitment. It is fitting that FEA, in which he was once a professor, is the beneficiary of his generosity".

