**Inauguration of the Hassan Smadi Architecture and Design Hall**

**December 16, 2014**

**Remarks by Dean Makram Suidan**

President Dorman, the Smadi Family, and Friends of FEA

We are gathered here for the naming of the Architecture and Design Lecture Hall, which will soon undergo major remodeling. This remodeling is now possible due to the generosity of the Smadi Family, close friends and partners (Randa Smadi, Wafic Said, Bisher Azm, Sami Atallah and Omar Sawaf) who made a very significant contribution to the FEA in the name of Mr. Hassan Smadi. Of the $1,000,000 gift, $250,000 will go to establish The Hassan Smadi Endowed Scholarship for FEA students, while the remaining $750,000 will be used to remodel the Architecture lecture hall into a state-of-the-art Auditorium for our faculty and students. The scholarship fund is open to further donations from friends of Mr. Smadi and today I would like to announce that Dr. Kamal Bakhaazi has already initiated the process by making a generous gift.

Mr. Smadi was born in Syria in 1941 and he left us in 2013 at the young age of 72. He graduated with a BE in Mechanical Engineering from the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture at AUB in 1963. He is survived by his wife Randa Fouad Al-Farra, BA 62 and MA 65, both in Political studies; his three children; Wael, Fares, and Nadine; and his three brothers, Fayez, Rajaa and Bassem.

Mr. Smadi was a businessman, who co-owned with Mr. Bisher Azm (class of 62) and Mr. Sami Atallah (Class of 77) and others the Orient Construction Company Ltd. Weavers (OCC Weavers). OCC Weavers is a general contracting company that has been in operation in Saudi Arabia for over thirty years. The company specializes in the engineering execution and management of construction projects. Mr. Smadi was also partner and board member of Sea View Properties and Construction, an affiliate of OCC Weavers. In London he was also involved in building several landmarks.

Mr. Smadi was co-founder of Act for Lebanon, an NGO that supports student education through scholarships. This organization also supports individuals or organizations promoting the cultural image of Lebanon. He was also an ardent supported of the Makassid Hospital Cancer Center.

Again, we are very grateful to the Smadi family, partners, relatives and friends for this generous gift.