ABET Accreditation

The ABET accreditation team visited the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture October 4-6 for the re-accreditation of four engineering programs and first-time accreditation of two new programs. ABET accreditation assures that engineering programs meet the quality standards that prepares graduates to enter a global workforce. During the visit, the team met with President Fadlo Khuri, Interim-Provost Mohamed Harajli, Dean Makram Suidan, several institutional representatives, faculty, staff, current students and alumni. The team toured classrooms, laboratories and facilities in the Bechtel Building and Irani-Oxy Engineering Complex. Dean Suidan thanked the faculty and staff members of the FEA for the very good showing they prepared for the visitors. The Preliminary report will be issued by ABET in January, while the re-accreditation status will be affirmed in October 2016.
Fawzi Azar Award

The Fawzi W. Azar Award ceremony took place on September 28, 2015 at the Department of Architecture and Design. The Fawzi W. Azar Architectural Award is an annual tradition established by the Azar Family and Builders Design Consultants in 1996. The award honors outstanding achievement in the field of architecture and is based on a juried competition. Three projects were selected from among 13 competing students for the award, which is based on a two-stage juried competition among architecture students in their fourth year. The jury consisted of Fawzi Azar, Said Jazairi and George Arbid. The theme for this year was an urban "Contemporary School" with a new approach to education. The design was expected to contribute to creating an environment favoring self-discipline, synthetic inquiry and analytical thinking. The jury selected three winners, with the first place going to Souraya Fathallah and the second place shared between Ali Abo Tabik and Ayla Hourani. The prize amount of $15,000 will go towards the winners’ fifth year tuition.

Launch of NERD16 National Education Robotics Day

The Education and Technology Center - ETC launched on Friday, October 23 2015, the Sixth National Robotics Championship - NERD16 National Education Robotics Day in an opening ceremony at the American University of Beirut. NERD16 is an open nationwide tournament designed to promote and support STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) and Computer Science education through autonomous robotics. NERD16 allows any Lebanese school or university student teams or individuals aged 6+ to use different types of robotics platforms and programming language to complete challenges and tasks in 5 different categories.

Highlights

Biomedical Engineering Program
The New York State Board of Higher Education has approved the Biomedical Engineering Program at both the M.S. and Ph.D. levels. This program will start accepting students the Spring semester of 2016.

Quansar Center of Excellence
The Department of Mechanical Engineering and the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering signed an agreement with Quanser to establish a Quansar Center of Excellence. Quanser is aimed at mentoring students, through a practical learning process, to enable a deep and productive understanding of engineering and mechatronic principles.

Upcoming Events

March 2-4, 2016
City Debates
Architecture and Design Department.
American University of Beirut.

March 5, 2016
NERD16
Charles Hostler Auditorium.
American University of Beirut.

March 25-27, 2016
LEGO Regional Competition
Charles Hostler Auditorium.
American University of Beirut.

April 27-28, 2016
15th FEA Student and Alumni Conference
Faculty of Engineering and Architecture.
American University of Beirut.

More events
The 2nd International Conference of Building, Construction, and Environmental Engineering (BCEE2)

The 2nd International Conference of Building, Construction, and Environmental Engineering (BCEE2) was co-organized and held at AUB under the auspices of the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department in FEA and in collaboration with the University of Technology in Baghdad (UOT) October 16-18. Over 200 academicians and professionals attended from 11 different countries. The conference featured seven different areas of civil engineering: structures, environmental engineering, water resources, geotechnical engineering, materials, transportation, and construction. The program included 42 poster presentations and 98 podium presentations in 17 technical sessions.

New Engineering Textbook by FEA Professors

Professors Fadl Moukalled and Marwan Darwish from the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture, along with Luca Mangani, from Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts, Switzerland, have just put out a 791-page textbook, The Finite Volume Method in Computational Fluid Dynamics, published by Springer, world-renowned publisher of scientific journals and books based in Germany. The book has already attracted the interest of European academics. Read more
Urban Design in the Arab World:
Reconceptualizing Boundaries:
Edited by Prof. Robert Saliba

Providing a critical overview of the state of contemporary urban design in the Arab World, this book conceptualizes the field under four major perspectives: urban design as discourse, as discipline, as research, and as practice. It poses the questions: how can such a diversity of practice be positioned with regard to current international trends in urban design? And what constitutes the specificity of the Middle Eastern experience in light of the regional political and cultural settings? This book is also about urban designers 'on the margins': how they narrate their cities, how they engage with their discipline, and how they negotiate their distance from, and with respect to global disciplinary trends.

Holcim Award

The department of Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE) is happy to announce the winner of the first Holcim Award for the best Final Year Project (FYP) in CEE for the year 2015. The criteria for selecting the winning project are in-line with the 5 target areas for sustainability of the international Awards for sustainable construction, organized by LafargeHolcim Foundation. The title of the project is Energy Harvesting Pavements: A Finite Element Approach to Real World Applications. The winning team is comprised of 5 senior CEE students: Lala Dakessian, Emile Daou, Hagop Harfoushian, Omar Kabbani, and William Saad. The team joined forces with another CEE FYP team working on a related project, who competed and won second place in the AUB annual IBDAA competition. Members of the group expanded their work in summer 2015 and prepared a paper with their advisors, Dr. Ghassan Chehab, Dr. George Saad, and Dr. Issam Srour, which was recommended for presentation at the Transportation Research Board (TRB) conference in Washington D.C. (January 2016), and for publication in the Journal of the TRB. The CEE department is keen on building on the success of its partnership with Holcim Lebanon and has already started preparing for the second round of the Holcim Award for the best FYP for 2016.