AUB inaugurates a forward-looking, eco-friendly, and research-oriented Irani Oxy Engineering Complex. A new cutting edge building complex has been added to the lower campus and will serve the ambitious needs of the AUB Faculty of Engineering and Architecture. READ MORE

In his remarks during the inauguration ceremony for the Irani Oxy Engineering Complex, Dean Makram Suidan gave a very positive report about what is going on in FEA. Dean Suidan gave an update about five main subjects: Students, Faculty, Quality, Programs and Infrastructure.

DEAN SUIDAN SPEECH

Dean Suidan said that FEA is the premier Engineering and Architecture Faculty in the region. He concluded, "my predecessors handed me a very good faculty and I hope that I will hand my successor an excellent one."
Inauguration of two new labs from alumni individual and joint contributions

The individual and joint contributions of members of the engineering class of 1964 led to the inaugurations of two laboratories in the Ray Irani OXY engineering complex. "We questioned the wisdom of renovating old wings as compared to having a brand new building, and we opted for the latter," said Ibrahim Hajj, former dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture and a member of the class of 1964, in his welcoming address on June 19, 2014 at the Ray Irani OXY building hall. "We established a master plan, with the assistance of Dar El Handasseh and started fundraising, as well as persuading Ray Irani, AUB Board of Trustees member to donate the lion’s share.”

The Donors

During his speech at the Ray R. Irani-Oxy Engineering complex inauguration, Dean Suidan thanked the donors that have named some of the spaces in this IOEC building. Those are:
- The Frem Family for the George Frem Manufacturing Technologies Hub
- Khatib and Alami for the Cafeteria and Dining Room
- Trustee Riad Kamal for the Structural Engineering Laboratory
- Hassan and Christiane Hachem Classroom
- AREEN Group for the Omar Salhab Classroom
- Fadlo and Justine Touma for the Geotechnical Engineering Laboratory
- Sami W. Sidawi for the Water Resources Center
- The FEA Class of 1964 VLSI Circuits Laboratory Honoring Dean Ibrahim Hajj
- Holcim for the Transportation and Construction Laboratory
- Students of the late Neddi Jouzy for naming the Transportation Laboratory
Dr. Nesreen Ghaddar received the Shoman Award for Green Engineering

Nesreen Ghaddar, associate provost and professor of mechanical engineering at AUB, has been awarded the Abdul Hameed Shoman Award for Engineering Sciences (Green Engineering). Dr. Ghaddar was co-winner of the award along with Dr. Salah Sabry Ahmed Obayya, associate professor in the Center for Photonics and Smart Materials (CPSM) at Zewail City of Science and Technology in Egypt. The Award was granted to Ghaddar and Obayya for their distinguished scientific work published in renowned international journals as well as for the establishment of dedicated labs in their fields of study. The Abdul Hameed Shoman Award for Arab Researchers was launched in 1982. It aims to promote, support and strengthen Arab scientific research and to help raise a generation of Arab researchers, experts and specialists in various scientific fields. It is awarded as an appreciation for distinguished scientific work promoting applied and scientific knowledge, increasing awareness of the culture of scientific research, and contributing to solving main problems at the local, regional and international levels. Since its establishment, three hundred seventy professors and researchers from universities and scientific institutes in various Arab countries have won the award. READ MORE

Dr. Samir Traboulsi received ASHRAE exceptional service award

Samir Traboulsi, Ph.D., P.Eng., ASHRAE-Certified Building Energy Assessment and High-Performance Building Design Professional, has received an Exceptional Service Award from ASHRAE at its 2014 Annual Conference June 2014 in Seattle, U.S.A. This Exceptional Service Award recognizes individuals who have continued to serve society faithfully and with exemplary effort. Traboulsi is a senior lecturer at the American University of Beirut; he is also general manager of Thermotrade and managing director of Ranec, both in Lebanon. He served as the Region-at-Large director and regional chair on the Board of Directors of ASHRAE. In that role, Traboulsi identified local HVAC&R needs; energized members to become advocates for the spread of standards; and encouraged professionals to become more involved. He founded the Lebanese Chapter of ASHRAE and also initiated the founding of several other chapters throughout the region. As a senior lecturer, he uses ASHRAE Handbooks as part of his courses on building services and the environment. Dr. Traboulsi will also be receiving the ASHRAE Fellow Award during the ASHRAE Winter Meeting expected to be held in Chicago, U.S.A. in January 2015.
AUB's Syria Relief Project

In February 2014, the AUB Community Development and Projects unit (CDPu), at the Center for Civic Engagement and Community Service (CCECS), partnered with a local NGO, KAYANY Foundation, working with the Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA), on a project entitled Ghata. As part of the Ghata initiative, FEA professor Majdi Abou Najm, working in conjunction with the CDPu, has been exploring sustainable options that can help improve the wellbeing of Syrian refugees and at the same time have little burden on the environment. Some of those sustainable solutions include sustainable water and sanitation practices, solar cooking, photovoltaic solar panels for electric supply, and of vital importance in the prevailing drought conditions of the Beqa’a, the AUB-KAYANY semi-dry latrines project. As Abou Najm explains, “Widespread pollution from the primitive sanitation facilities in the Syrian refugee camps brings a new dimension to the water problem: not only are we dealing with limited water amounts (a quantity problem), but also pollution has rendered some of the groundwater aquifers unusable without considerable treatment (a quality problem). Dry sanitation targets a potential reduction in water usage by millions of daily flushes, and a significant reduction in wastewater treatment.” The first four prototype low-cost toilet cubicles have been erected in the al Jilid camp. “This is the first time semi-dry sanitation units have been tested in Lebanon. We hope that this new model will turn into a reference to be adopted in other camps across Lebanon and beyond,” Abou Najm says.

READ MORE