



AUB Celebrates the Launch of its Salim El-Hoss Bioethics and Professionalism Program

Wednesday, April 07, 2010

The American University of Beirut today held a reception to celebrate the launch of the Bioethics and Professionalism Program named after former Prime Minister Salim El-Hoss. The program aims at providing an interdisciplinary resource for faculty, students, and members of the community involved in bioethics education, research, and consultation in Lebanon and the region. It promotes an understanding of the importance and relevance of issues related to professionalism and biomedical ethics with respect to research, training, and development across disciplines at AUB, in the community, and in the region.

The ceremony was attended by President Peter Dorman, Dr. Mohamed Sayegh, the vice president of Medical Affairs and the Raja Khuri Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, ex-PM Salim Hoss and his daughter, Wadad.

President Dorman thanked Hoss, calling him AUB's loyal son, and listing milestones of his long association with AUB, from earning the Baccalaureate and Masters degrees, to his teaching service in business administration, to being a member of AUB's Board of Trustees. Hoss is now Trustee Emeritus of AUB.

The president said that Hoss was loyal to his Alma Mater and to his country and headed the Lebanese government during the most horrific phases of the war, but no threat weakened his belief in the university and in Lebanon.

Vice President Sayegh noted that Hoss is the president of the Arab Organization for Combating Corruption, and that AUB is proud to launch such a program and to have it carry Hoss's name.

Dr. Sayegh also thanked Wadad El-Hoss for her efforts to make this program a reality.

In turn, Hoss expressed his pride to have his name associated with the Medical Center of the university and with this initiative, which aims to serve all of the Middle East. He pointed out that bioethics will immunize the medical profession against human frailties and will ensure a healthy confluence between fine professional practice and responsible social awareness. He called for similar initiatives in all specialties, saying that life on earth would be happier and more flourishing if standards of bioethics and professionalism are propagated and implemented. He said medical ethics draws the line between one's being a credit to his profession, and being a drag on it and on society.

Hoss concluded by thanking all members of the faculty of medicine who bestowed the privilege on him.

Dr. Thalia Arawi of AUBMC, the founding director of this program, has been named to head the Salim El-Hoss Bioethics and Professionalism Program.