

For Immediate Release



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“Philanthropy Week” at AUB **and a Symposium on building a culture of philanthropy**

A symposium entitled “Building a Culture of Philanthropy” was held at the American University of Beirut (AUB), for the purpose of highlighting the different types of philanthropy at work in AUB and how they help build a culture of giving on campus. This event is one of the several AUB Philanthropy Week activities, taking place between March 19 and 23, 2018, aiming to raise awareness around the spirit of giving and the impact everyone can make, at the university level and beyond. It is also a celebration of the generosity of the many donors who have contributed to the University, and all that was made possible because of their contributions, including the added value that was brought to students’ education and the overall enrichment of their AUB experience.

The symposium was attended by several key members of the AUB community, including President Dr. Fadlo R. Khuri, Provost Dr. Mohamed Harajli, Trustee Emeritus Ali Ghandour, and Vice-President for Advancement Dr. Imad Baalbaki; in addition to faculty, staff members, students, and alumni.

AUB alumnus and media figure Ricardo Karam welcomed the attendees; then AUB President Dr. Fadlo R. Khuri delivered his opening remarks, saying: “What Philanthropy Week allows us to do is then dig into the meaning of what giving entails, and what it means for this community to have people who give to us. AUB would be a very different place, but for the philanthropy that rebuilt College Hall after it was blown up, or that built the Charles Hostler Student Center, or the Olayan School of Business, or what will fund and is starting to fund the transformative work at the Maroun Semaan Faculty of Engineering and Architecture, or the Precision Medicine Center, or the ten scholarships that we just got for the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences, or the Sheikh Al-Nahyan Chair in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. All of these, in addition to supporting literally thousands of students each year from underrepresented areas to attend this

outstanding school of higher education. Indeed AUB and its future as a place of excellence in education and research is built on and predicated on philanthropy.”

Khuri then spoke about the structure and content of the symposium. “There are four elements of philanthropy that we are here to celebrate and delve into at this symposium dedicated to the idea of building a culture of philanthropy at AUB. The first is how you can provide life-changing opportunities for people from less privileged backgrounds with scholarships—and we can see every day how that does not just benefit the recipients but in fact the institution which welcomes them in its midst. We’re very different, and I must say, a much better place, because we are more inclusive. Second we will see how young people’s lives are changed by the act of volunteering in the name of the public and the impact that it has on others (how does volunteering and giving transform your life). Third, we will see how philanthropy is embedded in the programs of AUB, as we seek to build better communities and lived-in environments, with better healthcare, and opportunities. Fourth and finally, we are going to see how philanthropy becomes a core value in our collective value system, in our student clubs and extracurricular activities.”

The symposium continued with the first panel, which included three AUB students who have benefited from scholarships of philanthropic programs at the University, and who are active in being agents of change in their communities, countries, and regions. Other panels included Director of the Center for Civic Engagement and Community Service (CCECS) at AUB Rabih Shibli, as well as representatives from different faculties at the university, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), AISEC, and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

The AUB Philanthropy Week activities will remain ongoing until the end of the current week, with an exhibition at the Jafet Library lobby entitled “Compendiums of Giving” and a friendly football match between faculty and students as well as field games on Thursday, March 22. The week’s activities will wrap up with a closing ceremony at the AUB Main Gate stairs at 12:30 pm, on Friday, March 23.

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For more information please contact:

Simon Kachar
Director of News and Media Relations
Mobile: (+961) 3-427-024
Office: (+961) 1-374-374 ext: 2676
Email: sk158@aub.edu.lb

Note to Editors

About AUB

Founded in 1866, the American University of Beirut bases its educational philosophy, standards, and practices on the American liberal arts model of higher education. A teaching-centered research university, AUB has more than 900 full-time faculty members and a student body of about 9,100 students. AUB currently offers more than 120 programs leading to bachelor's, master's, MD, and PhD degrees. It provides medical education and training to students from throughout the region at its Medical Center that includes a full-service 420-bed hospital.

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