

For Immediate Release



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## **American University of Beirut:**

### **“The First 34-Hour Giving Day in the Arab World”**

The American University of Beirut (AUB) held its inaugural Giving Day on December 3, 2018. The results were impressive—and far exceeded expectations: 1,051 donors from 26 countries made contributions totaling \$616,822, money that will be used to support AUB’s seven faculties, the Medical Center, and many other initiatives on campus in accordance with donors’ designations.

“I’m delighted that we exceeded our original goals,” said AUB President Dr. Fadlo R. Khuri. “I’m even more pleased at the extraordinary response on campus and around the world to our first Giving Day, all 34 hours of it! It has kept our staff in Beirut and New York busy. AUB’s long-held values of excellence, tolerance, pluralism, and community were on full display on December 3,” said Khuri. “Events such as Giving Day are a great opportunity for us to all pull together in support of this singular institution that we love.”

AUB alumni were especially active on Giving Day, rallying support from former classmates to win the Faculty Challenge—a hotly contested race to determine the faculty with the highest percentage of alumni participation. The outright winner was the Faculty of Health Sciences (FHS), followed by the Rafic Hariri School of Nursing and the Faculty of Medicine. “I’m very proud of our alumni for their strong support for FHS,” said Dean Iman Nuwayhid. The three winning faculties received \$15,000, \$10,000, and \$5,000 respectively for their Dean’s Fund.

All AUB faculties were winners on Giving Day attracting enthusiastic support from their graduates. An impressive 70 percent of Giving Day donors were alumni. The largest groups of alumni donors were graduates of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, followed by the Faculty of Health Sciences. The Olayan School of Business and the Maroun Semaan Faculty of Engineering and Architecture were tied for third place. There was also an informal North American Challenge on Giving Day to encourage donations from all 50 US states and 10 Canadian

provinces. The final tally was 34 US states, the District of Columbia, and seven Canadian provinces.

AUB Giving Day was celebrated on Founders Day, the occasion each year when the university remembers the visionaries who established the college that became AUB more than 150 years ago. “Philanthropy was critical to the establishment of this university,” explained VP for Advancement Imad B. Baalbaki, “and is important to AUB’s continued success, so it made sense to make Founders Day our Giving Day.”

All gifts made on Giving Day were matched up to \$10,000 by Mazen Dajani (BBA ’59, MA ’69), Abdallah Darwiche (BEN ’75), Trustee Nabil Habayeb (former AUB student 1977-79), Trustee Hisham Jaroudi (BAR ’66), Trustee Emerita Ann Z. Kerr-Adams, Trustee Maher Mikati (BBA ’01) and Dana Mikati (BBA ’02), and Trustee D. Scott Wise.

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**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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