

For Immediate Release



AUB grants ‘Distinguished Alumni’ awards to Salwa Siniora Baassiri and Rana Hajjeh

Beirut, Lebanon- 27/07/2015 - The American University of Beirut has presented Distinguished Alumna Awards to the director general of the Rafik Hariri Foundation, Salwa Siniora Baassiri (BA `67) and Dr. Rana Hajjeh (BS `84, MD `88), director of the Division of Bacterial Diseases at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Siniora Baasiri was also secretary general of The Lebanese National Commission for UNESCO, 1998-2011; chief of Unit of Program Planning Budget & Finance Méditerranée Investors Group, 1988-98; and senior researcher in Economics, ESCWA- United Nations, 1972-82.

Meanwhile, Dr. Hajjeh was the 2014 Recipient of the U.S. Federal Employee of the Year Award for her work on pediatric vaccines in developing countries, Washington, D.C (2014). She was also the director of the Global Alliance for Vaccine and Immunization Hib vaccine Initiative (Geneva 2005-2009); a visiting professor at Emory Univ. School of Medicine and School of Public Health, and Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health; member of the Advisory Group for Immunization, EMRO, WHO and WHO Temporary Advisor; and active in many other organizations. She was also the recipient of multiple awards including the Arab American High Achiever Award (2010) and was a Tedx Speaker (Emory 2015)."

The awards were presented during the 2015 Reunion Weekend, which took place this past weekend. Events included an honoring ceremony and award presentations on Friday evening and a Homecoming Brunch on Saturday. That afternoon a panel discussion entitled "The UN then and now: 70 years later" with former ministers Tarek Mitri, and Riad Tabbarah and moderator Rami Khoury was held in Bathish Auditorium.

Friday evening's ceremony at Assembly Hall was presided over by AUB Acting President Makhlof Haddadin and WAAAUB's outgoing president, Nabil Dajani.

Graduates celebrating their 50th and 25th anniversaries of graduation were honored Friday evening as well. AUB Trustee Emerita Leila Sharaf (BA 59. MA `65) and alumnus Amin Khalaf (BA `90), partner in Ernst and Young's National Tax Department in New York, addressed their respective classes. A special award was presented to Laurice Khoury-Maalouf who graduated from AUB 70 years ago in 1945.

AUB's alumni association, WAAAUB, holds its Reunion Weekend each year on campus. Outgoing WAAAUB President Dajani noted, "I am proud that WAAAUB stands as a bridge and unifier that will always bring alumni back to the fold of their alma mater."

WAAAUB's new president, Wafa Saab (EMBA `07), made her first public appearance at Friday evening's ceremony in Assembly Hall. Saab said, "I am pleased to have had the opportunity to

add my own congratulations to the honoring classes and award recipients and pledge to serve our alma mater to my utmost capacity, for AUB can only expect as much from us all.”

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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 700 full-time faculty members and a student body of about 8,000 students. AUB currently offers more than 100 programs leading to the 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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