

For Immediate Release



AUB honors its alumni with awards at its annual reunion weekend

Beirut Mayor Bilal Hamad among awardees

Beirut, Lebanon- 25/06/2013 - The American University of Beirut honored its alumni with achievement awards during its annual Reunion Weekend on June 21-22, 2013.

Alumni had gathered on the AUB campus over the weekend also to commemorate golden and silver anniversaries of those who graduated 50 and 25 years ago.

The Worldwide Alumni Association of AUB distributed Distinguished Alumni and Chapter awards, its highest honors during its gala dinner on Saturday night. This year's awardees were Bilal Hamad (BEN '76), mayor of Beirut, John Makhoul (BEN '64), chief scientist at BBN Technologies and Mu'taz Sawwaf (BAR '74), CEO of Construction Projects Holding Company. The Distinguished Chapter Award was also presented to the Qatar chapter for its important role in the MENA region.

Reunion weekend, hosted by AUB and WAAAUB , brought together alumni from the classes of 1958, 1963, 1968, 1973, 1978, 1983, 1988, 1993, 1998, 2003 and 2008.

The festivities kicked off on Friday with the Welcoming Kibaruna event to honor the classes of 1963 and 1988. Alumni revisited the campus to find photographs of sixties hairdos and historic campus gatherings projected on the Assembly Hall walls.

WAAAUB President Nabil Dajani, veteran faculty member of over 40 years, highlighted some of WAAAUB's achievements and its more than 60 geographic and professional chapters worldwide.

AUB President Peter Dorman then introduced the two keynote speakers, Mariam Cortas Said (BA '63) and Elie Khouri (BBA '83, MBA '88), noting that although AUB has changed over the years, the most important things have stood the test of time.

"There are new buildings, new faces, and new programs," said Dorman, "but our commitment to the core values of a liberal arts education is what connects all generations of AUB graduates in a common lineage."

The first keynote speaker was Mariam Cortas Said, vice president of the Barenbohm-Said Foundation, who highlighted AUB's philosophy of supporting creativity and independence.

Elie Khouri then discussed the origins of his success as CEO of the Dubai-based Omnicom Media Group. Khouri, considered as one of the most important Arab leaders in business and media, referred to himself as "a by-product of the Lebanese Civil War."

He called AUB the "door-opener" for his success in the media field, and attributed this good fortune to a characteristic shared with many others in the nation - resilience.

The weekend also hosted WAAAUB's Fifth Annual Convention, where the chairs of Standing Committees shared their progress and recommendations.

ENDS

PHOTO CAPTION: (Right to Left) President Peter Dorman; Eva Klimas, Director of Alumni Relations - NY Office; Professor Nabil Dajani

For more information please contact:

Maha Al-Azar, Associate Director for Media Relations, ma110@aub.edu.lb, 01-75 96 85

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.

Stay up to date on AUB news and events. Follow us on:

Website: www.aub.edu.lb

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/aub.edu.lb>

Twitter: http://twitter.com/AUB_Lebanon