

For Immediate Release



AUB celebrates Flag Day by promoting national belonging and the University's core values

Beirut, Lebanon- 21/11/2011 – The American University of Beirut celebrated Flag Day on the eve of Independence Day during a noon-time gathering outside West Hall, where the Lebanese flag was raised by Student Affairs Dean Talal Nizameddin and students and staff sang the national anthem.

“We are gathered to celebrate our national belonging and love for Lebanon,” Nizameddin told dozens of students gathered outside West Hall. “For all Lebanese and non-Lebanese we stand to think about the good things that bring us closer together as human beings striving for common goals [that] are in harmony with the great values this unique University represents: citizenship, social service, justice and fairness and freedom of expression. Let us remember that what unites us is far more important than what drives us apart.”

The flag that was raised on campus on Nov. 21, 2011 had a special story, said Nizameddin: It was donated by the Cultural Club of the South, an AUB student club, after having served with the Lebanese Army on the border town of Adaisseh, which witnessed cross-border clashes in August 2010 between the Lebanese and Israeli armies, leaving at least three Lebanese dead, after Israel had attempted to remove trees from within the Lebanese territory.

“This flag represents the hardships of the southerners and more generally of the Lebanese people, and the dignity and pride with which they protect their integrity and sovereignty,” said Nizameddin.

“On the eve of this special day, let us assert beneath the flag our commitment to all the values we cherish: To live happily and abundantly,” he added. “It falls on your broad shoulders to keep this country safe from harm and to defend the fine reputation of AUB as a role model of higher education not only in the region but the world... I have no doubt that you will make us all proud.”

ENDS

For more information please contact:

Maha Al-Azar, Assistant Director for Media Relations, ma110@aub.edu.lb, 01-353 228

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 600 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