

For Immediate Release



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AUB: Staunch alumni families honored at historic all-generation Legacy Ceremony

Alumni parents and their newly enrolled daughters and sons at the American University of Beirut (AUB) joined the historic all-generation Legacy Ceremony held on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the University in Assembly Hall.

During the ceremony, which was also attended by AUB President Dr. Fadlo R. Khuri, Deans, faculty members, and staff, sixteen families were honored for attending AUB across three or more generations. The families are: Alameddine, Challah, Ghantous, Ghantous- Kavar, Hamiyeh, Hannun, Jebejian, Kayyali, Kronfol, Kurani, Rubeiz, Shadid, Soussou, Takieddine, Nassour-Ghaleb, and Ekmekjian- Arsenian.

President Khuri reminded the audience of what remains at the core of AUB values: the privilege of servicing others.

“What you may ask is the epitome of service? Bliss certainly had it right in eschewing “appearance” as factor in any way—it has nothing to do with being seen to do good works,” said Dr. Khuri. “In my view service is the surrender of entitlement in order to do good for those in greater need.”

Dr. Khuri addressed the alumni whose connection to AUB is now renewed as their children join as first year students; in his views our alumni “sit at the epicenter of what I describe proudly as AUB’s legacy of service.”

“Your educational experience here will not only have made you difference-makers in the realms of medicine, engineering, business, the media or myriad other professions, but will have taught you to become ethical, humane, environmentally-responsible global citizens,” added Dr. Khuri.

Dr. Talal Nizameddin, Dean of Student Affairs at AUB, welcomed all new students, and took the time to elaborate on the different clubs and activities the student life at AUB has to offer, ranging from music and dance, to awareness and civic engagement.

“We have clubs, based on student initiative alone that volunteer regularly, whether it is providing psychological support for traumatized children; projects to improve underprivileged villages including upgrading schools or landscape,” said Dr. Nizameddin.

Dr. Salim Kanaan, Director of Admissions and Financial Aid, highlighted the diversity present at AUB: 88 nationalities are represented on campus with more than two thirds of the freshman class coming from countries abroad.

“AUB has undergone a long path since we were students,” said Dr. Kanaan addressing the parents, “from a mere 3,000 students in the 1970s to 5,000 students in the 1990s to its present number of 8,662 students including more than 1660 doing their Masters, Medical Doctor and PhD degrees.”

Ms. Salma Dannawi Oweida, Director of Alumni Relations at AUB, took the time to welcome all families who kept their promise to AUB by maintaining and strengthening the family legacy.

“AUB takes pride in having such loyal alumni, who continue to shine around the world all while upholding the name and legacy of this historic University,” said Oweida.

Alumni parent Mounib Hammoud, MBA’85 BBA’79, shared his thoughts about his AUB journey in an attempt to inspire the students attending the ceremony. In his view, the quality of a university is judged by the number of alumni who succeed in life. “AUB is a springboard in life—it will get you to where you want to go in a relatively fast and safe way,” he said.

“My undergraduate experience taught me technical skills and general knowledge that I implemented in my professional life to tackle business challenges and drive my career progression.”

Commemorative booklets and memorabilia were distributed to the honored families. The ceremony was wrapped up by a group photo and was followed by a reception.

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For more information please contact:

Simon Kachar
Director of News and Media Relations
Mobile: 03427024 Office: 01374374 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 700 full-time faculty members and a student body of about 8,500 students. AUB currently offers more than 130 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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