

For Immediate Release



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AUB Officially Opens New Academic Year

Khuri: “Fight not for Glory, but to Serve”

The American University of Beirut (AUB) opened its new academic year in an official ceremony held in Assembly Hall, on campus.

The ceremony was headed by AUB President Dr. Fadlo R. Khuri. Chairman of the Board of Trustees Dr. Philip S. Khoury, Acting Provost Mohammad Harajli, deans, trustees, vice presidents, faculty, students and various university stakeholders were present in the ceremony.

Entry of the Academic Procession, comprising the president, deans, faculty and trustees signaled the start of the ceremony. This was followed by the Lebanese National Anthem. President Khuri then took the podium and delivered his address, entitled: “A Legacy of Service”; he said: Greetings and salutations as we begin our fall semester at AUB. Hard on the heels of a momentous 2015-16 academic year, I wanted to share my thoughts with you, as we continue to celebrate our sesquicentennial and look to make ourselves even more relevant for the next 150 years.

“Today, assembled before you, are 24 individuals of service, full professors at a great university, AUB, our most senior faculty. Senior in rank and senior in service, who have given AUB 40 or more years of their careers. Combined, their service adds up to more than 1,000 years at this great port of knowledge. Seated here, honored guests who themselves honor us with their dedication, their example continues to inspire us today.” Khuri added.

“Service, not glory, also drove the founding fathers of this academic house. The famous words of Daniel Bliss resonate: “We were not anxious to appear great, but we were anxious to lay foundations upon which greatness could be built.” Mainly, we serve our students and patients—the University also provides extraordinary education opportunities for children of its employees that might be unaffordable otherwise, among many other important tasks. And what you may ask

is the epitome of service? In my view it is the surrender of entitlement in order to do good for those in greater need. And who are those in greatest need? The students, whose families may not be able to afford the ever-spiraling cost of a college education? The patients, and their families, who come to our medical center and search for hope, for answers, and for relief from pain, from suffering, from overwhelming anxiety? The citizens of our war-torn Arab lands, who look to this university for hope, for sustenance, and for an example that they can hold onto while they strive towards a better day?" he continues saying.

"As a private, secular educational institution, placed in the Levant, in the words of Bliss, to "lay foundations upon which greatness could be built," we believe that the honor of caring for others in the medical and nursing professions must be earned by example, by humility and sacrifice. Education and aid, financial or otherwise, are a privilege, wholeheartedly given by generous women and men of service. It is a gift, not exclusively earned through scholastic excellence". Khuri said.

"College and university are opportunities to gain the companions of a lifetime. Seize this chance while at AUB, whether you are faculty, staff, student or alumnus... And fight not for glory but to serve. And serve we will, as we have from 150 years ago until today, and for the next 150 years and beyond," he concluded.

During the ceremony, long service awards were given to faculty teaching in the university for forty years or more. The President gave each one of them a memorial shield and a certificate of appreciation. The honored, long-serving Professors are: Dr. Alexander Abdelnoor, Dr. Helga Seeden, Dr. Farouk Abi Khuzam, Dr. Mohammad Zuheir-Habba, Dr. Jabir Sawaya, Dr. Murad Jurdak, Dr. Laila Faris Farhoud, Dr. Nassir H. Sabbah, Dr. Nabil Dajani, Dr. Ibrahim Salti, Dr. George M Ayoub, Dr. Jean Gebran Rebeiz, Dr. Samir Seikaly, Dr. Adel Berbari, Dr. Makhlof Haddadin, Dr. Munir Bashour, Dr. Joseph Simaan, Dr. Abdo Jurjus, Dr. Shukrallah Zaynoun, Dr. Karam Karam, Dr. Tarif Khalidi, Dr. Adnan Mroueh, Dr. Samir Khalaf and Dr. Adib Saad.

The ceremony concluded with the Alma Mater, and was followed by a reception.

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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 8,500 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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