

AUB Professor Ramzi Baalbaki wins prestigious King Faisal award in Arabic

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AUB Professor Ramzi Baalbaki, holder of the Jewett Chair in the Department of Arabic and Near Eastern Languages, has been awarded the prestigious King Faisal International Prize for Arabic Language and Literature. The award announcement of January 11, 2010 by HRH Prince Khalid Alfaisal stated the following:

"Professor Baalbaki is recognized for his outstanding original research on Arabic grammatical thought. His publications, in Arabic and English, have enhanced Arabic grammar education in western institutions and familiarized western researchers with the fundamental manuscript of Sibawayhi, a revered ancient scholar and founder of Arabic grammar, whose thoughts and methods have profoundly influenced his successors to the present day."

During his academic career at AUB spanning more than 30 years, Professor Baalbaki came to be known as a reference in the field of Arabic grammatical thought and has earned an international reputation for excellent research and scholarship that has significantly contributed to scholars' understanding of the Arabic language.

"The rigorous nomination and selection procedures for this award have made it a world-renowned distinction honoring scholars in humanities and sciences," said President Dorman. "So far, fifteen past recipients of this prize were later awarded the Nobel Prize."

Professor Baalbaki will receive his prize in a special ceremony in Riyadh this March under the auspices of the King of Saudi Arabia.

The King Faisal Foundation grants these prizes with the "firm belief that through the collective efforts of outstanding individuals, the highest aspirations of mankind are realized," noted Dorman.

"At AUB, we share this noble conviction and we should all take great pride in this deserved recognition of our esteemed colleague," added Dorman.

Professor Baalbaki joined AUB in 1983, rising to the rank of professor by 1989. He earned a PhD in Arabic grammar and comparative semitics from the University of London in 1978 in addition to his degrees from AUB. He has been an associate dean at the Faculty of Arts and Sciences since 1997.

Professor Baalbaki has published several books and over 50 scholarly papers.