



AUB to celebrate the works of 60 of its alumni authors in a literary festival

Tuesday March 9, 2010

The American University of Beirut will celebrate the works of more than 60 world-renowned authors who count among its alumni, during a literary festival which will take place on March 25 and 26 in AUB's West Hall, between 4:00pm and 8:00pm.

The Worldwide Alumni Association of AUB (WAAAUB) organized this festival after UNESCO named Beirut World Book Capital 2009. AUB has graduated hundreds of esteemed authors since it was first established in 1866.

“AUB's alumni authors are one of the factors contributing to Beirut being named as World Book Capital,” said Arabia Osseiran, Director of Alumni Relations. “We are proud of all our alumni and would like to take this opportunity to recognize those who have left their mark on world literature.”

Around fifty-five authors will attend the festival and another ten will present their work in absentia. Literary works cover a wide range of subject areas and have been largely published in Arabic, English and French, in countries including Australia, Bahrain, China, Damascus, France and the UK. Literary buffs will have the opportunity to buy these authors' books during the festival.

A booklet containing short biographies of about 250 authors who are AUB alumni will also be made available at the event.

Due to an exceptionally high interest by AUB alumni authors, the festival will be held over two days.

The first day will open with a ceremony honoring the work of eleven alumni authors, of which at least six will be present. Minister of Education Hassan Mneimneh, AUB President Peter Dorman and the President of WAAAUB, Khalil Makkawi, will recognize the following for their literary achievements:

Sadiq Jalal Al-Azm (BA '57), Ameen Al-Rihani (BA '65, MA '71), Ghada Al-Samman (MA '65), Samir Khalaf (BA '55, MA '57), Elias Khoury (former student), Raymond Khoury (MA '83), Sami Makarem (BA '54, MA '57), Marwan Muasher (former student), Emily Nasrallah (BA '58), Kamal Suleiman Salibi (BA '49), and Ghassan Tueini (BA '45). The ceremony will be followed by a reception.

On the second day there will be three panel discussions and a reading, thus giving the audience the chance to meet different authors. An interactive discussion with writers will be followed by a panel discussion on educating children with special needs. The event will end with a poetry reading session. In parallel, a book exhibition will be held throughout the festival in West Hall.

The AUB Office of Alumni Relations intends to set a trend with this festival, making it a launching-pad for other worldwide celebrations of AUB alumni authors in their current countries of residence. For further information contact alumni@aub.edu.lb or telephone +961 1 738009.