

For Immediate Release



## Upcoming events at AUB

Beirut, Lebanon- 22/04/2015 - The American University of Beirut will be holding the following events on campus in the next days:

- **Hollywood Legend and Lion King Director in Conversation at AUB**

Roger Allers, director and writer of Khalil Gibran's *The Prophet*, *The Lion King* (the highest-grossing hand-drawn animated film in history), *Aladdin*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Beauty & the Beast*, is coming to AUB on Monday 27th of April 12.30pm Hostler Auditorium, for a conversation on his career in animation. (LIMITED SEATS AVAILABLE, BE EARLY)

The talk is organized by the Media Studies Department.

Allers began his animation career in the early 1970s working at Lisberger Studios, a small Boston animation studio that later moved to Los Angeles, working mainly on commercials and children's educational television. In 1986, Mr. Allers would fulfill his childhood dream of working at Disney. His credits as a story artist there include "The Little Mermaid," "Beauty & the Beast," and "Aladdin," among others. His first film as a director was "The Lion King." His last project at Disney was directing the Oscar nominated short film "The Little Matchgirl". Allers also directed the feature "Open Season" for Sony Pictures.

Allers, who first fell in love with Khalil Gibran's writings as a college student, says he jumped at the opportunity to direct it. To bring Khalil Gibran's beloved book to the big screen, Allers wrote and directed a new narrative which incorporates the individual poems.

Khalil Gibran's *The Prophet*, world premieres April 27 at Beirut Souks' Cinemacity; it will mark the first time Lebanon has hosted the world premiere of any film. The film will be released to the public in Lebanese cinemas on Thursday, April 30 and will be distributed across the Middle East and North Africa by Fathallah Films.

- **Press Conference to launch the Mahmoud Kahil Award**

The AUB Office of the Provost, the Mutaz and Rada Sawwaf Arabic Comics Initiative at AUB, and the Syndicate of Professional Graphic Designers and Illustrators in Lebanon are holding a press conference at 5 pm on Wednesday April 29 in the Maamari Auditorium, OSB, under the patronage of Minister of Culture Raymond Areijy.

The conference will launch the Mahmoud Kahil Award and the call for submissions.

AUB and the Mutaz and Rada Sawwaf Arabic Comics Initiative have established this award in honor of the late Mahmoud Kahil, a celebrated leading Lebanese and caricaturist. The award aims to promote comics art in the Arab world through the recognition of the rich talent and creative achievements of comics artists, cartoonists and illustrators in the region.

- **14th FEA Student and Alumni Conference**

The 14th FEA Student and Alumni Conference will be held at the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture of the American University of Beirut on April 29 and 30, 2015.

This annual conference provides a unique forum for students, alumni and faculty members to exchange ideas, share experiences, and present ongoing research, projects and designs. The program features four sessions with distinguished alumni, students, and faculty research presentations. Distinguished alumni and faculty members are honored, and two student groups from each session are given awards for the best oral and poster presentations. The conference will start on the morning of April 29, 2015 with introductions and awards of four Distinguished Alumni and four Distinguished Young Alumni of 2015. Dr. Zuhair Alami will also be honored during the Opening Ceremony. After the awards, the remainder of that morning will be devoted to the Mechanical Engineering and Chemical Engineering departments with Mr. Najji Edde, Mr. Bassam Jalgha and Prof. Daniel Asmar, while the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering will occupy the afternoon with Dr. Mansour Karam, Mr. Hassane Slaibi and Prof. Adnan Al Alaoui. The morning of April 30 will be devoted to the Departments of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Engineering Management with Dr. Imad Hannoun, Mr. Kamal Hayek and Prof. Isam Kaysi. The Department of Architecture and Design will close the conference that afternoon with Ms. Bahia Shehab, Kashida and Prof. Salma-Samar Damluji.

- **AUB 2015: Civic Engagement Conference and Exhibition**

The Center for Civic Engagement and Community Service at AUB is organizing “AUB 2015: Civic Engagement Conference and Exhibition,” in partnership with the United Nations Information Centre in Beirut (UNIC-Beirut) and with the collaboration of JCI Lebanon, Loyac, Aie Serve, Toastmasters and Jannat Bladi, on April 29 and 30, 2015.

One of the conference’s key features is that it brings together over 100 local and international NGOs for a two- day exhibition to promote their efforts, raise awareness on civic issues, and network with other civic groups. Moreover, several NGOs will unveil their upcoming projects at this conference.

In parallel, CCECS will host 8 panel discussions featuring public figures, activists, policy makers, experts (public and private sectors), academics, and civil society representatives, as speakers and moderators.

For details, please check attached program.

ENDS

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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 8,000 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.

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