

For Immediate Release



AUB alumni association welcomes new president and celebrates its successes

Beirut, Lebanon- 28/12/2011 - Alumni play a huge role in backing the university, as they provide the largest source of support to education, while possessing the knowledge and experience to lead future generations to success, said participants at the Worldwide Alumni Association of AUB (WAAAUB) convention held on December 27, 2011.

The third annual WAAAUB Convention's opening assembly honored the outgoing WAAAUB president and welcomed the new, in the presence of AUB alumni and notables such as AUB President Peter Dorman and keynote speaker, Beirut Mayor Bilal Hamad. The assembly, including an operatic performance and reception, is part of a WAAAUB business meeting scheduled on December 29²⁰¹¹ where WAAAUB Board and Standing Committees present their strategy and business plan to the WAAAUB Council.

In its fourth year of inception, the WAAAUB has launched many AUB traditions such as the annual Legacy Ceremony (which welcomes AUB alumni parents and their children who would be joining AUB) and resurrected some old traditions like the annual Class Ring Ceremony, welcomed new alumni chapters to the global WAAAUB network, established an on-line community, organized regional meetings of alumni in North America and the Middle East, launched a regular e-newsletter and sponsored events on campus to celebrate alumni accomplishments," said outgoing President Khalil Makkawi.

"I am grateful that AUB now boasts a strong and effective worldwide alumni association that channels alumni support while at the same time facilitating the University's efforts to offer them a growing array of services and resources," said President Dorman.

WAAAUB chapters are spread out all over the globe with new chapters having been opened in the Maldives and Germany, and the list continues to grow as alumni continue to call about forming chapters. The Outreach Committee has used various social networks such as Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn to connect with its alumni.

New WAAAUB President Nabil Dajani is focused on the challenges that lie ahead. "My commitment to the University and its mission is the primary reason that I sought the presidency of WAAAUB." His two main objectives include developing a healthy relationship with all alumni, including those outside Beirut and secondly, to work with AUB alumni and university leadership to establish a state-of-the-art alumni club in time for AUB's 150th anniversary in 2016.

“While I am ending my term as WAAAUB president, my commitment to the association and to the University will never end. I will always be a champion of AUB and an active alumnus,” said Makkawi.

Beirut Mayor Hamad suggested career guidance and coaching as potential programs that alumni should invest in.

“Let’s work together to develop the leaders of the future,” he concluded.

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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 600 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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