

For Immediate Release



## **AUB's Worldwide Alumni Association announces new leadership**

Beirut, Lebanon- 11/11/2011 - The Alumni Council of the Worldwide Alumni Association of the American University of Beirut (WAAAUB) has elected AUB Professor Nabil Dajani (BA '57, MA '60) to lead the association for the next two years.

Professor Dajani succeeds outgoing WAAAUB President Khalil Makkawi (BA '54) who is stepping down after serving consecutive two-year terms. Professor Dajani is joined on the WAAAUB Board of Directors by Vice President Abdul Hamid Bibi (BBA '64-Jordan), Treasurer Rima El Kadi (BBA '79-Lebanon), General Secretary Rani Daher (BEN '06-France), and Members at Large Hiba Talal Bitar (BEN '99, MEM '05-Lebanon) and Ioannis Violaris (BA '78 Cyprus).

Speaking on behalf of the AUB Board of Trustees, Chair Philip S. Khoury extended his heartiest congratulations to Professor Dajani noting that his leadership would be "vital to AUB's future." University President Peter Dorman also welcomed the announcement of Professor Dajani's election as WAAAUB president. "Professor Dajani is assuming a critical position as the University prepares for a major fundraising campaign, the success of which will depend on the unified support of our alumni all over the world. I look forward to working with him and the other members of the WAAAUB leadership to strengthen the ties between the University and its worldwide alumni."

President Dorman also thanked outgoing President Khalil Makkawi for his dedicated service to WAAAUB and to the University. "It has been my distinct honor to serve as WAAAUB's first president," said HE Ambassador Makkawi. "I am confident that WAAAUB will continue to grow and strengthen under the leadership of Professor Dajani and the other members of the Board of Directors. They have my strongest support."

Professor Dajani is a professor of media studies and chair of AUB's Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Media Studies. An active alumnus, Professor Dajani served as general secretary of the Beirut-based Alumni Association of AUB for ten years (1973-83) and was elected as a member of WAAAUB's first Board of Directors in 2007. "It is because of my commitment to AUB and to its mission that I sought this position," said Dajani. "I pledge to do my best to unite alumni behind WAAAUB for the purpose of supporting and developing AUB."

WAAAUB was established in 2006 to strengthen the ties between AUB and its alumni and to engage alumni in advancing and supporting the goals and educational, research, and service mission of the University. It is governed by an autonomous Alumni Council and Board of Directors as mandated in the WAAAUB bylaws. For More information on the WAAAUB Board of Directors, Council, and Standing Committee members, check WAAAUB website [http://www.waaaub.org/pdf/Elections\\_results\\_07.pdf](http://www.waaaub.org/pdf/Elections_results_07.pdf)

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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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