

For Immediate Release



Beirut: 27-4-2016

## **15<sup>th</sup> FEA Student and Alumni Conference at AUB Begins**

### **Harajli: A Celebration of AUB Faculty and Students Impact on Lebanon and the World**

The 15<sup>th</sup> FEA Student and Alumni Conference, organized by the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture at the American University of Beirut (AUB) started today. The two-day conference will include several working sessions addressing all areas of engineering and architecture. The conference this year is particularly timely as it comes with the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of AUB.

The opening ceremony, held in the conference hall of FEA on campus, was attended by Interim Provost Dr. Muhamad Harajli, Dean of FEA Dr. Makram Suidan, coordinator of FEA's architecture program Dr. Karim Najjar, Special Advisor to the President for Protocol and External Relations Ibrahim Khoury and the Director of News and Media Relations Simon Kachar. The attendance also included faculty, staff, students and lecturers from AUB and other universities.

The opening ceremony began with words of welcome by Dean Suidan who thanked all in the audience and said that the format of this conference has constantly evolved since Dean Ibrahim Hajj started it, fifteen years ago. He added that this was a very special year for FEA and for AUB, which is celebrating its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and, for this reason, the conference sessions were expanded to include professors and students from other universities.

Dean Suidan then detailed the conference program with its working sessions and lectures that will cover all fields of engineering. He expressed hope that the new format of the conference will make it a conference for all engineers in Lebanon.

Dean Suidan then stated that in the past fall semester, 2245 students were registered in the Bachelor's program while 263 students were working for their Master's and 68 were studying for the Ph.D. He also revealed that new departments have been established in FEA. These are the Chemical Engineering and Petroleum Department and the Department of Industrial Engineering and Management, in addition to a biomedical engineering graduate studies program. Interim AUB Provost Dr. Muhamad Harajli spoke next. He welcomed the attendance, and said that the conference celebrates AUB's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary and is a reminder of the university's permanent commitment to educate new generations who will contribute in turn to their societies and their fields of specializations.

Dr. Harajli went on to say that this conference provides a unique forum for students, alumni and faculty members to present new and creative ideas and to exchange expertise. He said it is also an opportunity for them to celebrate their impact on Lebanon, the region and the world, adding: "FEA and the university administration will continue to improve educational opportunities and services to the students".

He also said that AUB President Fadlo Khoury has announced university-wide initiatives to improve facilities, educational procedures and student services. He asserted that FEA has been moving steadily towards achieving excellence in its educational and research programs in the past decade, in line with AUB's mission.

Dr. Harajli closed by thanking the organizing committee of the conference and all those who took part in its preparations, wishing them a productive event.

After that, appreciation awards were distributed to FEA faculty and alumni and participants from other educational establishments. Then Lifetime Achievement

Awards were given to Professor Emeritus Dr. Fateh Sakkal and to Mr. Riad Al Sadik who followed the opening ceremony and lectured via Skype.

Dean Suidan read to the audience brief biographies of both Sakkal and Al Sadik, then, with Interim Provost Harajli, handed them their award.

The conference sessions began after that and will continue today and tomorrow.

ENDS

**For more information please contact:**

Simon Kachar  
Director of News and Media Relations  
Mobile: 03427024 Office: 01374374 Ext: 2676  
Email: [sk158@aub.edu.lb](mailto:sk158@aub.edu.lb)

**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 8,500 students. AUB currently offers more than 130 programs leading to 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.

**Stay up to date on AUB news and events. Follow us on:**

Website: [www.aub.edu.lb](http://www.aub.edu.lb)  
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/aub.edu.lb>  
Twitter: [http://twitter.com/AUB\\_Lebanon](http://twitter.com/AUB_Lebanon)