

LEBANESE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

Lebanese American University is a leading private higher education institution in Lebanon, operating under a charter from the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York and accredited by the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, effective November 11, 2009.

The university was founded as a women's college in 1924, and has expanded over the decades alongside the growing educational needs of Lebanon and the Middle East region. Today the university boasts seven schools offering a dynamic range of academic programs taught by highly skilled faculty on two campuses in Beirut and Byblos.

As a nonsectarian institution guided by a deep-rooted sense of shared ethical values, LAU provides access to a superior education attracting students from Lebanon, the Middle East and around the world.

In 2010, the university saw the completion of its five-year Strategic Plan that has focused on fostering excellence in all facets of university life, addressing the multiple needs of students, increasing outreach to alumni, promoting LAU as a major regional learning center and using financial resources in a well-planned and effective way. The next Strategic Plan, which will be academically focused, is being launched this year.

LAU is governed by a 25-member Board of Trustees that has three primary functions: leadership, stewardship and audit. Consisting of up to 25 members, LAU's Board of International Advisors acts as an advisor on university policies and provides guidance to the Board of Trustees, president and senior management.

Sarah Lanman Huntington Smith "Schoolmistress to Syria's Females" - 1802-1836

Sarah Lanman Huntington was born in Norwich, Connecticut on June 18, 1802 to Jabez and Mary Lanman Huntington. She attended a private female academy taught by Nancy Hyde and Lydia Huntley (Sigourney) and at age 16 she attended a boarding school in Boston.

Sarah was a member of Second Congregational Church, when in 1827 she began a mission to the Mohegan Indians. By converting some to Christianity and starting the Mohegan Congregational Church, and the Mohegan School, she saved the Tribe from being removed from their tribal lands and moved west of the Mississippi by the federal government because they were "uncivilized and unchristian."

On July 21, 1833, Sarah married the Rev. Eli Smith. They sailed from Boston on September 21, landing in "Beyroot, Syria," (Beirut, Lebanon), on January 28, 1834. There, as an "assistant missionary," she resolved to "enlighten the benighted females of Syria" and in 1834 founded the first school for girls in the Turkish Empire, serving as its first teacher until illness forced her to leave Beirut on June 11, 1836.

Following a shipwreck, Sarah, with Eli, completed an arduous and debilitating voyage to Smyrna (Izmir, Turkey) where she died of consumption on September 30, 1836 at age 34. She was buried in Boojah, Turkey. Her best-selling Memoir inspired scores of American females to become missionaries.

Mrs. Smith's "Beyroot Female School," the precursor of Lebanese American University, introduced American education to females in the Middle East, thus initiating the liberation of girls and women in that region.



Second Annual Gala Presenting The Sarah Awards

Friday, 15 APRIL 2011

The Pierre
NEW YORK CITY

A message from our Chairpersons

Dear Friend of LAU,

On behalf of Lebanese American University's New York Office, we are honored to invite you to join us at our Second Annual Gala and Sarah Awards to be held on April 15th, 2011, at The Pierre in New York City. While this annual event is held in New York, its breadth and scope is greater, reaching the far corners of North America and beyond.

As was the case last year, one of our goals this year is to fund the Sarah Lanman Huntington Smith Endowment Fund to assist worthy young students with their LAU education. We are confident that we can achieve this goal, especially with your participation and assistance. To learn more about Sarah Lanman Huntington Smith, please refer to the brief sketch on the back of this invitation explaining how she impacted so many lives here in America and in Lebanon.

Please see the enclosures for further details on this event and kindly complete the registration card and return it to the New York Office no later than April 11th. If you are unable to join us, but would like to assist with a donation, we would be most grateful for your participation in this very significant way.

We truly appreciate your positive response to our invitation. Your support will enhance the future of talented and deserving young people and demonstrates your determination that LAU remains a leading institution of higher learning in the Middle East.

For further information or questions, feel free to contact us in New York at 212-870-2592, or visit our website at www.lau.edu.lb

Very truly yours,



Eva Kotite Farha



Wadiah "Bill" Jordan

GALA COMMITTEE

Eva Kotite Farha, Co-Chair
Wadiah Bill Jordan, Co-Chair

Mike Ahmar
Marilyn Bezdikian
Dr. Paul Boulos
Lina Jazi Chehab
Ron Cruikshank
Danielle Faris
Kanan Hamzeh

Adeeb Kassis
Richard Rumsey
Manal Saab
Dr. Hanna Shammas
Edward Shiner
Philip Stoltzfus
Peter Tanous



Dr. Joseph G. Jabbara

President of Lebanese American University
and

The New York Office of LAU

Would be honored by your presence at

LAU's Second Annual Gala

Presenting the Sarah Awards to

Dr. Ray Irani

and

Dr. Suad Juffali

Friday, 15 April 2011

The Pierre - Fifth Avenue at 61st St.
New York City

Cocktail Reception 6:30 PM - Dinner 8:00 PM

Music for Dinner and Dancing by the Alex Donner Orchestra

Please RSVP with enclosed reply card
no later than 11 April 2011

Black Tie Invited