



Rafik Hariri University
جامعة رفيق الحريري

Under the Patronage of

Mrs. Nazek Rafik Hariri

Chairperson of the RHU Board
of Trustees and President of Hariri Foundation

25th

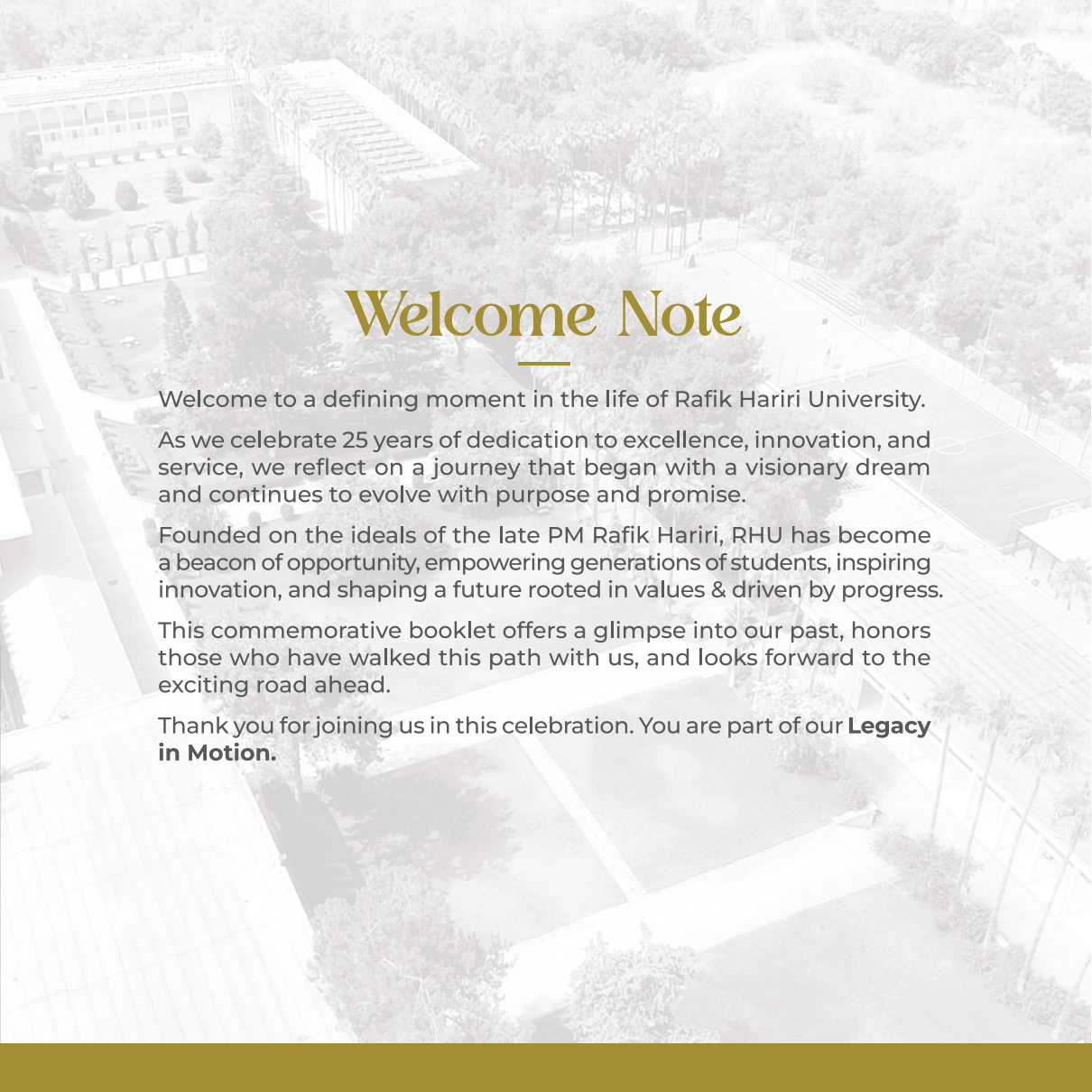
Anniversary Celebration

A Legacy in Motion

Be Part of the RHU Journey of
Vision and Innovation

Thursday, October 30th, 2025
RHU Campus, Mechref

Anniversary



Welcome Note

Welcome to a defining moment in the life of Rafik Hariri University.

As we celebrate 25 years of dedication to excellence, innovation, and service, we reflect on a journey that began with a visionary dream and continues to evolve with purpose and promise.

Founded on the ideals of the late PM Rafik Hariri, RHU has become a beacon of opportunity, empowering generations of students, inspiring innovation, and shaping a future rooted in values & driven by progress.

This commemorative booklet offers a glimpse into our past, honors those who have walked this path with us, and looks forward to the exciting road ahead.

Thank you for joining us in this celebration. You are part of our **Legacy in Motion.**

Message from the President



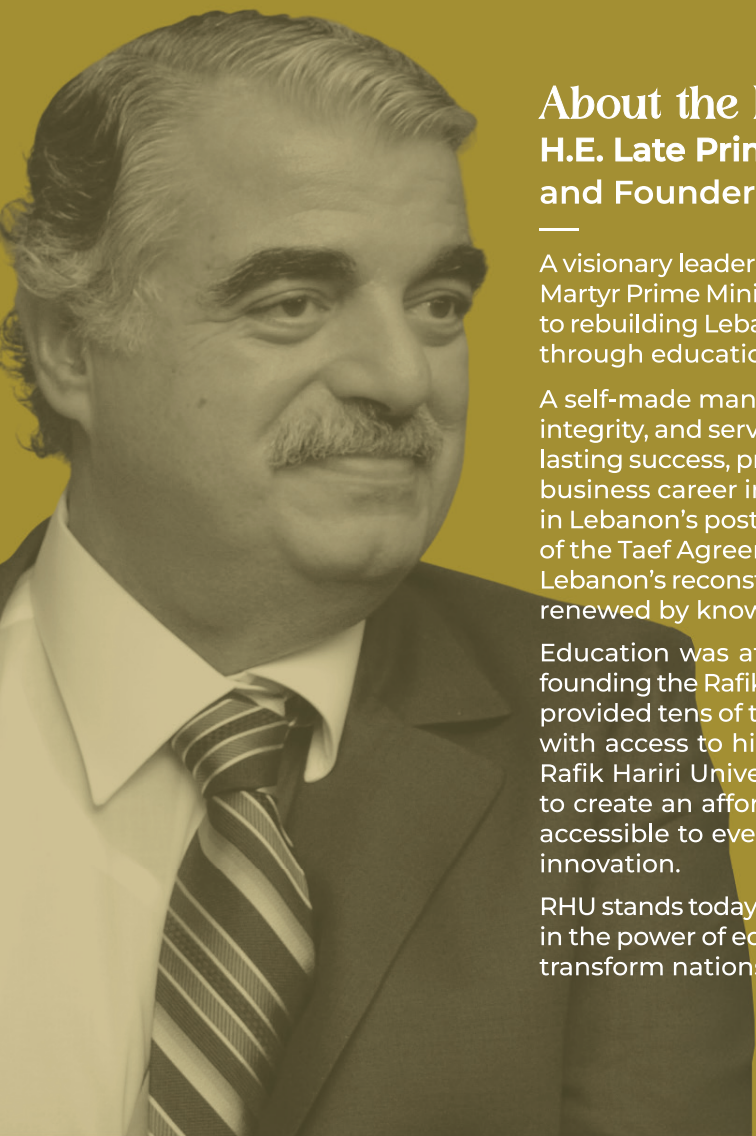
What started as a bold vision has developed into a lively academic community full of achievements, guided by strong values passed down from our founder, the late Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, and the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees, Ms. Nazek Rafik Hariri

- A Legacy in Motion.

Over the past 25 years, Rafik Hariri University has experienced significant growth in enrollment, academic achievement, impact, ranking, research, and collaborations that expand our reach beyond campus borders. RHU faculty continue to push the limits of knowledge, inspiring students and fueling their curiosity and motivation. RHU alumni remind us that the legacy of learning is a lifelong journey.

At the core of our progress lies a steadfast dedication to innovation. Whether it involves launching new interdisciplinary programs, increasing educational access for talented and underserved students, or investing in sustainable infrastructure, RHU stays true to our founder's belief, "education is a force for good."

Said Ladki, Ph.D., President



About the Founder

H.E. Late Prime Minister and Founder Rafik Hariri

A visionary leader, philanthropist, & nation-builder, Martyr Prime Minister Rafik Hariri dedicated his life to rebuilding Lebanon and empowering its people through education, opportunity, and hope.

A self-made man, Rafik Hariri believed that trust, integrity, and service were the foundations of long lasting success, principles he carried from his early business career in Saudi Arabia to his pivotal role in Lebanon's post-war recovery. As a key architect of the Taef Agreement and a driving force behind Lebanon's reconstruction, he envisioned a country renewed by knowledge, unity, and progress.

Education was at the heart of that vision. From founding the Rafik Hariri Foundation in 1984, which provided tens of thousands of Lebanese students with access to higher education, to establishing Rafik Hariri University in 1999, his goal was clear: to create an affordable, high standard university accessible to everyone, rooted in excellence and innovation.

RHU stands today as a living testament to his belief in the power of education to uplift individuals and transform nations.

Presidential Timeline



1999

Mr. Mustapha Zaatari



2004

Dr. Abdul-Rahman
Arkadan



2014

Dr. Riad Chedid



2017

Dr. Ahmad Smaili



2018

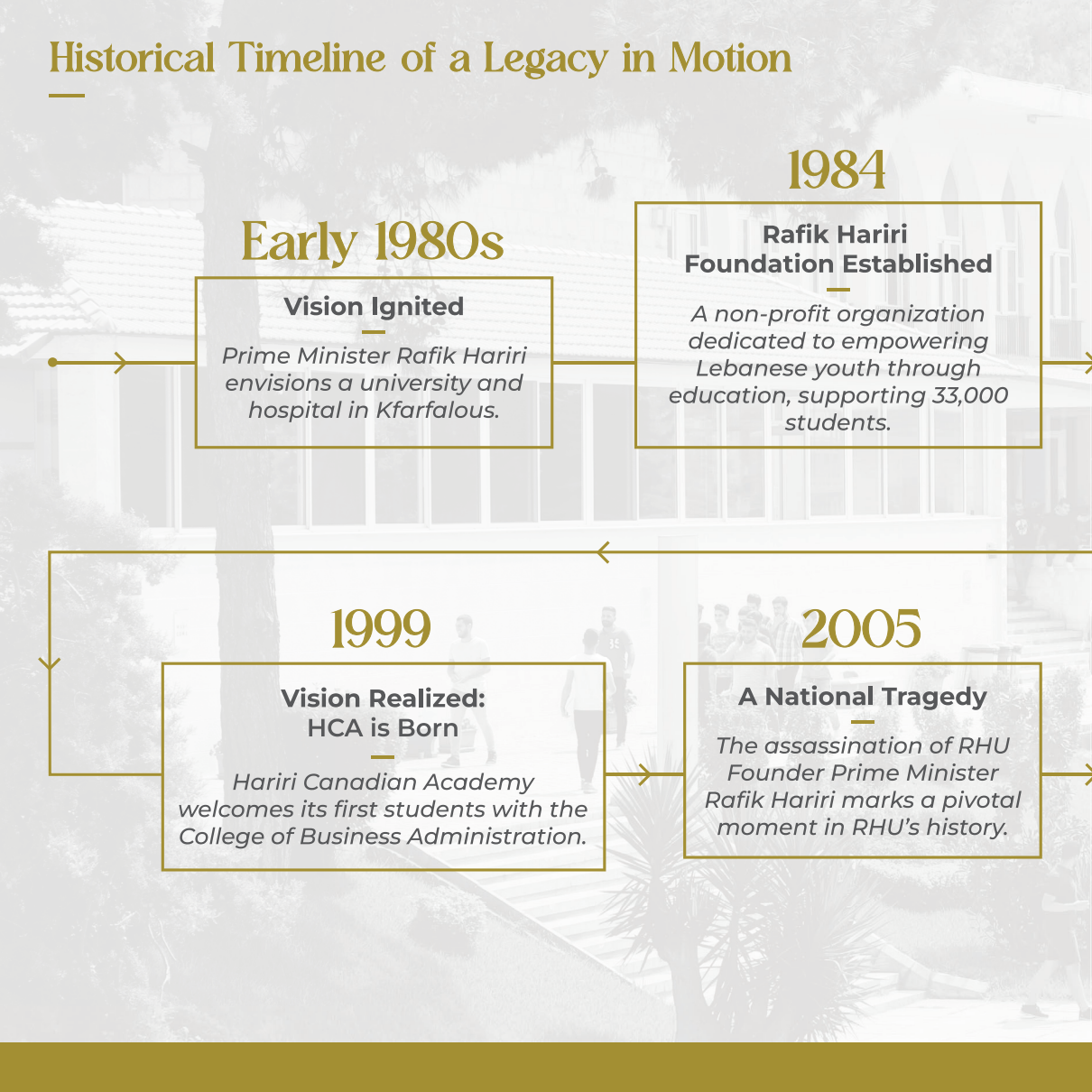
Dr. Makram Suidan



2024

Dr. Said Ladki

Historical Timeline of a Legacy in Motion



The background of the slide features a faded image of a modern building with large windows and trees. A golden timeline graphic is overlaid on the image, consisting of a horizontal line with arrows at both ends, and a vertical line that descends from the horizontal line on the left side. The timeline is divided into four main sections, each with a year or time period and a corresponding event box.

Early 1980s

Vision Ignited

Prime Minister Rafik Hariri envisions a university and hospital in Kfarfalous.

1984

Rafik Hariri Foundation Established

A non-profit organization dedicated to empowering Lebanese youth through education, supporting 33,000 students.

1999

Vision Realized: HCA is Born

Hariri Canadian Academy welcomes its first students with the College of Business Administration.

2005

A National Tragedy

The assassination of RHU Founder Prime Minister Rafik Hariri marks a pivotal moment in RHU's history.

1997

University Vision Revived

The Foundation continues its efforts to establish an affordable and accessible university for Lebanese students.

1998

Vision Takes Shape

Partnerships with Canadian institutions help shape the university's academic programs and curriculum.

2006

Vision Lives on: HCA to HCU

RHU earns official recognition as a university with the College of Sciences and Information Systems launch and becomes Hariri Canadian University.

2011

From Vision to Legacy: HCU to RHU

Hariri Canadian University becomes Rafik Hariri University, honoring its founder and his legacy.

A Legacy in Motion >

RHU Through the Years, Milestones of a Legacy in Motion

August 2019: *ABET Accreditation*

RHU's engineering and computer science programs receive ABET accreditation for the maximum recognition period.

December 2019: *ACBSP Accreditation until 2029*

RHU's College of Business Administration becomes the first in Lebanon to earn ACBSP accreditation for all its programs.

January 2023: *IMA® Endorsement*

RHU's College of Business Administration earns the prestigious IMA® endorsement and joins the IMA Higher Education Endorsement Program.

May 2025: *HRCI International Certification*

RHU's Management and Marketing Studies Department earns HRCI certification, meeting international Human Resources Management program standards.

June 2025: *Board of International Advisors (BIA) Launched*

RHU develops its BIA to broaden its international presence, enhance academic quality, & define its regional and global role.

July 2025: *WURI Ranking*

RHU ranks 36th globally for student support and engagement in the 2025 World University Rankings for Innovation (WURI).

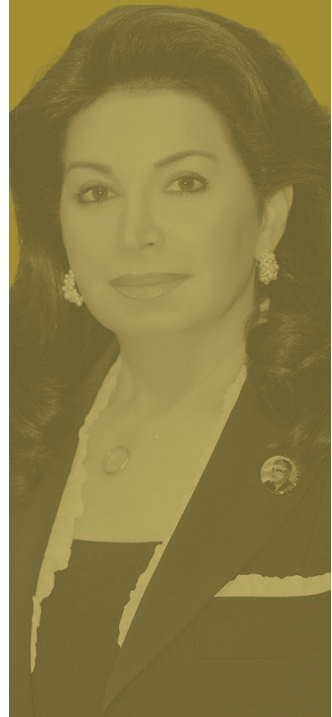
August 2025: *ABET Reaccreditation until 2031*

Excellence is affirmed: RHU Engineering and Computer Science Programs are reaccredited by ABET until 2031.

“

This beloved university carries PM Rafik Hariri's dream: to inspire young pioneers to build a free and prosperous future.

”



Student Achievements: Shaping the Legacy

College of Arts and Sciences

Design Department

- Multiple wins in **Arab StarPack Competition** (2018–2025), including Pan Arab Award, Visual and Structural prizes, Banque du Liban award
- **WPO WorldStar Recognition** (2020–2022) for outstanding packaging projects
- **Adobe Certified Professional World Championship:** fifth place worldwide (2024–2025)
- Other Competitions: **Green Lebanon Art Competition** (two first prizes, 2023–2024), **Sixty fifth Beirut Arab International Book Fair** (third prize, 2023)

Computer, Math, and Sciences Department

- Third place in 2019 **MuniTech National Contest**
- First place in **Digital Payment Hackathon** (2020–2021, AI and fintech focus)
- Winner of the **“My Town is My Culture” national competition** (2020–2021, AI-based project)
- Shortlisted for LIRA 2025 with Blockchain and AI Healthcare Solution (2024–2025)

College of Business Administration

- **X-Culture Competition** 2020-2022: Winning team used AI and analytics tools for business problem-solving
- **Campus Craze Marketing Competition** 2025: third place out of 72 universities, leveraging digital marketing and AI insights
- Students obtained **CMA** and **CPA certifications**
- Employment in **Big Four** accounting firms: Deloitte, PwC, EY, KPMG

College of Engineering

- Multiple wins in **ASME EFX Competitions** (2017, 2019, 2023, 2025)
- Robotics and Mechatronics victories: **SumoBots, Popsicle Stick Bridge, World Robot Olympiad** (2019–2023)
- First place finishes in Hackathons & Innovation Challenges: **Lebanon AI Hackathon, MIT Lebanon Challenge, Lebanon-University Hackathon, Future Health Hackathon, CyberSecurity Day** (2020–2023)
- Research and Scientific Awards: **Martyr Wissam Eid Award, BioSMART best paper awards, IEEE & ASCE recognitions** (2018–2023)
- Digital and Industrial Innovations: **Digital Twin Framework development, Microchip International Contest** top-20 placement (2023–2025)
- Entrepreneurship: HEATECHS team wins **Hult Prize Lebanon Finals** with USD 250,000 startup funding (2018)



Looking Ahead, The Next 25 Years

RHU Strategic Vision, Expansion Plans, and Future Goals

Strategic Vision

As per the vision of our chairperson of the Board of Trustees, Ms. Nazek Rafik Hariri, RHU, is mandated to:

1

Lead
with
purpose

2

Innovate
relentlessly

3

Expand
educational
access to all

4

Build an
enduring
legacy

Expansion Plans

The plan will be pursued across five key domains:

Research and Innovation

Infrastructure and Technology

Community and Global Engagement

Talent and Culture

Academic Excellence

Future Goals

By 2050, RHU will Continue to:

- Rank among the top 50 global universities.
- Graduate changemakers.
- Host a thriving alum ecosystem.
- Be a beacon of hope, knowledge, and progress for future generations.

نشيد جامعة رفيق الحريري

العلم للجميع
منارة ونور
وحصننا المنيع
في حاليك الدهور
سلامنا أماننا
على مدى العصور
نور به سينجلي مستقبل الزمان
يمضي بنا الى الغلا لمرفأ الأمان
معالم الطريق
صباحنا الصبوح
قد قالها الرفيق
وقوله الوضوح
أمانتي وغايتي
العلم والحضور

كلمات: الاستاذ أحمد قعبور
ألحان: الدكتور أحمد شعبان



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