IN MEMORY

Samir Zaabri

Founder of Universal Trading Group

At the dedication of the science lecture hall that bears his name, Samir spoke about the friendships he had made as a student in Beirut. His son Ahmad, also an alumnus, joined him that day.

Business in the Gulf and Germany

Samir studied business administration at the American University of Beirut (AUB), worked at Kuwait's Ministry of the Interior and moved into contracting. In 1973 he founded Universal Trading Group. He went on to develop businesses in construction, oil and gas across the United Arab Emirates.

His business interests also reached Germany through Lindenberg in Cologne. In January 2008, Abu Dhabi's transmission company awarded Lindenberg Emirates a contract for pipelines to carry water from Sas Al Nakheel to Saadiyat Island. Samir chaired Lindenberg Emirates at the time of his death in January 2012.

Giving back to Beirut

In 1991 Samir established a scholarship for students who needed help paying for their education. On February 22, 2011, AUB dedicated its renovated science lecture hall, recognizing a gift from both Samir and Ahmad. Ahmad later gave his father's name to another gift, an endocrinology laboratory at the university's medical center.

SOURCES

AUB · Obituary, MainGate, spring 2012

AUB · Dedication of the Samir Zaabri Science Lecture Hall, February 2011

Ahmad Zaabri · MainGate, fall 2012, p. 63

Gulf News · Saadiyat water transmission contract, January 28, 2008

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