

For Immediate Release: November 29, 2004

Contact: Ann Marie Menting, 617-353-2240, amenting@bu.edu

Carrie Lock, 617-353-2240, clock@bu.edu

**BOSTON UNIVERSITY GEOLOGIST TO RECEIVE AWARD
FROM ARAB THOUGHT FOUNDATION**

Farouk El-Baz recognized for advancing desert research

(Boston) — The Arab Thought Foundation will present Boston University professor Farouk El-Baz with its Pioneer award during its annual meeting, December 1 to 4 in Marrakech, Morocco. El-Baz, a research professor at Boston University and founding director of its Center for Remote Sensing, is being honored for his research and for his role in improving the future of the Arab world.

El-Baz, a renowned geologist and veteran of the Apollo space program, has spent much of his career investigating the origin and evolution of arid landforms in desert regions worldwide. His pivotal role in advancing desert research has been honored by many groups, including the Geological Society of America (GSA). In 1999, the GSA established the “Farouk El-Baz Award for Desert Research” to encourage excellence in arid land studies.

The Arab Thought Foundation, established in 2002, is a Saudi-supported non-governmental organization based in Beirut, Lebanon. The foundation’s membership includes men and women in politics, religion, business, and science. It aims to promote Arab principles, values, and identity, and to enhance activities in the service of Arab interests.

The Boston University Center for Remote Sensing was established in 1986 as a facility for scientific research in the fields of archaeology, geography, and geology. The Center uses satellite images and other data from both airborne and ground sensors to study Earth and its resources, particularly groundwater. In 1997, it was selected by NASA as a “Center of Excellence in Remote Sensing.”

Boston University, with an enrollment of more than 29,000 in its 17 schools and colleges, is the fourth-largest independent university in the United States.