

NDU SPIRIT

● *Whether big or small, civil or religious, transgressions abound in every community, in every confession, and in every institution. Yet, we make no attempt to stop these wrongdoings, because some of us are slaves to our daily bread and others are slaves to positions, slaves to fear, and slaves to intimidation while the foolish are slaves to the illusion that they are free! These plague-like types of slavery infect our very roots and infect our stems and lofty branches, devouring us from within. Unless we change from the inside, nothing on the outside will ever change. Self-deification is a murderous form of narcissism. What is crueller is the way we judge others and revile them as the devil*

incarnate. But, we tend to forget that what goes around comes around.

By viewing others as mere shadows, we become our own worst enemy. Why then do we fight shadows?

We judge others based on our own model, and see them through our own mirrors.

It is high time to stop this masquerade. Let us repent and repeat with David: „ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.% (Ps.51:10)

We, as individuals and communities, must be born again to deserve the Kingdom of Lebanon... this precious spiritual jewel, which we have transformed into a fiery hell.



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“ Success

To laugh often and much
To win the respect of intelligent people
and the affection of children
To earn the appreciation of honest critics and
endure the betrayal of false friends
To appreciate beauty
To find the best in others
To leave the world a bit better, whether by a
healthy child, a garden patch, or a redeemed
social condition
To know even one life has breathed easier
because you have lived
This is to have succeeded.



by Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803–1882)

President's Message

Reflecting on a Successful Academic Year

The month of July is upon us once again at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU), and this month marks three important calendar events: Commencement Season, the end of another Academic Year, and the beginning of a new Summer Session.

At face value, the close of this Academic Year may appear similar to previous years; however, this is not the case given that each year records a wealth of unique milestones.

As such, I would like to share here my personal views on the exceptional events that shaped the past Academic Year and on the progress we continue to make together.

Many achievements have distinguished this Academic Year—achievements, which do not include the notable advances we have made in the accreditation process with the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC), and the resounding successes of our various activities, celebrations, events, and scientific conferences.

In 2013, NDU began with the full implementation of its new Branding Project, which was launched in 2012. Many of you may have already noticed the significant change in many aspects of the visible image of NDU. A professionally staffed Design and Brand Guardian Office (DBGO) has been created especially for this mission. This Office is entrusted with developing our identity, safeguarding our core image, and building on our promise to deliver value, as reflected in our Mission Statement. On another note, from June 20-21, 2013, I participated in a workshop held at the University of Nicosia, Cyprus, where the *new* European program “*Erasmus for All*” was introduced. “*Erasmus for All*” will be launched in 2014 and “is based on the premise that investing in education and training is the key to unlocking people’s potential, regardless of their age or background. It helps them to increase their personal development, gain new skills, and boost their job prospects.” Faculty members at NDU, who have been active participants in previous European programs, are now preparing themselves for the forthcoming programs.

NDU continues to flourish, because we actively seek change on all fronts.

On the academic front, we are preparing to initiate new programs and degrees in Fall 2013. The Faculty of Political Science, Public Administration and Diplomacy (FPSPAD), now the Faculty of Law and Political Science (FLPS), has opened its

doors to students interested in pursuing a Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.). Other new degree programs (pending final approval) include Master of Science in Financial Risk Management (FBAE); Master of Science in Actuarial Sciences (FNAS); and Master of Science in Nutrition, Bachelor of Science in Business Nutrition, and Bachelor of Science in Health Communication (FNHS).

On the development front, we have finalized the construction of new buildings and facilities. Following the inauguration of the state-of-the-art theater at NDU — named after His Eminent Beatitude Patriarch Cardinal Mar Bechara Boutros al-Rahi, Patriarch of the Maronite Church — the Faculty of Architecture, Art and Design (FAAD), moved to its outstanding new building where our fresh graduates recently exhibited their impressive senior projects.

On the evening of July 1, 2013, NDU inaugurated yet another landmark structure: the Moussa and Farid Raphael Observatory. Boasting a 60-centimeter telescope, our Observatory is unmatched in both Lebanon and the Middle East. The addition of this facility will serve in the advancement of our faculty members and students, particularly our Astronomy and Astrophysics students.

Furthermore, extensive preparations are underway to construct, among other projects, a new library and new research facilities, a specialized research medical center and a hospital, and new playing fields and amenities to augment our sport facilities. In addition, major developments will soon begin across our Regional Campuses: Barsa, Koura, and Deir el-Kamar, Shouf. Turning to our Mission, an important message that will guide us on our journey, and which I would like to mention here, is the first encyclical of Pope Francis titled *Lumen Fidei* (*The Light of Faith*), which was published on July 5, 2013, as the fruit of the “*Year of Faith*” announced by Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI. Today, higher education faces many challenges the world over, particularly in Lebanon. Opinions vary on how best to address these challenges. For me, we must maintain deep faith and remain committed to our Mission if we are to succeed in overcoming any obstacle strewn along our path.

Fr. Walid Moussa, O.M.M.

President

Notre Dame University-Louaize



NDU Celebrates 26th Founders' Day

Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) paused between Thursday, May 9, and Friday, May 10, 2013, to commemorate in a series of special events its rich heritage and promising future for Founders' Day 2013.

The celebrations at the Main Campus were launched with the annual Founders' Day address delivered by Fr. Walid Moussa, NDU President, titled „*The Role of NDU in Challenging Times*“ [reprinted in full in this issue]. Present were: administrators, faculty, staff, students, alumni, NDU friends, invited guests, and public figures.

Following the President's address, three documentaries prepared by the Division of Audio Visual Arts at NDU were screened. The themes of these documentaries were in-





spired from the Mission Statement of NDU - a University of the Third Millennium. The footage and voiceovers highlighted the important role of administrators, faculty, staff, and students in helping the University to continue to grow and prosper.

After the screening, Fr. Moussa joined Administrators in cutting the celebratory cake. The night ended with the students of the Music Department delivering an inspiring musical performance. A cocktail followed the performance.

The second day of celebrations, May 10, opened with a special Mass organized by the Pastoral Office in which Fr. Ziad Antoun, Director of Administration at NDU, was the main celebrant. Following Mass, the Students Activities

Office gathered students and members of the various NDU Clubs in the open area to light a candle to commemorate NDU's 26th Anniversary.

„Dance Fever% was the theme of this year's celebrations. Just before the partying began, NDU honored local rally champion Mr. Billy Karam, and the *Guinness Book of World Records* holder for the largest collection of model cars.

Celebrities such as Mr. Tony Baroud, Bruna Tohmé, Rachelle Asmar, Elie Abi Saleh, and Sandrine Jabra later took turns at hosting the rest of the event. NDU students partied until dawn with the framework of dancing, singing, and engaging in a variety of entertaining activities.







Founder's Day 2013

Address of Fr. Walid Moussa
President of Notre Dame University – Louaize
Founders' Day 2013

The Role of NDU in Challenging Times

Today, we live in a world where shady political agendas on a global scale reign and uncounted atrocities abound. A quote that best describes this alarming situation says, „ We live in an age where terrorism, madness, rage, chaos, and killing prevail.‰ The entire world reeks with the stench of blood and misery. Primitive barbarity is now on par with a new type of violence spurred by technological advances, blurring the line between these two evils. The world has rapidly degenerated into a systemic mess in which blind madness dictates the fate of humanity.

To try to understand a world devoid of sanity, we need to ask ourselves some hard questions: „ Is humanity doomed to live an uncivilized and unbalanced existence, which is fueled by an inexplicable drive to kill one another? When did the staunch moral citizens of the world renounce their values and principles, and sink into a quagmire of immorality with no sign of recovery?

This gloomy outlook weighs heavily on the minds of many philosophers and intellectuals. Our morally reprehensible world is particularly disturbing and requires us to tread carefully and remain on high alert. As educators · Administrators and Faculty · we are called upon to reflect inward to avoid falling into the trap of contributing, whether intentionally or unintentionally, to this sharp decline. For if we choose to ignore the present reality, we would be like an ostrich hiding its head in the sand, waiting for the danger to pass in the false hope that it will emerge unscathed.

Dear Friends,

Lebanon is but a mere drop in the ocean. We do not shape events; events shape us. Like countless other nations, we try to determine a direction to follow, but we lack a compass to guide us. Instead, we „ sit on the wayside,‰ waiting for things to happen while the world around us crumbles into a sea of hostility, and the very earth moves beneath our feet.

In the case of our leaders, personal interests take precedence over national concerns in the murky waters of politics. Here, we must remember what His Beatitude Patriarch Cardinal Bechara Boutros Rahi wrote in his first Annual Letter. He says, „ Political rivalry is a natural and necessary phenomenon in any healthy democratic system. It is unacceptable, however, that political parties relentlessly seek to cause political fragmentation, and continue to illicitly share in the State's assets and squander its resources.‰ Our leaders thus far have come up against a brick wall, finding it seemingly impossible to form a new government, to enact a new electoral law, or to implement free, democratic parliamentary elections. By implication, this means that we are not qualified to lead this country.

Despite this looming reality, we must refrain from leveling accusations. Instead, we must honestly ask ourselves, „ Who is to be held responsible for the current situation in Lebanon? When and why did we reach this critical state, which is negatively affecting all spheres of life: social, political, economic, and educational?‰

At this juncture, I admit that we, leaders of educational institutions and particularly universities, are partly to blame for this crisis.

The truth, my friends, is that for nearly forty years, Lebanon has been plagued by a unique and complex predicament, which has adversely affected its role as an independent and civilized state. Today, we find that we are unable to build a nation, maintain a government, develop a viable economy, or live in harmony under the banner of national unity.

We have turned into a nation of feuding tribes and clans driven by a lust to kill whenever we are called to arms. Our television screens have become a showcase for accusations, rumors, and outright lies. Our educational institutions have been repeatedly smeared. These falsehoods at one point almost made us believe that, just maybe, we were impotent and incapable of building a nation.

Why are we responsible? My answer is three-fold.

First, since its inception as an independent entity, Lebanon has been entrusted with upholding a "civilized" role in the region.

What does this mean? It means: freedom of expression, including the right to demonstrate; free press; free publication and media; liberal education, i.e. art and culture (theater, films, music, poetry, etc.); sports; and, of course, tourism for all seasons.

This role embodies the human journey par excellence, because according to Georges Duhamel, "If civilization is not in the inner self, it's nowhere."

Do we still maintain this role? Have others overtaken us? Have others taken advantage of our troubles by robbing us of our hard-earned position (and maybe rightly so)? Students from across the Middle East have always sought out universities in Lebanon, because our universities used to be a living and breathing example of free thought and innovation, and a dynamic stage for popular uprisings and calls for change. Does this unique characteristic still hold true today?

If we lose our role as the seat of culture, as a nation, and as a University, then we lose everything.

Second, Lebanon has existed as a country, which embraces diversity in all its forms: cultural, religious, social, and ethnic. God has bestowed upon us a nation set in spectacular natural beauty, and our strategic geographical location has been recognized for centuries as the gateway between the East and West. Countless others have believed in us and supported us across the ages. Pope John Paul II once said, "Lebanon is more than a country; it is a mission."

In his second Annual Letter, Patriarch Rahi writes, "Based on the National Pact, Lebanon is not a religious state, it is a secular one. In other words, neither religion nor religious books such as the Bible or the Quran are used as a source of legislation."

Dr. Charles Malek, a Lebanese scholar, says, "When Muslim-Christian equality ceases to exist in Lebanon, Lebanon will cease to exist."

Given this diversity, where do we stand today? Doesn't the threat of an impending exodus hang over the heads of all our communities day in and day out? We are presented with new road maps for the Middle East each day, which serve to further divide, destabilize, and weaken the region. In addition, we live under the threat of blind and widespread fundamentalism and extremism in every corner, both locally and regionally. Mutual respect is but a memory, an individual's destiny becomes the property of the tyrant, sovereignty is shunned, and the rule of law is blatantly disobeyed.

As educational institutions, have we exerted ourselves to foster diversity instead of contributing toward its death and burial?

If universities lose their role in preserving and developing diversity, we lose Lebanon. Universities were established to bring together men and women, different beliefs, different political parties, different religions, different social classes, and different nationalities. Universities were founded to serve as an open forum for dialogue, discussion and interaction, and to provide again a venue for students to meet, learn, and get to know one another.

"Dear Friends,

I reiterate, if we lose our role as a nation and as a University to preserve diversity and to respect plurality, we lose everything.

Third, we are responsible, because our faith in God makes us the children of faith. Christian churches, monasteries, and shrines, belfries and minarets, Muslim mosques, and Druze prayer-houses (*khalwat*) flourish in every Lebanese town and village from north to south and from the highest peaks down to the coastal regions. This unique demography raises the existentialist question: Are we true believers

– in both word and deed – or mere religious fundamentalists?

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI declared 2013 the „*Year of Faith*.% Let us probe our conscience to find out whether we are true believers or not.

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ asked us to love one another. He saved us all, without distinction, without exception.

The Special Assembly for the Middle East of the Synod of Bishops, convening in the Vatican City in 2010, announced, „Religious freedom is above all freedoms. It is, hence, vital to move from forgiveness to religious freedom. Religions can meet to serve the common good and to build society. Seek to live in union, respect, and brotherly communion with one another.%

The *Sura al-Imran (Verse 64)* of the Qur'an, says, „O People of the Scripture, come to a word that is equitable between us and you- that we will not worship except Allah and not associate anything with Him and not take one another as lords instead of Allah.%

This is true faith, which is far removed from resentment, fundamentalism, and murderous identities.

If the University loses its role in deepening the Christian faith in the hearts of its administrators, faculty, staff, and students, then what would be its role and its future?

If we lose the battle to deepen our great faith · in our national role and in our role as a University · this nation would witness religious confessions, serving as a rallying point for warring camps in an atmosphere of pure hatred. Instead of defending human rights, we would end up defending the rights of confessions, which would ultimately lead to war. May God deliver our University and other universities and educational institutions from blind confessionalism. True faith must be preserved, for it is only through true faith that unity and human dignity can be achieved.

We live in a world dominated by chaos and death. We are invited, therefore, to join hands to triumph over hatred and violence, and to regain our three-dimensional role by:

- Preserving civilization in the region;
- Fostering human relations in terms of diversity and plurality;
- Deepening our faith in God so that He may guide us away from our selfish desires and lusts. We can truly be His children, united by His love, and guided toward the Good, the Just, and the Beautiful.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Dear NDU Community Members,

This is my message today. I am not afraid, and I am willing to take a stand. As many of you are aware, we, as a University, are using all means in our power to initiate reform, maintain our high quality of education, and ultimately obtain institutional accreditation from one of the most recognized accrediting bodies in the world. I can assure you today that we are getting closer to our goal.

Yet, we carry a heavy burden due to the prevailing situation in our country and the entire region. I call upon you once again to join hands with us to save our University, to save our country, and I would not be exaggerating by also adding „to save the world,% for we are all responsible before God, before our conscience, and before humanity. Today, we celebrate Founders' Day. On this special occasion, which is an occasion of celebration and contemplation, I thank you all for your cooperation: the Maronite Order of the Blessed Virgin Mary, represented by Superior General Abbot Boutros Tarabay; the Order's Supreme Council; Dr. François Bassil, President and members of the Board of Trustees; University administrators; faculty; staff; students; and alumni.

I firmly believe that God is always with us. May God bless you all. Long live NDU! Long live Lebanon!

Academic Affairs

Dr. Robert Fisk: A Dialogue on the “Nature of Freedom”

Ameen RHAYEM, Hiba EID, and Natalie TOUMA
Pictures: Wadih ESTEPHAN

Dr. Robert Fisk, an English writer and multiple award-winning journalist, was the guest speaker at a panel discussion titled the „*Nature of Freedom*,% which was held on May 27, 2013, at the Issam Faris Conference Hall, Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU). The Vice-President for Cultural Affairs and Public Relations–Press Office, the Department of Mass Communication, and the Council for Research in Values and Philosophy (CRVP) organized the event.

Dr. Fisk, who has lived and worked in Beirut for more than 35 years in the capacity of Middle East correspondent of *The Independent*, discussed the Nature of Freedom with Prof. Edward Alam, Professor of Philosophy at NDU and General Secretary of the CRVP, in the presence of NDU administrators, lecturers, staff, and students.

The panel discussion focused on three broad philosophical questions, regarding the concept of freedom in which Dr. Fisk was given 10 minutes to answer each question. Dr. Fisk, who is also fluent in Arabic, was asked to discuss „freedom% as seen through the eyes of a westerner and in his capacity as a foreign correspondent in the Middle East. Prof. Alam posed the first question, „In your book, *The Great War For Civilization: The Conquest of the Middle East*, you mentioned, „I think in the end we have to accept that our tragedy lies always in our past, that we have to live with our ancestors’ folly and suffer for it, just as they, in their turn, suffered, and as we, through our vanity and arrogance, ensure the pain and suffering of our own children. How to correct history, that’s the thing...’ In your judgment, what is your relation between correcting history and escaping it, and what’s the journalist’s role according to this?%”

Dr. Fisk, who combines his journalism with a deeper sense of history and context, replied to the question by giving the example of Lebanese citizens. In his opinion, the Lebanese are no longer able to break away from their sectarian political system since it has become a part of their national identity. He said, „I watched people in these artificial borders burn... I was amazed to find that the majority of people I met here in Lebanon are highly intelligent; however, in the West we don’t think that they are!%”



❖ Dr. Robert Fisk.



❖ Prof. Edward Alam.



❖ The audience.

Dr. Fisk continued, „The freedom that I cherish as a journalist is that I have the freedom to challenge power, and what I like about the Middle East and Lebanon in particular is that you can criticize U.S. policy, and the roof will not fall on your head. Here, journalists can speak the truth.%”

Prof. Alam’s second question centered on the perception between the reflection of beauty and freedom on the one hand and truth and freedom on the other hand, especially in the case of the U.S.A.

Dr. Fisk responded that the problem in the U.S.A. was the absence of the use of freedom. He stated that journalists in America have become the mouthpiece of the government. They do not challenge authority. He said, „In America, you can talk about everything except the Middle East, and in the end even though there is a lot of freedom in America most of it is not used.%”

The last question focused on the perception of modern notions of freedom and the political and religious realities in the Middle East of today.

Dr. Fisk said, „Lots of people believe that women have the same rights as men. I believe people should be left alone to find and fight for their own freedom without having a foreign country come and interfere by trying to export their version of freedom to other countries. In many capital cities across the Middle East, you can find Women’s Rights for freedom and education; however, outside these capitals, the same concept does not apply. In Lebanon, I believe that Women’s Rights are at the forefront. As I mentioned, people should be left alone to develop at their own pace.%”



❖ Dr. Robert Fisk (center) with NDU students.

Alumni Affairs Office

Faces in the Crowd: Class of 2013

Simon Abou JAOUDE



Our roaming camera at the Alumni event „*Celebrating Your Next Step*“ captured many faces in late May and early June, 2013, on all three campuses of Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU). We made it a point not to overlook the captivating moments that made the event worthwhile. All of these faces will take the podium to receive the diploma they worked hard to earn. The NDU Alumni community is made up of dynamic figures· intelligent, zealous, determined, and ambitious graduates committed to their society and professions, making a great impact wherever they go.

The „Class of 2013“ follows in their footsteps· faces in the crowd that ought to be recognized. Fr. Walid Moussa, NDU President, captured this spirit perfectly when he said, „We want our graduates to be connected and committed to their communities and their professions across the board. Supporting them in this process is our duty and our privilege, day by day, alumnus by alumnus.“ The Class of 2013 steps out into a world plagued by economic woes and national distress. Still they are ready to meet the challenges of this world head-on and with optimism.

The Alumni Affairs Office sent out an e-mail at random, asking prospective graduates to share their thoughts on NDU with the NDU community. These graduates can provide us with their sincere thoughts about their University life and experience. I once heard Fr. Bechara Khoury, Director of Finance at NDU, say, „What is important to this, or any university, is not only its past but its future. NDU graduates are our bright future.“

The e-mails below provide us with a flavor of NDU’s new graduates from seven Faculties, and we will have much more to come soon from graduates of our other campuses. Watch out, our graduates are ready to rock the world!



Joelle Basbous, Advertising & Marketing, writes, „Aristotle said, ‘The roots of education are bitter, but the fruit is sweet.’ I am an NDU student graduating with a BA in Advertising and Marketing this July. My academic experience at NDU helped me improve my skills and understand the real world of media and advertising. My personal experience was further enriched after spending

three years at the dorms; NDU became my second home and the place where I felt secure. Student life and the beautiful atmosphere at NDU encouraged me participate in club activities that helped build my self-confidence. NDU

has prepared me for a successful career, and I am planning to work in an advertising agency. I owe much to my Alma Mater NDU for all the academic knowledge and personal experience it has provided me. NDU is my second home and I will remember it each and every time I travel further in my life and career. After all, how can I forget a place that gave me too much to remember? A wise man at NDU once said, “When you leave here, don’t forget why you came.”



Fadine Chihane, Architecture, writes, „Throughout my years of education at NDU, I’ve had the opportunity to discover, explore, and experience a great deal of opportunities. Majoring in Architecture was a whole new phase in my life from which I’ve gained several beneficial aspects that en-

hanced my academic thinking and supported my personal being. I have been able to experience life in the world of architecture and understand the definition of teamwork, practice the art of presentation, and extend the limits of my imagination. Having reached the end of my experience at NDU, I plan to launch myself into real life while continuing my education by pursuing a Master degree in Architectural Design. After five years at NDU, I dedicate all my past and future successes to my dear professors who helped me shape my path. A wise man at NDU once told me, “To be nobody but yourself in a world that is doing its best night and day to make you everybody else means to fight the hardest battle, which any human being can fight, and never stop fighting.”



Hoda Helou, International Affairs & Diplomacy, writes, „Mission accomplished! BA acquired! I am graduating. ‘Success is most often achieved by those who don’t know that failure is inevitable.’ Being an NDU student provided me with great academic and social life experiences that shaped my success. Studying International Affairs and Diplomacy provided me with all

the theoretical and practical skills I will require throughout my career and personal life. Ever since my enrollment at NDU in 2010, I was on the Dean’s List, and I received a good scholarship. My goal was always to excel in my studies to acquire the best education possible. I was always active in clubs at the Faculty. During my last year, I was appointed as President of the Club of International Rela-

tions (CIR). This helped me gain even more experience and more friends. I did my internships with different NGOs, Foreign Ministry departments, and United Nations agencies. For the future, I plan to start my Master's degree in International Law at NDU. NDU was never just a university where I went to receive my degree; it was a way of life. I learned a lot from this phase in my life. I learned how to be determined and positive, how to plan and achieve, how to cooperate and lead. Now, I am learning how to continue and move beyond. A wise man at NDU once told me, "I've come to believe that each of us has a personal calling that's as unique as a fingerprint. and that the best way to succeed is to discover what you love and then find a way to offer it to others in the form of service, working hard, and also allowing the energy of the universe to lead you."



Stephanie Azar, Nutrition & Dietetics writes, "I would like to start with the following thought, "The best thing about studying at NDU is the sense of belonging that you feel on campus." I have been a student at NDU for the past three years and few days separate me from becoming an Alumnus. The years I spent at NDU added much to my life and personality. NDU was the place

where I got what I wanted from a university, on both the academic and personal levels. I met a lot of interesting and wonderful people. I felt as if we were one family throughout these years; students were very friendly and lecturers were very helpful. I'll remember the laughs in the hallway of the Faculty, the stress in the exam halls, and the decisions taken at the Dean's Office. "The dream begins with a teacher who believes in you, who tugs and pushes, and leads you to the next plateau, sometimes poking you with a sharp stick: "You can do it." This thought applies to three very distinguished professors, Dean Antoine Farhat, Dr. Doris Jaalouk, and Mrs. Maya Abou Jaoude. Thank you for granting me the continuous pride of being an NDU graduate...My memories at NDU will always be missed but never forgotten."



Elias F. Kazan, Banking & Finance, writes: "Summarizing my experience at NDU is not easy; however, its highlights will remain vivid in my memory for the longest time. NDU does it with a heart. Throughout my four years at NDU, as a Banking and Finance student, I attended courses with several instructors, whom I benefited from their

practical knowledge as well as personal experiences; this has significantly reflected on my academic accomplishments and achievements. My personality and character were constantly developing as I encountered instructors and students alike each having a different background and a unique story. As for my future career, it is starting to take its course with my foot firmly planted in a well reputable company, working in my own field of interest and study.

No words can suffice to describe an NDU experience given that it is a refreshing mix of knowledge and valuable information, an opportunity and a challenge, brief encounters and life-long relationships, and above all, a memory that one can retain with pride. A wise man at NDU once said, "The difference between a successful person and others is not a lack of strength, not a lack of knowledge, but rather a lack in will."



Samia el-Khoury, Actuarial Science & Insurance, writes, "I feel honored to have had the opportunity to have studied at such a reputable university, for the education and wealth of knowledge that my insightful instructors provided me with are priceless. I spent three memorable years at NDU, during which NDU was my second home. I met great new friends and together, we enjoyed every single minute

of the lively social life at NDU. I would like to thank all my instructors, in particular my lovely advisor Mrs. Claudia Freiji Bou Nassif, for they have given me a strong educational background, and assisted me with their full support through the hardest part of the decision making process, as I was making my future plans. In a few weeks, I will be leaving my home country to continue my studies abroad. I was granted a full scholarship to pursue a Master's degree in Actuarial Science at Concordia University, Canada. NDU put me on the right track toward achieving my goals. Being a student at NDU was a very good experience and one that I will always cherish. A wise man at NDU once said, "Our greatest fear should not be of failure but of succeeding at things in life that don't really matter."



Francois Zein, Electrical Engineering, writes, "Your university education will shape your career" is what my father told me. When I first enrolled at NDU in Fall 2008, my only mission was to pass all my courses, finish all requirements, and get my degree. But then as semesters passed I realized that it's not only important to pass courses with just any passing grade, but the most important thing is to get

the maximum benefits from each course and grasp the experience that our instructors communicated to us to help us get the best education. What our instructors have taught us at NDU will never be taught by anyone else in our career. Student life at NDU was just right to enjoy campus life. My future plan is to work in the field of designing electrical layouts for various construction projects, which I already started with six months ago. I won't be traveling from Lebanon except for specific missions within a limited timeframe. NDU will be remembered as the University that gave me the first and most important step to face all challenges, conflicts, and opportunities that I may encounter in the future. I send a special thanks to all my instructors and colleagues who helped me get the best out of my major. A wise man at NDU once said, "Success is knowing your purpose in life, growing to reach your maximum potential, and sowing seeds that benefit others."

Academic And Student Activities

LERC

Activities and Important Visitors

Read full articles at www.ndu.edu.lb/lerc

Dr. Hourani Attends 2012 Middle East and Islamic Studies at Japan Workshop in Beirut - Dr. Guita HOURANI

As part of its mission, the Japan Center for Middle Eastern Studies (JaCMES) organized on December 1, 2012, its 2012 workshop where young Japanese researchers presented their academic research (mostly Ph.D. study theses) before a panel of experts in their respective fields, who were invited to comment on the papers presented.

Dr. Guita Hourani, Director of the Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU), was invited in the capacity of an expert on Middle Eastern migration to read, comment, and advise on a paper by Dr. Mari Nukii, Research Associate at the Waseda University in Tokyo. The paper was titled „*The History of the Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services: Living as Arab-Americans in America Before and After 9/11*,% which dealt with the history and services of the organization before and after 9/11. Hourani also served in the capacity of an observer during other workshops.



❖ Dr. Hourani (left) commenting of Dr. Nukii's Paper (Beirut: December 1, 2012)

Dr. Hourani Gives a Lecture on Lebanese Out-of-Country Voting at a Workshop in Tokyo, Japan - Dr. Guita HOURANI

The Japan Center for Middle Eastern Studies (JaCMES) invited Dr. Guita Hourani, Director of the Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU), to give a lecture on December 12, 2012, at a workshop titled „*The Proposed Electoral Law for 2013 and Out-Of-Country Voting: Marginalization of the Lebanese Diaspora Engagement*.% The workshop was held at the Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa (ILCAA) at the Tokyo University of Foreign Studies (TUFS), Japan.

Dr. Hourani began her lecture by providing her audience with an overview of the efforts to grant Lebanese citizens living abroad the right to participate in parliamentary elections in Lebanon through out-of-country voting. She analyzed the positions of the various political parties and parliamentary blocks, concerning the most recent Electoral Law proposal and its articles governing the participation of



❖ Dr. Hourani (standing) delivering her lecture on out-of-country voting (Tokyo: December 12, 2012)

Lebanese expatriates in the 2013 election as well as the potential effect of out-of-country voting on the current political state in the country.

She discussed how the current Lebanese government proposes to allocate six new parliamentary seats, which will be filled largely by those elected by Lebanese expatriates and also discussed the fact that a previous government found the allocation of twelve seats „unconstitutional% and „discriminatory.%

Dr. Hourani also discussed at length the geographical distribution and estimated number of Lebanese expatriates as well as the estimated cost of out-of-country voting. Dr. Hourani further debated the procrastination of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants in setting up a viable mechanism for out-of-country voting for the 2013 parliamentary elections and the unfounded claim by the same ministry that Lebanese expatriates are apathetic to out-of-country voting. A Q&A session followed the lecture.

LERC Honors Dr. Moise Khayrallah - Maritta SISLIAN

In the presence of Fr. Walid Moussa, President of Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU), Dr. Assaad Eid, NDU Vice-President for Sponsored Research and Development, and Dr. Amine Rihani, NDU Vice-President for Academic Affairs, the Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) honored on February 26, 2013, Dr. Moise Khayrallah for establishing the Khayrallah Program for Lebanese-American Studies at North Carolina State University, U.S.A., which Dr. Akram Khater administers.

Dr. Khayrallah holds a Ph.D. in Psychology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, U.S.A. With more than 23 of experience in executive and research development positions in pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, he is today the President, CEO, and Co-Founder of Neuronex. Dr. Khayrallah hails from the village of Ghbeleh in Lebanon. He emigrated to the U.S.A. in 1983, but remains in close contact with his family in Lebanon and visits home regularly.

Fr. Moussa presented Dr. Khayrallah with an „Achievement Award% in recognition of his success in North Carolina. Fr. Moussa said that Lebanese expatriates are a source of pride to Lebanon and that every single citizen in Lebanon



❖ (from left): Mrs. Liliane Haddad, Dr. Guita Hourani, Dr. Maha Mouchantaf, the mother of Dr. Moise Khayrallah, Dr. Moise Khayrallah, Fr. Walid Moussa, Dr. Assaad Eid, Mr. Roger Khayrallah, and Dr. Edward Alam

considers as an honor the success stories of every Lebanese expatriate.

Dr. Khayrallah thanked the LERC and NDU for the award and reinstated that he was proud of his Lebanese heritage, promising to continue pursuing this path by establishing similar programs in all the states of the U.S.A.

LERC Honors Dr. Akram Khater at NDU - Maritta SISLIAN

The Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) honored on May 21, 2013, Dr. Akram Khater for the following accomplishments: His scholarly achievements in the field of Lebanese migration, the founding of the Khayrallah Program for Lebanese-American Studies, and the launch of *Mashriq & Mahjar: Journal of Middle East Migration Studies*.

Dr. Guita Hourani, Director of the LERC, welcomed to the Center Dr. Khater and his family, Dr. Assad Eid, NDU Vice-President for Sponsored Research and Development, Dr. Amin Rihani, NDU Vice-President for Academic Affairs,

and Faculty Deans and Directors. Dr. Eid read a short biography on Dr. Khater to initiate the recognition ceremony. Dr. Khater was born in 1960 in Lebanon. He is currently an Associate Professor of History, Founder and Director of the Khayrallah Program for Lebanese-American Studies, and Director of Middle East Studies Program at the North Carolina State University in the U.S.A., in cooperation with Dr. Moise Khayrallah, and cofounder of the *Mashriq-Mahar Journal of Middle East Migration Studies*. He is a published author with several published books under his belt. His book *Inventing Home: Emigration, Gender and the Making of a Lebanese Middle Class* is a world reference for

Lebanese emigration studies. His most recent work is a documentary titled *Cedars in the Pines*, which focuses on the history of the Lebanese community in North Carolina. He has recently been asked to join a specialist multiethnic committee to serve the Federal Census Bureau in the U.S.A. as well as to serve as an expert on the Arab population in the U.S.

Dr. Eid and Dr. Rihani both presented Dr. Khater with an „Acknowledgement Award“ on behalf of Fr. Walid Mousa, NDU President, in recognition to his achievements in the U.S.A.

Following the award presentation, a shortened version of *Cedars in the Pines* was screened. After the screening, Dr. Khater thanked the LERC and NDU. He said that the Khayrallah Program was established to academically credit the efforts and influential role that the Lebanese have played in North Carolina and to give a truer picture of the Lebanese, especially since 9/11. He saluted his cooperation with the LERC, praising its pioneering work and commending the efforts of Dr. Hourani in making the Center what it is today: A renowned Center in academic circles.

Dr. Rihani congratulated the LERC for being able to bring together scholars and experts working on Lebanese emigration such as Dr. Khater and for being an invaluable reference in this field. He said that the LERC was established



❖ (from left): Dr. Assad Eid, Dr. Akram Khater, and Dr. Amin Rihani.

as the first center in the world to study Lebanese emigration from a scientific perspective and not from an emotional one. He added that throughout the 10 years since its founding, the relations the LERC has forged both locally and internationally attest to its success.

Following the ceremony, Faculty Deans and Directors congratulated Dr. Khater and together with the LERC team, escorted him to the Lebanon Migration Nucleus Museum where Dr. Hourani presented him with a collection of books published by the LERC.

Hadi el-Khoury, Vice-President of the French-Lebanese Association for Information Technology Professionals Visits LERC - Maritta SISLIAN

Hadi el-Khoury is a young Lebanese entrepreneur who currently works and lives in France. Despite having left Lebanon to complete his education and pursue a career in IT, he is keen on maintaining strong ties with his homeland and does his best to give back to Lebanon.

One year ago, a small and like-minded group of passionate Lebanese expatriates, led by Mr. Khoury, launched the „Keefak“ application, which is now available on the App Store and on Google Play. This application is designed as an interactive and simple platform to teach Arabic in vernacular Lebanese to smart phone and smart tablet users.

The following are Keefak online resources, which can be accessed to obtain further information:

- Website: www.keefaktheapp.com
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/KeefakTheApp
- Twitter: www.twitter.com/KeefakTheApp



❖ The „Keefak“ Application

Roundtable Symposium on „Lebanese Churches Self-Understanding of the Mission of God in Relation to Migrant Domestic Workers.‰

Maritta SISLIAN

The Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU), in cooperation with the Council for Research in Values and Philosophy (CRVP) at NDU, organized a roundtable symposium and invited Rev. Dr. Robert Hamd to discuss his Ph.D. findings on „*Lebanese Churches' Self Understanding of the Mission of God in Relation to Migrant Domestic Workers.‰*

Dr. Edward Alam, Director of the CRVP, welcomed Rev. Hamd and the attendees to the lecture. Dr. Guita Hourani, Director of the LERC, introduced Rev. Hamd through a short biography saying that Rev. Hamd, a Lebanese-American, had served as a church planter and pastor in Jordan, France, the U.S.A., and Lebanon. He is the current Pastor of a global South congregation in Beirut, Lebanon, and the Executive Director of the Philemon Project, a church-sponsored ministry of The National Evangelical Church that works among the marginalized. He earned a BA from Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan U.S.A., an MDiv at The Near East School of Theology in Beirut, Lebanon, and a Doctorate in Intercultural Studies from Fuller Theological School in Pasadena, California, U.S.A. He was Senior Pastor from 2004-2007 of the First Presbyterian Church in Houma, Louisiana in the U.S.A. During that time, he led his church through America's most deadliest and destructive hurricane- Katrina. His church responded to the thousands of survivors by opening a church-based ministry called Baby Central to support those who had lost their

homes, separated from their relatives, and suffered from both physical and mental distress. Baby Central provided much-needed supplies for the babies of displaced mothers. Dr. Hamd began his lecture by providing a brief overview of the dire situation the MDWs are facing in Lebanon. He explained that his study understands how Lebanese churches treat the plight of the MDWs as an indicator of the Lebanese churches' self-understanding of the *Missio Dei* (*Mission of God*). He has conducted 25 in-depth, open interviews with migrant domestic workers in Lebanon and 50 blended surveys of Lebanese key clergy members of various denominations to analyze the perceptions and attitudes toward migrant domestic workers in Lebanon. Using grounded theory approach, he reveals how key clergy are complicit in propping up structural injustices against vulnerable African and Asian migrant workers in Lebanon, rather than confronting societal sin in the name of Jesus. This study is of vital interest and importance, because it is the first time that this topic is addressed from a theological lens and not through the lens of social science. The results of this study show that religious figures are reluctant to bear responsibility in this regard and instead shift the blame onto the government. Dr. Hamd also stressed that Lebanon should advance its Labor Law and especially the *kafala* system (*sponsorship system*) toward the MDWs for it to be a country worthy of joining the list of states that respect human rights.

(from left): Dr. Joseph Yaacoub; Mrs. Lilianne Haddad; Mrs. Marie-Jose Tayah; Dr. Nick Kahwaji; Ms. Leslie Hage; Dr. Guita Hourani; Dr. Robert Hamd; Dr. Edward Alam; Mr. Roger Khayrallah; Dr. Eugene Sensenig Dabbous; and Ms. Honoree Claris.



Dr. Raouf Rifai Donates Painting to the Lebanon Migration Nucleus Museum - Maritta SISLIAN

Dr. Raouf Rifai, a well-known Lebanese-born painter, donated one of his paintings to the Lebanon Migration Nucleus Museum at the Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC). The ceremony was held on Thursday, May 16, 2013, in the presence of Dr. Guita Hourani, Director of the LERC, Dr. Jean Pierre Asmar, Dean of the Faculty of Architecture, Art and Design, Khaled Abou Hol, a Lebanese artist, and members of the LERC team.

Dr. Rifai's painting symbolizes Lebanese emigration titled *Diaspora 1*, which he completed in 2009. In this piece, the artist depicts skyscrapers in New York and a Lebanese immigrant, as seen through the eyes of a westerner, wearing a *tarboush (fez)* with big lips and a big nose. The aim of the painting is to reveal the contradictory ways in which westerners view the Lebanese. Dr. Rifai says westerners see the Lebanese in two ways: as scholars, researchers, successful entrepreneurs, and famous doctors or as a lazy race or terrorists. The painting, therefore, expresses the need for dialogue between East and West.

Dr. Rifai studied Fine Arts at the Lebanese University and later obtained a Ph.D. in Urbanism from the Sorbonne I University in Paris, France. He started teaching in 1995 and today lectures in the Department of Architecture and Design at the Lebanese University.

Dr. Rifai has held several solo exhibitions in Lebanon, Spain, the U.A.E., France, the U.S.A., and Japan, and has participated in many joint exhibitions around the world.



❖ Dr. Raouf Rifai posing in front of his painting *Diaspora 1*.

His work is also displayed in many public collections; namely, the Sursock Museum, Lebanon; the National Museum of Modern Art, Syria; the Muharram Beh Museum in Alexandria, Egypt; and recently in Christie's: Fine Arts Auctions.

Dr. Rifai participated in the „*Diaspora Exhibition*,“ which the LERC organized in 2010, where he exhibited his painting titled *Diaspora III*; he later donated the painting to NDU's Faculty of Architecture, Art and Design.

Dr. Rifai promised continuous cooperation with the LERC, and commended the Center's efforts in establishing the Lebanon Migration Nucleus Museum, especially since it exhibits artwork that reflects its Mission

Mr. Tarek Boustani Visits the LERC - Maritta SISLIAN

Born in the Republic of Togo to Lebanese parents, Mr. Tarek Boustani is a distinguished commercial airline pilot, who has flown for ASKY Airlines since 2010. Mr. Boustani learned to fly airplanes at the age of 14 at the Aero-Club of Lome before moving on to fly jets in the United States of America and France. He previously piloted for Europe Airpost (formerly Aeropostale). Mr. Boustani was also the President of Togo's former private pilot.

Mr. Boustani visited the LERC on Tuesday, May 21, 2013, where he was appointed the LERC's Liaison Officer in West Africa. He has promised to send his grandfather's personal collection given that his grandfather was the first member of the Boustani family to emigrate to Africa. Mr. Boustani also donated to the LERC two Arabic books titled *Le baron*. Mrs. Lilianne Haddad introduced Mr. Boustani through a presentation to the Center's mission and archival database. He was later given a tour of the Lebanon Migration Nucleus Museum.



❖ Dr. Raouf Rifai posing in front of his painting *Diaspora 1*.

Mr. Boustani promised continued cooperation and expressed his pleasure in being selected as one of the LERC's new international team members.

LERC Honors Outgoing Mexican Ambassador Fuentes with „Achievement Award“ - Youssef el-HELOU

The Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) honored on June 11, 2013, outgoing Ambassador of Mexico to Lebanon, H.E. Jorge Álvarez Fuentes, with an „Achievement Award“ for his staunch support of the Center, during his tenure in Lebanon (2007-2013). The tribute also served as a farewell to Ambassador Fuentes given that he has recently been appointed Ambassador of Mexico to Egypt, Jordan, Syria, and Sudan.

Ambassador Fuentes has been a career diplomat since 1987, and before becoming Ambassador of Mexico to Lebanon, he previously served as Ambassador of Mexico New Zealand from 1999-2004.

In attendance were: Ambassador Fuentes; Jorge Malcom Baker, the President of the Bureau of Consular Affairs at the Mexican Embassy; Fr. Walid Moussa, President of NDU; Dr. Assaad Eid Vice-President for Sponsored Research and Development; Mr. Souhail Matar, Vice-President for Cultural Affairs and Public Relations; Mr. Roberto Khatlab, the LERC Liaison Officer to Latin America; Faculty deans, directors, staff members, and guests.

Dr. Hourani welcomed the audience and expressed her appreciation of Ambassador Fuentes's efforts and his significant contributions to Lebanon, during his inspiring tenure. Dr. Hourani also thanked him for deepening relations be-

tween the LERC and the several hundred thousand Mexicans of Lebanese descent.

Dr. Eid in his speech said, „It is both a pleasure and a privilege to stand here today and introduce a distinguished guest who is not an ordinary man but an accomplished academic and diplomat. Ambassador Alvarez has more than three decades of academic and diplomatic experience...

„While remaining a committed, global academic, Ambassador Alvarez has distinguished himself as an outstanding diplomat... Ambassador Alvarez's passion to bridge Lebanese universities, specially NDU with Mexican universities and the Lebanese expatriates in Mexico is more than visible. His collaboration with the LERC has yielded quite valuable and rewarding results.

„For all of this we say 'thank you.' Today's acknowledgement is but a token of our appreciation and gratitude, and we look forward to continuous cooperation with His Excellency wherever he may be. For us, it is not a 'farewell' but a 'goodbye', and until we meet again, we wish him the best in his new endeavor.“

For his part, Fr. Moussa commended the efforts of Ambassador Fuentes in helping to establish the Lebanon Migration Nucleus Museum at NDU. Fr. Moussa said, „Ambassador Fuentes has shown a great degree of interest in our academic affairs, and has always been one of our strong-



(from left): Fr. Walid Moussa, Ambassador Jorge Alvarez Fuentes, Mr. Suheil Matar, Dr. Assaad Eid, and Dr. Guita Hourani.

est supporters; therefore, NDU, as an academic institution, is proud to honor him here today.™

Dr. Hourani, Dr. Eid, and Mr. Matar joined Fr. Moussa in presenting Ambassador Fuentes with an „Achievement Award.™

Ambassador Fuentes then took the lectern and thanked NDU and the LERC. He said that the LERC was a treasure for Lebanese migration and a center of which to be proud. He added that he was always happy to attend cultural events and seminars as well as academic activities organized by the Center and considered them a great benefit. Ambassador Fuentes said that his horizons expanded through the Center’s research and accomplishments.

He hailed the role of Lebanese-Mexicans living and working in Mexico and stressed that their efforts and constructive integration in Mexican society helped build the

Mexican economy. He also indicated that the Lebanese contribute 12 percent of his country’s GDP. He continued by saying that „one of the most important indicators of the Lebanese success in Mexico is the presence of six ministers of Lebanese descent currently serving in the Mexican cabinet.™

The Ambassador closed his speech by putting forward a few recommendations to help the Center. He said future studies should shed light on the new generation of Lebanese in Mexico, because they care about Lebanon much more than their parents and grandparents, and are aware of the situation due to increase in the use of social media. He promised to continue supporting the LERC in its endeavors and presented an invaluable gift to the Museum: a digital copy of the immigrant’s magazine *El-Gherbal*.

Turkish TV Interviewed Director Hourani on Lebanese Migration

Liliane HADDAD

Three representatives of *TRT TV* (the official Turkish State Television), who are filming a 13-episode documentary titled *El Turco* visited the Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) on June 18, 2013, to interview Dr. Guita Hourani, Director of the LERC.

The Turkish government is financing the documentary via its media outlet—*Turkish TV*. The documentary will also be filmed in, among other countries, the U.S.A., Brazil, Chile, Argentina, and Mexico.

Kemal Çiftçi, the President of Yedirenk Film Production, which has undertaken this major venture, said that the purpose of this documentary is to highlight migration from the Levantine to Latin America, during the Ottoman era.

The interview with Dr. Hourani took place in the Lebanon Migration Nucleus Museum. Both the Producer, srafil Kuralay and Kamil Çatak, Director of Photography of Yedirenk Film Production, were delighted with the items on display at the museum and said that Turkey does not have a place that compares to it. Mr. Çiftçi asked if the LERC could provide the production team with material from its collections to be featured in the documentary. He promised that due credit would be given to the Center and to Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU).

Mr. Çiftçi said that the documentary is to be completed by the end of this calendar year, and that it will be dubbed in English, and that a copy of the 13 episodes will be sent to the LERC in appreciation of its support.

FAAD

End-of-year Student Concert

Dr. Lola BEYROUTI



The Department of Music at the Faculty of Architecture, Arts and Design (FAAD) put together a concert on June 26, 2013, at 6:00 p.m., which was organized by the students of Musicology, Musimediology, Jazz Musicology, Music Education, and Arabic Musicology.

The concert featured interpretations of Classical and Romantic period piano compositions, an original student composition (on piano), some Jazz improvisations, modern

and classical guitar tunes, Occidental singing e.g. opera, jazz, and classical Arabic.

The concert showcased the outstanding talents of our students given the relatively short time they had to prepare. A jury evaluated the performance.

Special thanks the following lecturers: Ms. Dolcy Lawoun, Mr. Jihad Zeidan, Mr. Fady Jambart, and Mr. Fouad Aouad.



EYE 2013 at NDU: “Moving Forward”

Students of the Faculty of Architecture, Art and Design (FAAD) at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) “Moving Forward” to a promising future in the creative arts

The FAAD at NDU held its annual End-of-year Exhibition (EYE 2103) titled „*Moving Forward*” under the patronage of H.E. Mr. Dimyanos Kattar, former Lebanese Minister of Finance, Economy and Trade, from Thursday, June 27, 2013 to Friday, June 28, 2013 at NDU Main Campus. The opening ceremony was held at Issam Fares Conference Hall and the exhibition took place at the new FAAD building.

EYE 2013 showcased students’ creative exhibits and talents from the departments of Graphic Design, Fashion Design, Interior Design, Music, and Architecture.

Professor Dr. Hani Zgheib praised the efforts of the Administration and the Committee that oversaw the preparation of the exhibition. He said, „I believe that we have contributed, even if it is in a small way, to the commendable efforts made by parents toward their children. We do not want our students to leave the country, but even if they do, we ask them to return home and help us build a better society.”

For his part, Mr. Suhail Matar, the Vice-President for Cultural Affairs and Public Relations, that Lebanon’s message of civilization is a symbol of the will to live in the face of a culture that embraces death. Matar said, „Through all the trial and tribulations we experienced, including long drawn-out strikes, we are pleased to announce that we completed and equipped the new building of the FAAD. Despite the volatile situation, the University is continuing on its path to develop its capabilities and increase its learning options through the opening of the Faculty of Law in October 2014, and the establishment of a hospital in a new Faculty of Medicine in the future.”

Dr. Jean-Pierre el-Asmar, FAAD Dean, said in his address, „*Moving Forward* exhibits the culmination of three to five years of studies in Graphic Design, Fashion Design, Interior Design, Music, and Architecture... In the projects presented, there is a clear sense that each graduate has established a position in relation to the current social, cultural, environmental, and political situations in which they operate, and are now ready to offer their work back to the community as a kind of report on what they have discovered. The diversified approaches and themes chosen by FAAD departments’ students reflect NDU’s vision in preparing the upcoming generations to challenge conventional wisdom from an informed and constructive position.”





Dr. Asmar thanked „ NDU President Fr. Walid Moussa, Administrators, EYE 2013 sponsors and Sponsorship Office, EYE 2013 Chairperson, Dr. Hani Zgheib, committee members, and all of those who worked tirelessly in preparation for this event.%

In his address, Mr. Kattar spoke to NDU students of „ hope% and to clarify his message quoted German philosopher Immanuel Kant, „ Happiness is not an ideal of reason but of imagination.%

Mr. Kattar said he was honored to share in such a celebration, which embraces beauty and creativity despite the daily struggles. He said, "Today, science is surpassed by beauty and culture which mutes the sound of bullets.%" He added that the digital revolution since the turn of this century had created a virtual economy based on speculation, which was the main cause of the financial collapse. Mr. Kattar said, „ You [students] in the so-called 'creative economy' are an essential part of the actual economy through your ability to create and invent.%"

He compared the financial sector in Lebanon, which comprises 7 percent of the economy and employs 3 percent of the labor force, to the creative economy, which comprises 2 percent of the economy and provides work to about 6 percent of the labor force. Kattar said, "You are in the right field and this is what creates added value to our country.%"

Fr. Walid Moussa, thanked Mr. Kattar and all those who contributed to the run-up to the event and those who supported NDU students in helping them discover and develop their talents. He wished graduates success for the future. "We thoroughly enjoyed your work and projects. I congratulate all the parents present here today and tell them that they must be proud of their children and also be proud that they are graduates of this University.%"

University students then put on amazing musical performance (classical music and jazz), fashion shows, and guests were taken to the new FAAD building to admire the fantastic displays created by engineering students.



FE

Uninterrupted Two-Day Engineering Competitions

Dr. Ghazi ASMAR

In May, 2013, the Department of Mechanical Engineering at the Faculty of Engineering (FE), at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) hosted the Student Professional Design Competition (SPDC), a yearly event organized by student members of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME).

The ASME is the largest international engineering organization in the world and includes as members, students and professionals alike. The ASME aims at promoting the profession of mechanical engineering on a worldwide basis. It should be noted in this regard, that universities in countries around the world, depending on the significance of their mechanical engineering programs, may or may not qualify to establish ASME chapters on their campuses.

The fact that NDU has had its ASME Chapter for more than 12 years now, and the fact that it is one of very few universities in Lebanon to possess such a Chapter is a testimony to the rank and stature that our Department has attained. Moreover, given that, for the third time, NDU was selected to host the SPDC, it goes to show that NDU stands tall among many universities in much bigger countries in the Middle East and North Africa (a region the ASME commonly designates as District J), which competed for the same role, i.e., to host the SPDC.

The SPDC involves a series of activities and competitions for students to show and further develop their engineering skills. Students from countries in District J as well as from many universities in Lebanon converged to NDU to participate in six competitions for two full days: the 25th and 26th of May, 2013.

Attended by the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Dr. Michel Hayek, the Chairperson of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Dr. Ghazi Asmar, and two Department Faculty members, Dr. Najib Metni and Dr. Charbel Bou-Mosleh, the opening ceremony, which took place on the morning of the 25th, saw also the participation of students from Rafic Hariri University (RHU); The American University of Beirut (AUB); Bits-Pilani University (BPU); The American University of Dubai (AUD); Masdar Institute of Technology (MIT); and, of course, NDU.

Being above all a conference for students and by students, the ASME committee at NDU meticulously organized the SPDC. Its members are: Mr. Rudy el-Khoury, Mr. Hicham el-Hayek, and Mr. Theodor Haddad. These competitions began immediately following the opening ceremony. The Faculty members present acted in the capacity of judges, deciding on the ranking of the contestants in all competitions.



The following is a listing of the events that went on throughout the weekend along with the ranking of the students who participated in these events and the prizes that some of them won.

1) The Old Guard Oral Presentation

In this event, students demonstrated their skills for effective communication, a requirement for any successful engineer, by giving presentations before an audience. The rankings were as follows:

First: Mr. Jean-Pierre Mrad (NDU), Prize: US\$400;

Second: Mss. Chantal Ladkani (NDU), Prize: US\$200;

Third: Mr. Wael Bou Ajram (AUD).

Mr. Deepan Kishore Kumar from BPU won an all-expenses paid trip to participate in the Old Guard Presentation finals, which will be held at the International Mechanical Engineering Congress and Exhibition (IMECE) in San Diego, California, U.S.A., next November.

2) The Old Guard Poster Competition

In this event, students were required to demonstrate their ability to deliver clear and lucid visual presentations by treating a mechanical engineering topic, using illustrations and diagrams. The rankings were as follows:

First: Mr. Noel El-Khazen (AUB). Prize: US\$300;

Second: Mr. Adib Fares (NDU);

Third: Mr. Zafer Rustom (AUB).

3) The Rapid Design Challenge

In this event, students were required to determine briefly and realistically the solution to a real-life problem. The challenge was intended to test not just the creativity of students but also how well and how quickly they were able to deal with a real problem from the industry. The rankings were as follows:

First: Mr. Bara'fa Habli, Mr. Ayman Hammoud, and Mr. Abdel Rahman Kaskas, all from RHU, Prize: US\$200;

Second: Mr. Wael Bou Ajram (AUD) and Mr. Nadim Humeir (MI), Prize: US\$100;

Third: Mr. Georges Younes and Mr. Samer Zahran, both from NDU.

4) The Mechatronics Competition

In this event, students were challenged to come up with a circuit design with limited resources and in a short period. The rankings were as follows:

First: Mr. Georges Younes and Mr. Samer Zahran, both from NDU, Prize: US\$300;
 Second: Mr. Ahamad Tarraf and Mr. Salah al-Deen Al-Jamal, both from RHU, Prize: US\$200;
 Third: Mr. Michael Kattoura (AUB).

5) The Impromptu Competition

In this event, groups of students were asked to build, in-place, a glider made of wire of different materials provided to them before the start of the competition such as balloons, straws, tape, etc. The objective was for the glider to fly the longest distance while carrying a currency coin. The winners, receiving US\$100 were: Mr. Joseph Saad, Ms. Merya Zgheib, Mr. Michael Kattoura, and Mr. Noel el-Khazen, all from AUB, in addition to Mr. Daniel Haddad, an NDU alumnus.

6) The Student Design Competition

In this event, a team of students was required to design a remote-controlled vehicle for inspection purposes. The ve-

hicle had to be able to negotiate obstacles during its back and forth trip to the inspection area, and had to be ready to repeat the mission upon its return to its starting point. The rankings of the teams were as follows:
 First: Mr. Salim Younes and Mr. Jamil Riachy, both from NDU, Prize: US\$800plus an all-expenses paid trip to the IMECE to participate in the finals;
 Second: Mr. Wissam Bejjani and Mr. Georges Chahine, both from NDU. Prize: US\$300;
 Third: Mr. Joseph Mikhael and Mr. Etienne Ghannoum, both from NDU, Prize: US\$100.
 The SPDC concluded with a gala dinner during which prizes were distributed in an atmosphere of sportsmanship. Faculty members, including the Dean, and more than 50 students attended the dinner.
 In short, it was a memorable weekend. Our hope is for NDU to remain at the forefront of other universities known for their support of engineering students and the discipline of engineering, in general, through playing host to activities and conferences such as the SPDC.



❖ Student Design Competition participants.



❖ One of the designed vehicles.



❖ Mr. Wissam Fares, an NDU graduate, showcasing his Formula SAE car, which he designed as part of his senior project.

FH

NDU Literature Students in Greece

Prof. Naji OUEIJAN

Prof. Naji Oueijan, Full Professor of British Literature in the DETE, Faculty of Humanities, at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) and Joint President of the International Byron Society, accompanied four of his Literature students - Ms. Stephanie Baroud, Ms. Rita Bou Khalil, Ms. Myriam Iliovits, and Ms. Lara el-Mekawi - to the 8th International Student Conference organized by the Research Byron Center in Messolonghi, Greece, from May 27-31, 2013.

The theme of the conference was „*Byron's Years of Fame*.% Ms. Baroud made a presentation titled, „*Lord Byron and Greek Mythology*,% Ms. Bou Khalil talked about „*Byron and Beauty: His Eastern Female Characters*,% Ms. Iliovits presented a paper titled „*Eastern Superstitions in Byron's The Giaour*,% and Ms. El-Makawi's paper was „*Lord Byron's Eastern Byronic Hero*.%

Ms. El-Mekawi's critical-research paper was rated first by well-known Byron scholars in the conference, which students from America, Canada, and European countries attended. All four students were exemplary in exposing the high educational standards of NDU. This is evident in the commendation letters sent by Prof. Peter Graham, Prof. Peter Myrian, and Prof. Stephen Minta, all well-known Byron scholars and organizers of the academic program of the conference (see below). Prof. Oueijan has always insisted on such involvement of NDU students in international activities to promote NDU image and reputation in the world and to encourage students to become more involved in research and genuine scholarship (kindly see parts of the students' reports).



✦ Prof. Naji Oueijan presenting his paper.

Prof. Peter Graham, „Again, for a wonderful group of new Byronists and young friends! As I've said other times, your generosity and goodness as teacher shines through your students. *Poli agapi spiti sas*.%

Prof. Stephen Minta, „Your students are a remarkable tribute to you and to their university, and to Lebanon. Very bright, very sociable, intellectually poised, and they contributed a very great deal to the success of the conference. Do give them all my best wishes and say that I am happy to keep in touch with them, should they ever need help or advice.%

Prof. Peter Myrian, „Thank you Naji! I want you to know that I was impressed by the quality level of your students, very mature and dedicated. I thoroughly enjoyed them and I hope they continue their studies with the same intensity. Lara and Steffi were very good for their level of knowledge as were Myriam and Rita.%

The Beginning of a Journey

Lara el-MEKKAWI

During the last week of May, 2013, Rita Bou Khalil, Stephanie Baroud, Miriam Iliovits, and I were lucky enough to accompany Prof. Naji Oueijan to attend a conference in the Sacred City of Messolonghi, Greece. The five days we spent in this city have certainly been the best and most educational of our time. The purpose of our visit was to attend the 8th International Student Lord Byron Confer-



✦ Lara el-Mekawi presenting her paper.

ence titled „*Lord Byron and Years of Fame.*” The conference took place in the Lord Byron Research Center in Messolonghi, where Byron breathed his last, supporting the Greeks against the Ottomans. Lord Byron was an avid advocate of the Greek in their War of Independence and remains up to this day a heroic figure to all Greeks and Armenians. The town is currently a shrine, commemorating Lord Byron’s great assistance and friendship to this nation. The Byron Research Center, also called the Byron House, is full of documents and works on and by Lord Byron. Having to present our papers in such a center seemed quite intimidating. With the presence of notable professors from many countries, international students with similar interests to ours, and locals who have a great understanding of Byronic studies, I couldn’t help but feel nervous and scared. But, as soon as I got up to present my paper, all my fears evaporated, and there I stood confident and enjoying my presentation. Besides, being able to successfully answer questions during the conference was as educational as writing the paper itself. One does not know one’s capabilities until one stands in a hot spot. I can honestly say that my confidence level increased immensely because of the conference. The daily talks we engaged in with distinguished professors were incredible. As an undergraduate, I was humbled yet grew ambitious by simply observing the

way these senior professors conducted themselves. I saw in them what I hoped my career would become.

Apart from the scholars, the local populace provided much information about not only the language but also the Greek culture and history. On one evening, we were invited to have dinner with local friends of Prof. Oueijan. Their generosity and fellowship made us all feel at home. They represent role models of Greek hospitality and culture.

The history and nature of Messolonghi added a new dimension to my educational development during this trip. The walls that surround the town tell the story of the hardships its inhabitants suffered during the war. One quickly sees what motivated Lord Byron and so many other Europeans to fight for its liberation. Besides, the town represents a Romantic poet’s haven, with its clear and sparkling lagoons and its clear bright sky.

Our visit to Messolonghi and our participation in the conference have been a life-changing experience. With every passing minute, we felt our educational horizons expanding. The end of the week was bittersweet, as we did not want the conference to end, but we needed to return home. We had all learned so much and letting go of such an amazing adventure was certainly difficult. We will always have pleasant memories of Messolonghi and its conference, thanks to our University, NDU, and to Prof. Naji Oueijan, who organized this amazing trip. This conference, hopefully, is just the beginning of my and my colleagues’ academic journey.

A Journey to a Sacred Town in Greece

Rita Bou KHALIL

It was a privilege for the students of NDU to participate in the "8th International Student Byron Conference" from 26-31 May, 2013, at Messolonghi, Greece, during which my classmate Lara Mekawi won best presented paper in the conference. On May 27, after the opening ceremony of the conference, my colleagues and I met scholars and students from different countries. We then visited the Museum of Messolonghi where its mayor greeted and welcomed us. Later, Mrs. Rosa Floru, President of the Messolonghi Byron Society, invited us to dinner in one of the finest restaurants in the town. On May 28, we presented our papers in the presence of several journalists from the town in addition to professors and students from around the world.

Fortunately, our high level of education impressed the audience. On May 29, we, in addition to all the participants, were given a guided tour of the site where Byron breathed

his last on April 19, 1824. After the wreath-laying ceremony, we visited the Garden of Heroes, where the statue of Lord Byron and other Greek and European martyrs stand to tell the history of the Greek Revolution against the Ottomans. We also visited one of the famous traditional tailors in Greece and were given the opportunity to wear some Greek traditional costumes. On May 30, the last day of the conference, students and professors from different universities and countries presented their papers, which enriched our educational background. In the evening, members of the Messolonghi Byron Society and all conference participants enjoyed a traditional Greek dinner and dance in our hotel. This great educational week will tickle our minds and hearts for years to come, thanks to the Department of English, Education and Translation at the Faculty of Humanities and a special thanks to Professor Naji Oueijan who made this trip possible.

A Week in Heaven on Earth

Stephanie BAROUD

Visiting Greece was a life-changing experience for me. Not only did it give me the opportunity to meet people from all around the world, especially those who share my field of interest, but it also changed my view of scholarly life. I felt connected to this historic land, and in a way, I also felt the reality of Lord Byron. Our first stop in Greece was Athens, where we visited the Acropolis, one of the sites that inspired Byron during his life. Later, we embarked on the long drive to Messolonghi with Prof. Peter Myrian, a colleague of our Prof. Naji Oueijan. Prof. Myrian shared with us some of the histories of the places we passed and taught us some basic Greek words that I found very interesting and helpful during my stay. Green was the dominant color during our ride, for even though the roads and houses very much resembled what we have here in Lebanon; nature is much more preserved in Greece. We arrived at Theoxenia Hotel, which is situated next to beautiful lagoons and Tourlida beach; the place looked like heaven on earth from the balcony of my room.

The lectures and presentations were the best part of the trip. Not only did we get the chance to share our work



Lara el-Mekawi and Stephanie Baroud in local Greek costumes.

with international professors and students, we also got to hear their different points of view on Lord Byron's years of fame, which I found very rewarding. Here, I have to acknowledge the efforts of our NDU professors, especially Prof. Naji Oueijan, and the rich academic program they put together for us to become scholars.

Excited at the Opportunity

Myriam Silonie ILIOVITS

When Prof. Naji Oueijan first told my classmates and me about the International Student Conference in Missolonghi, Greece, we were excited at the opportunity presented to us. Our excitement multiplied, when we arrived there and realized that the place is one of the most beautiful places on earth and that the people there are hospitable and kind; they made us feel at home. Then, we met international professors and students participating in the conference. Knowing them was an honor and a pleasure as we heard insightful and impressive presentations that taught us a lot not only about Lord Byron but also about our educational standards and ourselves. Definitely, standing up in front of such great minds and addressing them was one of the most significant moments of our academic life. This conference has been the experience of a lifetime, and I am grateful to have had the opportunity to participate in it, thanks to NDU, the Department of English, Translation, and Education, and to Prof. Naji Oueijan, who organized this event



Garden of Heroes, Messolonghi.

FLPS

CSR Begins at Home! FLPS Students Approach Total for CSR on Campus

Inspired by the presence of a Total gas station and car wash on the Main Campus at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU), students and lecturers at The Faculty of Law and Political Sciences (FLPS) presented their suggestions from March 18-19, 2013, to the Arab world at the *Third Annual MENA-wide Conference on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)*.

The focus of the presentation was on road safety, responsible use of energy, and sustainable transportation policies. Those attending the NDU presentation included the man-

agement of the global energy giant Total in Lebanon and the company's CSR representative for the MENA region. Additional ideas for CSR on campus at NDU were also generated during the Beirut conference. These included corporate initiatives in the area of financial services, together with the Business Faculty, and the current Fair Trade project, which the Political Science Department has been working on since 2003 with Dr. Hasan Younes, a Marketing Instructor. Fair Trade recently played a roll, along with CSR and social entrepreneurship, at a UNESCO conference on youth and business, in which students from the FLPS participated



NDU students present their proposal for a CSR project.



Carlos Edde: “Single Member Electoral Districts”

The FLPS Holds 5th Lecture in its „Electoral Reform Series”

The Faculty of Law and Political Sciences (FLPS) held its fifth lecture in its „*Electoral Reform Series*” on April 19, 2013, by hosting Mr. Carlos Edde, President of the Lebanese National Bloc.

Mr. Edde presented to the mostly student audience his proposal for electoral reform by sharing his opinion that Single Member Electoral Districts is the best electoral system a pluralistic country such as Lebanon should follow. According to Mr. Edde, this is the only way to change the political class in Lebanon and to move the country forward while ensuring significant representation for all sectarian groups. He also argued that such a system would help solve other major problems that plague Lebanon such as clientelism, feudalism, and oligarchy.

Mr. Edde presented his plan for the division of the districts while acknowledging that the plan manages to provide a high level of representation; however, an imperfect one given that most Lebanese regions are religiously heterogeneous. He, thus, encouraged students, teachers, and all parties interested to enter into a competition organized by his party and to suggest a better division of districts—a distribution that may one day result in a system that is more representative of Lebanon’s demographics; thereby, opening the way for future reforms and rescuing Lebanon from its current reality.



Mr. Carlos Edde.



Mr. Carlos Edde speaking to students.

Musa Dagh

Genocide Survivors from Anjar and NDU Climb Resistance Mountain

Austrian novelist Franz Werfel's *The Forty Days of Musa Dagh* is a stirring and epic novel based on true events of the successful Armenian defense against the Ottoman government's systematic extermination of its minority Armenian subjects in 1915. Musa Dagh (Mt. Moses) was the point of their departure. Inspired by his heroic saga, students and lecturers from NDU and Haigazian University, along with scouts from Anjar (some of them direct descendants from the seven villages surrounding Musa Dagh) traveled to what is now the Turkish province of Hatay, during this year's Eastern Orthodox Easter break (May 2- 5, 2013). Musa Dagh is located on the coast, only a few miles from the historical Christian city of Antioch, present-day Antakya. During the early months of the Genocide, the Armenians of Musa Dagh withdrew to the top of their „holy

mountain% and fought off wave upon wave of brutal Ottoman military attacks. Ultimately, the French navy saved the Armenians after 56 days. Werfel turned the 56 days into 40 to lend this event a Biblical feel.

The idea to climb Musa Dagh came from international conflict transformation NGO, Initiatives of Change (IofC); it was organized with the support of the students and lecturers of the Faculty of Law and Political Sciences (FLPS), the Armenian Scouts, and the Lebanese hiking club, Liban Trek. Emphasis was placed on the successful Armenian resistance itself, the role of Werfel in making bringing this story to a global reading audience, and the alternative historical research methods, i.e. Sven Lindquist's *Dig Where You Stand*, used to study this event. Funding came from the NDU Student Affairs Office, IofC, and private donors.



❖ Reaching the top of Musa Dagh on Easter Sunday.



❖ Lighting 56 candles to symbolize the 56 days of resistance.



Making an Armenian Cross on top of ❖ Musa Dagh for Sunday service.

Forgiveness is the Key!

Political Science and Psychology Join Hands to Deal with War-Related Trauma

Originally from Aleppo, Syria, Prof. Ani Kalayjian, a psychologist, therapist, and trainer, working in New York, U.S.A, knows firsthand how protracted conflicts and civil war can lead to deep-seated conflicts.

Thanks to the initiative of Dr. Maral Boyadjian, an instructor in the Psychology Program at the Faculty of Humanities, as well as through the support of both the FLPS's Political Science Department and Humanities' SBS Department, NDU students and lecturers were able to enjoy a full-day introduction on May 14, 2013, to the role of personal and collective forgiveness in the conflict transformation process.

Prof. Kalayjian spent the first half of the day introducing the role of forgiveness from a theoretical perspective and illustrated her lecture, using case studies from around the



❖ Prof. Ani Kalayjian, delivering a full-day training session at NDU.

world. Her method has been used in protracted conflicts in West Africa and other regions. During the afternoon, participants applied the principle to their own lives in recognition that personal change can lead to societal change, along the lines of Mahatma Gandhi's famous quote, "Be the change you want to see in the world!"

Pentecost Event on Saints and Politics at the FLPS

In honor of the "Year of Faith," as declared by Supreme Pontiff Emeritus Benedict XVI, and commemorating Pentecost, or the Feast of the Descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles, the Faculty of Law and Political Sciences (FLPS) organized a panel discussion on May 20, 2013, in collaboration with the Council of Research in Values and Philosophy (CRVP). Discussion focused on the role the Holy Spirit played in the lives of political leaders across history. Examples were taken primarily from the 20th century but also from previous periods in history. Emphasis was placed on the struggle for social justice, freedom, and the sanctity of the family.

Dr. Edward Alam, Director of the CRVP, presented an explanation for the role of the Holy Spirit in politics. Georges Labaki, FLPS, dealt with the role of political saints throughout the history of the church. Dr. Elie el-Hindy introduced both Thomas More, the patron saint of politicians, who gave his life for his faith, during the early years of the Reformation, and Pier Giorgio Frassati, a youth activist in Italy during the 1920s. Dr. Eugene Sensenig-Dabbous fo-



❖ (from left): Dr. Georges Labaki and Dr. Edward Alam.

cus to two individuals who were beatified because of - among other things - their struggle against fascism, Franz Jägerstätter in Germany and Giorgio La Pira in Italy. He also dealt with the recent attempts to beatify the father of the European Union, Robert Schuman. The CRVP and the FLPS intend to organize a series on the topic of the Holy Spirit in politics, along with events in following years to commemorate Pentecost.

FNAS

Training of National Stakeholders on the Biosafety Clearing House

Dr. Elsa SATTOUT

The Faculty of Natural and Applied Sciences (FNAS) organized a training workshop in February, 2012, under the patronage of His Excellency Dr. Hussein Hajj Hassan, Lebanese Minister of Agriculture, and in the presence of Fr. Walid Moussa, NDU President. The workshop was aimed at building capacity for effective participation in the Biosafety Clearing House (BCH), and using it as a tool for the effectual implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CPB).

Upon the request of members of the National Biosafety Committee (NBC), the workshop was organized and designed with the following objectives:

- revisit the CPB and the National Biosafety Framework (NBF) for Lebanon;
- introduce the scope of the BCH, and stress its value for the implementation of the CPB; and
- strengthen national capacities of national competent authorities and national stakeholders involved in the implementation of the CPB and the NBF.

The NBF for Lebanon was further developed in 2005 in parallel to the various activities undertaken under the UNEP-GEF project; a project managed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Lebanese Ministry of Environment (MOE), and executed by the IB-SAR at the American University of Beirut (AUB). The NBF capitalized on various sources of information, starting with the review of the content of the CPB, and the review of the NBF framework of different countries. At the national level, the existing draft capitalized on several local documents and events, including the following:

- the surveys conducted during the first phase of the project;
- the feedback from various workshops conducted within the scope of the project;
- the minutes of meetings held with stakeholders from different Lebanese ministries and institutions, and;
- the draft of the Lebanese Food Safety Law developed under the leadership of the Ministry of Economy and Trade (MOET).

The workshop was designed with plenary sessions, interactive modules, and hands-on exercises on specific cases from around the world. Attending the workshop were representatives from the MOE; Ministry of Agriculture; the Lebanese Agricultural Research Institute (LARI); Ministry of Economy and Trade (MOET); AUB; the Lebanese University;



❖ (from left): Dr. Jean Pierre el-Asmar, FAAD Dean, Dr. George Eid, FNAS Dean, Dr. Assaad Eid, VPSRD, and part of the audience.



❖ (from left): Fr. Walid Moussa, NDU President, Dr. Hussein Hajj Hassan, Lebanese Minister of Agriculture, and Mr. Souheil Matar, VP Cultural Affairs & Public Relations.



❖ Dr. Elsa Sattout, CPB Regional Advisor, FNAS-NDU.



❖ Miss. Lara Samaha, Head of Ecosystems Department-MOE & CPB Focal Point.

and the American University of Science and Technology (AUST).

The focus of both the CPB and members of the NBC led to the deposit of its instrument of accession to the CPB to the Convention on Biological Diversity on February 6, 2013, and became the 165th Party to the Protocol on May 7, 2013 (accessible online at: <http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/e-doc/?news=92189>).

Second Year Celebration Event of the IDB at NDU

Merging the Arts & Sciences to raise awareness on the importance of cultural landscapes

Dr. Elsa SATTOUT (event organizer and concept designer)

For the second consecutive year, the initiative launched by the Faculty of Natural and Applied Sciences (FNAS) to celebrate the International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) culminated in a ceremony held on May 22, 2013, under the patronage of Dr. Joseph Kreidi, representing Dr. Hamed al-Hammami, UNESCO Regional Office Director in Beirut, and in the presence of Fr. Walid Moussa, NDU President. The ceremony served as a platform to announce the winners and open the exhibition of photos, design, and posters related to cultural landscapes.

The aim of this initiative was to cultivate participatory practices, bringing together students and lecturers to work in union on a special theme through the sharing of knowledge centered on the importance of protecting biological diversity in the context of the existing close relationship between ecological and social systems. The interactions between both these systems form what we term „Cultural Landscapes.‰ Cultural Landscapes embrace a diversity of manifestations of the interaction between humankind and our natural environment, as defined by the UNESCO World Heritage Convention.

One approach, aimed at widening students' vision and strengthening their problem-solving and critical thinking skills, was through a poster competition that encouraged them to adopt interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approaches. Another concept was to use artistic expressions

through design and photography competitions to invite students to learn more about the importance of cultural landscapes and the role we play in shaping our natural and built environments. The competitions were launched in November, 2012, in close partnership with the Faculty of Architecture, Art & Design (FAAD) and the Faculty of Engineering (FE). Orientation sessions for those participating in the poster competitions were held from January to April, 2013.

A series of lectures ran from May 20-27, 2013. The topics included:

- „Cultural Landscapes‰ by Dr. Leon Telvizian (Lebanese University);
- „World Heritage Convention and Cultural Landscapes‰ by Dr. Pierre-Marie Tricaud (ICOMOS International Expert, France);
- „Wadi Qannoubine World Heritage Site‰ by Mrs. Samar Karam (Department of Antiquities-Ministry of Culture);
- „Geopark As A Tool For Sustainable Management‰ by Mrs. Soumaya Ayadi-Maasri (African Geopark Network in Lebanon); and
- „The Contested Cultural Landscape of a Lebanese Border Town: Marja'ayoun‰ by Dr. Christine Mady.

For more information, please visit the following websites:

<http://www.ndu.edu.lb/IDB13/Index.htm>

<http://www.cbd.int/idb/2013/celebrations/lb/>



(from left): Fr. Walid Moussa, Dr. Joseph Kreidi, Dr. Elsa Sattout, and Dr. George Eid, cutting the ribbon to officially open the exhibition



❖
The exhibition hall.



Winners

Category I: Existing and Potential World Heritage Sites

1st Prize: Ms. Haneen Khadaj, Ms. Marianne Khalaf, and Ms. Marianne Kortbani

2nd Prize: Mr. Joseph Hajal and Mr. Naji Sadaka

3rd Prize: Mr. Lateef Abboud and Mr. Georges Mounayar

Category II: Impact of Construction Sector and Restoration Practices

1st Prize: Ms. Theresa Chidiac and Mr. Elie Hobeika

2nd Prize: Mr. George Hamoush and Mr. Michel Hamoush

3rd Prize: Mr. Julien Merheb, Mr. Leba Zrou, Mr. Jonhny Saber, and Mr. Tony Sarkis

Design Competition

1st Prize: Ms. Suzane Aboul Hesn

2nd Prize: Ms. Carla Hage

3rd Prize: Ms. Gina Saleh

Photography Competition

1st Prize: Mr. Tony Faysal

2nd Prize: Mr. Majed Michael

3rd Prize: Ms. Jinane Abi Khalil



❖
Fr. Walid Moussa at the lectern delivering a speech to an attentive audience.

Regenerative Medicine: The future of Personalized Medicine

FNAS-Faculty Lecture Series Committee



❖ Dr. Michael Leek.

Dr. Michael Leek gave a lecture at Abou Khater Auditorium, Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) Main Campus titled *„Very Small Embryonic Like Stem Cells: the Future of Personalized Medicine,“* which will hopefully serve as a wake-up call on the importance of regenerative therapy. The lecture was held on Tuesday May 28, 2013.

Dr. Leek, a pioneer in regenerative medicine, introduced a new technology in stem cell extraction from adult peripheral blood called Oristem a product of Pharmacells. Stem cells are the building blocks of life, and these cells are essential to the body to help it repair damaged areas. Dr. Leek presented the new discovery of what we term Very Small Embryonic Like Stem Cells (VSEL), a new type of stem cells, circulating in large numbers in the human blood. Dr. Leek explained the pluripotent nature of these stems cells, which enables them to differentiate into 200 types of cells such as liver, cardiac, nervous, blood, etc., and went on to explain the importance of isolating and storing them in banks while a person is young and healthy in order to use them for future treatment.

VSEs are found circulating in large numbers in the human blood, and studies have shown that as we age or become sick, the number of these cells tends to decrease. This biological process led Oristem to launch a new service

to extract and bank these cells for willing individuals in order to preserve the cells capacity to heal and differentiate. Stem cells are considered the future of personalized medicine for their well-known potential to differentiate into different type of cells. Scientists, therefore, will no longer consider the creation of new organs or treating cancer an issue. The collection procedure is very simple and painless, it consists of a simple blood sample taken from the arm. In all, an 80-ml blood sample is taken and sent to the U.K. for processing and banking for 20 years. Anyone aged 12 and above can now preserve their stem cells.

Many trials are being launched to validate the use of these VSEs in the treatment of heart diseases, Multiple Sclerosis, Leukemia, Alzheimer’s, and many other diseases.

At the end of the presentation, Dr. Leek answered all questions related to this new technology and to cell therapy. Oristem Lebanon, which represents Pharmacells in Lebanon, offered a 20 percent discount for all NDU staff and students willing to preserve their stem cells for future therapeutic use.

Finally, the members of the Committee acknowledge Mrs. Norma Freiha for establishing the connection with Oristem, the hosting company.



❖ (from left:) Mrs. Rima el-Helou, Pharmacells, Dr. Geroge Eid, Dean, FNAS, Dr. Colette Kabrita, Chairperson, FNAS, and Dr. Elsa Sattout, Chair-FNAS/FLSC.



❖ View of the audience.

Facelift of Dumps Normandy Dumpsite: Land Reclamation

ENS 430 Solid Waste Management:
Instructor Dr. Layla Khalaf-Kairouz

Lourdes SALAMEH

Solid Waste Management is all about techniques and methods used to manage solid waste. In an attempt to see where our country stands in terms of managing and handling waste, the Faculty of Natural and Applied Sciences (FNAS) invited guest speakers to give a talk on Friday, April 9, 2013, at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU).

Mr. Ramy Nassif, Mechanical Engineer and Consultant at Solidere, accompanied by Mr. Mostapha Saleh, Solidere's Project Manager, described the Normandy site project, which was once used as a garbage dump.

From 1975-1993, the Normandy site witnessed uncontrolled waste dumping, which spread along the coastline and miles into the sea. The site extends over a surface area of 330,000-m². It had been in operation for more than 17 years without regard to its devastating impact on the marine ecosystem, without regard to its complete lack of on-site safety, and without regard to its long-term damage to the local community. The Normandy site is located near Beirut Central District (BCD), or Downtown Beirut, which is the city's most expensive quarter. Given this fact, Solidere decided to rehabilitate the site.

The process consisted of unearthing the landfill, beginning with sorting and physically or biologically treating the existing waste, then recovering suitable materials to be used for back filling a reclaimed area. An estimated amount of 5 million-m³ of miscellaneous material, consisting of fill, plastics, rocks, demolition debris was excavated, of which 2.5 million-m³ were well below 18-m under sea! The project was divided to two phases, which were:

Phase I:

- Area: 9 ha;
- Excavation to sea bed:
 - Inert material was backfilled in Phase I;
 - Waste material was stockpiled;
 - The total quantity of waste material was 5 million-m³.



❖ Figs. 3 and 4: Normandy Location



❖ Figs 1 and 2: Work in progress ❖



Phase II:

The excavation and sorting out of the waste into recyclable and non-recyclable categories.

- Tires were shredded after recovering the ferrous materials inside, before these were shipped off site to be landfilled outside Beirut;
- The fine aggregates or particles <300-mm were classified as stockpiles;
- The plastics were given away (sold to special facilities for recycling) and a small portion went to landfilling;
- The organic waste was processed into compost and land farming products by LTDD (Low Thermal Temperature Desorption...temperature between 150-450 degree Celsius);
- Military personnel retrieved scraps from the Lebanese civil war (i.e. buried tanks).;
- Stones were crushed and used as filling material;
- Medical waste was shipped to be incinerated.

To sum up, the treatment methods adopted in this project were mainly:

- High TOC –for composting;
- LTDD-for composting also;
- Incineration;
- Landfilling;
- Backfilling.

Today, the Normandy site consists of financial and commercial centers, modern residential buildings, cultural and recreational facilities, a public park, and a promenade along the sea-side. (see Figs.3 and 4)

For more information, visit: <http://www.hydomar-sal.com/normandy.html>

Cleaning Up the Dirt: Treating and Landfilling

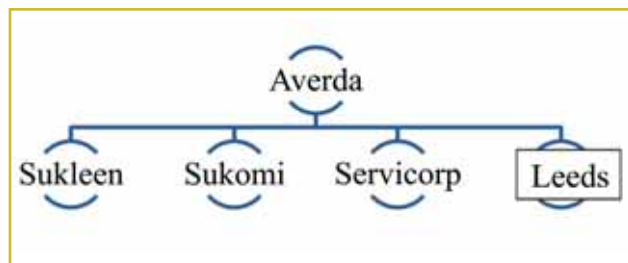
Roy ZINATI

ENS 430 Solid Waste Management
Instructor: Dr. Layla Khalaf-Kairouz

ENS430: Solid Waste Management is a senior course offered by the Faculty of Natural and Applied Sciences (FNAS) for Environmental Science majors at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) and serves as an elective for non-majors. The course deals with the various ways of managing solid waste whether through a physical, chemical, or biological approach. In this respect, field trips are organized for students to visit various facilities in the country such as recycling plants and landfills. The headquarters of Sukleen in Quarantina-Beirut were visited, along with the composting plant Sucomi and the landfill in Nehmeh. Another landfill in the city of Zahle was also visited:

Sukleen:

- International company – Averda Int'l (U.A.E., Qatar, Oman, K.S.A.);
- Subdivisions:



- Sukleen: city cleaning and waste collection/ Sukomi: waste treatment/ Servcorp: service provider/ Leeds: recycling industrial design and fabrication;
- Working 24/7 with greater percent area in Mount Lebanon;
- Sweeping and collection → mechanical and manual;
- Sorting plant → mechanical and manual;
- Waste types: (1) Green waste (2) Recyclables (3) Rejects (non-recyclable waste) (4) Bulky items;
- 14% other wastes, 29% potentially recyclables, 57% green waste for houses;
- Sorting: (a) conveyor belt (b) magnetic separator (removing metals, tins, etc.)
- Curing: 11 piles (aerobic composting) / turning and fermentation of piles;
- Compost: tested in labs to be redistributed to farmers;



❖ Sukleen visit.

- Hazardous waste containing HM are sent to other company (bi2atouna);
- Waste impact on environment: (a) air pollution (b) marine pollution (c) odors.

Karantina Sorting and Composting (SUKOMI):

- **Sorting:**
 1. Loading waste in big machine.
 2. Removing bulky waste.
 3. Separating organic waste to another industry.
 4. Manual and automatic separation.
- **Composting:**
 1. Use of aerobic composting in the plant.

Naameh Sanitary Landfill

- It is being upgraded for ISO certification;
- The waste is delivered to Naameh from Sukleen as baled;
- Once at Naameh Landfill, waste is unbaled to reduce the volume occupied in the landfill;
- Waste is compacted before being disposed in the landfill;
- Geo-membranes are placed between residual wastes before the final closure;
- Liners consist of clay, sand, and gravel layer in order to protect ground water contamination;
- Methane gas produced in landfill is collected by pipes.

ZAHLE LANDFILL

- Supported by the World Bank;
- Has advanced and automated sorting techniques:
 1. Tipping floor.
 2. Sorting.
 3. Pad for composting.
 4. Landfilling.
 5. Gases control and flaring.
- Average of 160T/d → winter and 190 – 200T → summer.
- Wastes are mixtures of organic and inert types.
- Has the first building in Lebanon to recycle pharmaceutical waste;
- Tipping floor: calculating net weight of trucks;
- Bulky material is removed from the start, then processed according to material;
- Pre-sorting: remove large cartons and they get recycled or baled;
- Laborers manually filling material in the hopper;
- Conveyor belt to carry, transport trash;
- Distribution of trash into compartments: plastic/ glass;
- Two types of magnetic machines are used: (1) Electromagnetic, which has an ON/OFF button (low-cost maintenance) (2) Permanent magnetic, which runs 24/7, albeit, at a higher operational cost;
- After dividing trash is recycled;
- Clothes and diapers are not used in landfills.

The Zahle landfill is a well-functioning solid waste management and recovery facility. The process of waste separation is well organized and the notion of recycling as much waste as possible is a good move toward a more sustainable country.



❖ Nehmeh landfill visit.



❖ Zahleh landfill visit.

A Sense for Recycling in Lebanon

Nathalie GHORRA

**ENS 430 Solid Waste Management
Instructor: Dr. Layla Khalaf-Kairouz**

Field trips in the course ENS 430 Solid Waste Management at the Faculty of Natural and Applied Sciences (FNAS) were organized with the aim of complementing the theoretical part of the course with a practical approach. We visited two major recycling plants in the country: SICOMO, a paper recycling plant in Qab-Elias in the Bekaa, and Recyclo, a plastics recycling plant in Choueifat.

SICOMO: Paper Recycling

SICOMO is a cardboard (cartons) recycling facility. The company was established in the Bekaa Valley in 1974. The company's products range from brown and white cardboards to gold and silver laminated metallized board. All products (100%) are made from recycled waste paper. These products are exported to Europe, Africa, and the Middle East, however; the biggest share goes to the Middle East.

▲ DATA

- SICOMO receives 80 tons of waste per day;
 - Each of the white and brown board is treated separately;
 - Stage 1: cartons are shredded and mixed with water;
 - Stage 2: cartons are completely dried at a temperature of around 200° C;
 - Stage 3: cartons are passed through an air-sucking machine to ensure complete dryness and removal of any impurities;
 - Depending on the request of the customer, a machine coats one side of the carton with white;
 - The last stage is spooling the cardboards into rolls;
 - Dimensions of rolls: Width: 2-cm-176-cm
Diameter: 75-cm, 100-cm, 115-cm
Internal Diameter: 7.6-cm and 10-cm
 - Cardboard can be used for labels for processed food cans, milk boxes etc.;
 - To ensure safety of the workers, a medical doctor is available upon request for any emergency;
 - Brown cardboard costs US\$450 while white costs more.
- SICOMO is a successful facility, offering high quality products to an international market and encouraging Lebanese industry.



❖ SICOMO, paper and cardboard ready for recycling.



❖ Group photo of the ENS 430 class visiting SICOMO.



❖ Group photo of the ENS 430 class visiting the Recyclo plant in Choueifat.

Recyclo: Choueifat

- Recycling plastics and transparent nylon;
- Receive 400-420 tons of waste per month;
- Shredding takes place in order to reduce volume;
- Plastics are not mixed, due to high- and low-density plastics (HDPE and LDPE);
- Two mechanisms take place: 1) Herbold
2) Bandera
- *Herbold Mechanism*: Manual Sorting
Washing
Drying- 70°C
- *Bandera Mechanism*: Melting- 240°C
Pellets.

Recycled pellets are used for different recycled end-products, excluding food packaging for reasons of hygiene.

FNHS

Nutrition Awareness Campaign: “How Healthy Are You?”

Jessy el-HAYEK, Ph.D.; Maya ABOUJAOUDE, MSc

In celebration of the World Health Day on April 7, 2013, the Faculty of Nursing and Health Sciences (FNHS) organized a three-day nutrition awareness campaign from April 8-10, 2013, under the title of „How Healthy Are You?“^(*) to help NDU community members assess their health and nutritional status, and encourage them to adopt healthier food choices and lifestyles.

During the event, FNHS faculty members and nutrition and nursing students volunteered to assess participants' anthropometric and biochemical measurements (measurements included height, weight, body composition, blood glucose, total cholesterol, triglycerides, and blood pressure).

In addition, DiaLeb, a Non-governmental Organization (NGO), which is involved in raising diabetes awareness in Lebanon, participated in measuring blood glucose. Brief nutritional consultations followed the different measurements, offering tailored advice to each participant.

On the first day of the event, founding members of the Lebanese Hypertension League Dr. Abdo Jurjus, Professor, Faculty of Medicine, American University of Beirut (AUB), and Dr. Berberi presented a public seminar on hypertension (theme of the World Health Day 2013). Following the seminar was a session on the preparation of low-sodium (low-salt) foods, which Ms. Maya Aboujaoude, FNHS faculty member, presented.

Low-sodium sandwiches were prepared and offered during the session. Food Engineers, a diet center managed by two FNHS alumni Ms. Maral Taslakian and Ms. Carole Keshishian, performed a live cooking session, including tips on how to prepare low-fat main dishes and desserts.

On the last day of the event, two dietitians, Ms. Perla Harfoush and Ms. Romy Moujaes, presented hot topics on nutrition, including „General Nutrition Guidelines“ and „Sports Nutrition“ respectively.

The event, ended to the sounds of Latino beats in the form of a Zumba class presented by Ms. Christelle Rahme, a student at NDU. Rahme and her team captured the attention of participants and encouraged them to participate in the Zumba fever. The event fulfilled its intended objectives: (1) to improve NDU community members' health awareness and (2) to emphasize the importance of health assessment in the prevention of diseases.

* The Bank of Beirut sponsored this event.



Assessing participants' anthropometric and biochemical measurements.



DiaLeb representatives jotting down medical data and measuring blood glucose of participants.



Christelle Rahme (in yellow T-shirt) and her team spreading the Zumba fever.

Hypertension: The Silent Killer

Public lecture to celebrate
World Health Day

Dr. Doris JAALOUK



❖ Dr. Abdo Jurjus (speaking) and Dr. Adel Berberi (seated).

On World Health Day, celebrated annually on April 7, the Faculty of Nursing and Health Sciences (FNHS) hosted a public lecture on April 8, 2013, highlighting this year's topic: Hypertension (high blood pressure).

The guest speakers were: Dr. Adel Birbari, President of the Lebanese Hypertension League and Professor of Medicine and Physiology at the Faculty of Medicine at AUB, and Dr. Abdo Jurjus, Secretary General of the Lebanese Hypertension League and Professor of Anatomy, Cell Biology and Physiology at the Faculty of Medicine at AUB. The lecture aimed primarily to raise awareness about the causes and consequences of high blood pressure and to promote lifestyle changes congruent with reducing risk of the disease. The talk highlighted the seriousness of hypertension, its risk factors, complications, management/treatment, and prevention.

As the speakers noted, hypertension is among the most prevalent chronic adult illnesses worldwide. About one in four adults has this condition. Hypertension is known as the „silent killer.‰ Millions may have the disease but may be unaware of it, because they may not have symptoms.

Most do not realize that they suffer from hypertension until the illness progresses to a stage that starts causing serious health problems. Hypertension, if not treated, may lead to death due to kidney and/or cardiovascular complications such as kidney failure, heart failure, or stroke.

Though genetic factors/family history are important risk factors of hypertension, environmental factors (unhealthy diet, high salt intake, alcohol consumption, smoking, etc.) are gaining more importance these days as factors that increase the risk of hypertension. Consequently, hypertension is projected to have increasing prevalence among the youth due to the consumption of unhealthy foods. Individuals can lower their risk of hypertension by controlling their body weight, decreasing salt intake, reducing alcohol consumption to one drink per day, exercising more, and abstaining from smoking, among other preventive measures. A final message was conveyed: A well-informed person in partnership with a physician can and should take an active role in his or her health.



❖ The audience listening attentively.

Nutrition Fair 2013

Dr. Jacqueline DOUMIT

In order to promote health and well-being on campus, the Faculty of Nursing and Health Sciences (FNHS) celebrated its annual „Nutrition Fair% on May 31, 2013. The Fair was organized by NTR 201 students under the supervision of their instructors Dr. Khalil Badaoui, Dr. Jessy el-Hayek, and Dr. Jacqueline Doumit, and sponsored by Fitness Nestle, Santiveri, Zaater w Zeit, and Diet Delights. The Fair is designed to help students develop communication, group work, and problem-solving skills, and act as team players and life-long learners. In this regard, NTR 201 students were invited to work in groups on topics relevant to nutrition and health, prepare posters, diffuse nutritional information to NDU members, and offer them healthy foods and beverages.

The Fair was both educational and entertaining, and fulfilled its intended objectives to promote healthy diets and behaviors, and increase nutrition and health awareness among NDU members: faculty, staff, and students.

The FNHS also celebrated the „2012 Dean’s Honor List,% and the Faculty’s dean, Dr. Antoine Farhat, distributed certificates to the outstanding students. Congratulations!



❖ (from right) Joseph Awkar, Tamara Nehme, and Joey Ibrahim.



❖ (from right) Bann Haweel, Adel Jalbouth, Jessica Ghazi, Stephanie Baroud, and Dayana el-Masry.

❖ (from right) Stephanie Azar, Dr. Jacqueline Doumit, Dr. Antoine Farhat, Sibelle al-Hayek, Christelle Sakr, Melissa Abs, Angela el-Dahr, Rita Mokbel, Daniella Abi Nahoul, and Stephanie Nohra.



Community Nutrition Students Collaborate with NGOs to Help Raise Nutrition Awareness

Students enrolled during the Spring Semester 2013 in the course titled „NTR 330: Community Nutrition% collaborated with local Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) to help raise awareness about multiple nutrition topics. Sixteen students divided into four groups participated.

The first group worked with the SOS youth and was formed of Melissa Abs, Wafaa Chamoun, Melissa Hage, and Noura Khayralla. The main goal of the SOS is to give children without biological parental care an alternative home. The group met with adolescent boys and girls

who live in SOS youth houses and measured their weight, height, and body fat percentage and assessed their eating habits. Further, the community nutrition students offered an interactive workshop specifically prepared to meet the needs of SOS adolescents, regarding healthy eating habits. With the help of dietician Miss Vanessa Ghoussoub, students encouraged a change of lifestyle through competitions, rewards, and a fitness session.

The second group was formed of Lea Assi, Loyal Mashtoub, Jemma shidiaq, and Jaafar Jaafar who worked with World

Vision in cooperation with Karagozian Dispensary in Nabaa that serves women and children in that region. World Vision is engaged to eliminate poverty and its causes through improving the knowledge about multiple health related issues and providing healthcare for women and children. The group met with housewives attending the Karagozian Dispensary and decided upon agreement with the women to target food safety due to the increased incidence of food borne illness in Lebanon. The group of students prepared a video with the help of Radio/TV students, a brochure, and a presentation on the proper management of food during cooking and preparation.

The third group was formed of Lea Ayache, Joane Saade, Marianne Saade, and Daniella Abou Nahoul who worked with Dialeb. Dialeb's main goal is to promote healthy lifestyles and spread awareness about diabetes to make living with the disease more manageable. Students organized with Dialeb an awareness session about diabetes prevention and management in the municipality of Dekwaneh for people 40 years. The intervention was designed to increase awareness about the risk factors that lead to diabetes, and general guidance about how to manage one's diet once diagnosed. Finally, students screened people for diabetes, and offered the audience free glucose testing machines. In addition, students prepared pamphlets about the dietary management of diabetes.

The last team was formed of Rachelle Hachem, Joane Asaad, Sacha Haddad, and Jessica Fakhry who worked with the Chronic Care Center. The center deals with patients suffering from Type I diabetes and Thalassemia. Students



Ms. Vanessa Ghoussoub during the SOS Workshop

met with adolescents and children affected with Thalassemia. While patients were getting their routine blood transfusions, students engaged in a presentation and age appropriate games about healthy eating habits and taught the audience how to read nutrition labels.

The participation of students in this project enabled them to practice the theoretical aspect of class work, and it empowered them to feel that small contributions from their side can make a significant difference in the community in which they live.



Jaafar Jaafar, Layal el-Mashtoub, Lea Assi, Jemma Shidiaq, Dr. Jessy Hayek, and World Vision beneficiaries.

Dr. Jackie Kassouf, Lea Ayache, Marianne Saade, Joane Saade, Daniella Abou Nahoul, and organizers of the Dialeb event



NDU LIBRARIES

"Poetry Month" at NDU Libraries

Amine MOUSSA

The month of April is „*National Poetry Month*“ in the U.S.A., where schools, publishers, libraries, booksellers, and poets throughout that nation band together to celebrate poetry and its vital place in its culture. NDU Libraries chose to play a part in this institutional recognition of poetry by also organizing at the Main Campus its own „*Poetry Month*“ in April, 2013.

Throughout April, NDU Libraries highlighted its range of poetry resources for adults and children in various languages: English, Arabic, French, and German. NDU faculty, students, and staff in all campuses received daily e-mails, profiling great poets from around the world. The e-mails included a short biography of the „*Poet of the Day*“, a selection of their work, and a selected bibliography of their poetry books, along with any available biographical or critical works about their poetry, which are available in the NDU Libraries print collections.

A Poetry Competition, which took place in the Serials area of the Mariam and Youssef (Main) Library on Monday, April 29, 2013, closed the Poetry Month event. Many students and staff members welcomed the idea to compete and showed great interest in sharing their work in English, Arabic, or French. A specialized jury was formed to comment on the works presented and choose the winners.

The jury was composed of the following: Suhail Matar, NDU Vice-President Cultural Affairs and Public Relations; Edward Alam, Ph.D., Professor of Philosophy and General Secretary of the Council for Research in Values and Philosophy; Amal Malek, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Philosophy and Humanities; and Jamil Douaihy, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Arabic Literature.

Twelve students and three staff members participated in the competition. The jury selected Lucas Farah as the winner, and Amanda Rizkallah and Etienne Houayek took second and third place respectively. Through the support of the NDU Sponsorship Office, the three received gift certificates from Maison Du Ski. The other participants each received a selection of poetry books. In addition, the jury decided to offer participating students and staff a free poetry composition class (10 hours worth of lessons) to help them improve their poetry writing skills.

The turnout of NDU community members attending the event was greater than expected due to the professionalism and dedication of the members of the Ad-hoc Committee.



❖ Ad-hoc Committee members for the NDU Libraries Poetry Month Event. (from left): Cecilia Doumit, Amine Moussa [chair], Itab Ebli, Dalal Khalil, and George Mghayyar. Committee member not in this picture: Joyce Draiby.

راقصة شرقية

لوكس فرح

بئيدا عصاي و ناظرا غنيها
وليل عم يطلع من جداديلها
وهي قبالي تلوح بمنديلها
مثل الكائنو سلاح عم بتثيلها
وللشرق أو للغرب عم بيميلها
ومن وهجا عم يستووا عناقيدها
ومن غيرتي عليها صرت إشكيلها
وأكبر زكي بالحب عم يحنيها
ومع كل نسمي بوستي بوذيها
ومن فرحتو حكايات عم يحكيها
وعا جفنها بينام كحلا و ميلها
وساحة الرقص قبالتها بتضويلها
وما سكرت من خمرة أبو النؤاس

كانت السكرة وقفتي مقابيلها

سمرا جميلي واقف مقابيلها
حلوي ورشيقة وقدها مياس
بلشت غني قبالي كل الناس
ساعة العصاي تحبس الأنفاس
ساعة الخصر عم بيرم بإحساس
ساعة تهز الخصر ساعة الراس
وساعة دق بأيدها النحاس
زئارها عا خصرها متراس
خدودا جمر و عليهن بتباس
والقلب عم بيدق مثل جراس
رموشا الغطا وعيونها ألماس
نجوم السما عا جسمها حرّاس
وكلما تهز الخصر هز الكاس



❖ Lucas Farah (winner);



❖ Participants and jury members during the competition

Difference

Amanda Fouad Rizkallah

What blame does a color hold
For its mere existence
Why can't it be paroled
From chains of cruel resistance
What harm has faith instilled
To deserve affliction
When malice has loudly killed
The peace in our religion
Bias has fogged the vision
Like beauty to the blind
The self; a deadly prison
Captivating the mind
What good is a mask of pride
On souls tarnished with shame
What good is humankind
If we were all the same
May spirits be given a lift
To their freest state
To see difference as a gift;
As a cause to celebrate.

ياريت بترجع

إتيان الحويك

عجبتيني وغيرتيني
زادت بعمرني سنييني
باسمك حيرتيني
يا حلوي جنتتيني
بعرف إنسو سحرتيني
بقلك شو ما سألتيني
حتى تضلي تحاكيني
ووقت الشرح بتنسيني
بكتب كلمة حبييني
وعن درسي شوبتلهيني
ما بعرف تتردييني
وانتي بقابك حطيني
وعن دربك ما تزيحيني
نجحتي وما نجحتيني
عدتي كثير تركتيني

لمن شفتك وعرفتك
غيرني فيكي لطفك
لما قالولي اسمك
لقيتو بيشابه رسمك
مش قادر كمل صفك
ولو عم بدرس بصفك
بقعد حدك مش خلفك
وبسند كتفي عكتفك
وبنسى الشرح وعكتفك
بتبقي أشطر بدرسك
ولو بطلع سمع قبلك
بحاول إدرس عن قلبك
جبرتيني إتبع دربك
تركت الدرس وما تركتك
فجأة رحتي وما شفتك



❖ The jury (from left):
Dr. Edward Alam,
Mr. Suhail Matar,
Dr. Jamil Douwaihy,
and Dr. Amal Malek.



❖ Contestants with
Dr. Edward Alam

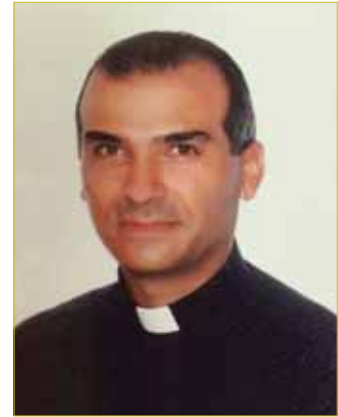
PASTORAL OFFICE

Religion at NDU: Education, Challenge, and Joy

Fr. Akram KHOURY, Ph.D.



❖ Students attending a talk at the Pastoral Office with Fr. Fady Bou Chebel.



„ Good religion teaches us about a good God and encourages us to be like Him to the people of the world. Bad religion teaches us about a good God and encourages us to look down on the people of the world because they are not as good as God is.‟ (Harold J Duarte-Bernhardt).

Sound religious knowledge is imperative in a world filled with youths lost in temptation and constantly fighting against God and blaming Him for all the problems of the universe. No one can teach faith to others; however, religious education can lighten the path to enrich one's faith and spiritual maturity. It is for those reasons that Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) is striving to offer its students all the necessary tools to know God and Christianity through the help of its diverse course offerings on religion: From Catholicism, Marriage and Family, and Maronite Studies to all the different social issues related to religion, evidently Christianity.

The varied courses on religion that NDU provides are a significant combination of knowledge that one can read and memorize in a book and the knowledge one can only gain through personal experience and through persistent spiritual guidance.

To begin with, and speaking from the University's vantage point, the academic objectives of these courses do not clash with the profound objectives of bringing students closer to God.

The priests and lecturers teaching the different religious courses aim at achieving the following:

- Remediating the vague perception of religion that many of our students have by introducing students to the true concepts of the Church, the Sacred Sacraments, Dogmas, etc., and setting right certain flawed concepts that students might have inherited from society or some family members;

- Explaining comprehensively yet simply the practices of Christianity to help students better understand why they are Christians and explaining the reasons why they should not blindly follow the creed if they do not understand some of its practices and ceremonies;
- Broaching several topics through clear explanations that touch upon symbolic meanings found in the Bible and Christian celebrations revolving around miracles, rituals, and tradition.

Lecturers do not expect their students to become religious experts or theologians, rather, they expect them to gather enough information and find proper answers, concerning their faith in order to help them continue with their lives and stay on the right track. Lecturers play two roles in this regard: First, on an academic level, lecturers ensure that students apply all the requirements of the course (from exams, reading, and attendance, to, most importantly, class participation). Second, lecturers expect students to be responsible for transmitting the real teachings of the Church, especially since student curiosity will lead to several discussions regarding God, His omnipotent presence for some, or lack thereof for others. Lecturers must be strict in the academic process, because, regardless of the content, religion is a University course like all others, and following the curriculum rigorously is obligatory.

In addition to the academic features of courses on religion, it is important to realize that university students are going through a hard transitional phase in their lives. Many are at a crossroads and are either immersed in their chosen major, have doubts about the people they fall in and out of love with, or have trouble figuring out who and what to believe in, and whether they should believe in God or in any other higher power for that matter. They are on a continual quest for concrete answers, which is why teaching them the concept of God and goodness of the Church is crucial at this point in their lives.

At NDU, moreover, we notice that the typical student who enrolls in the REG course register does so for the sake of filling in a time slot, since it is mostly either a general requirement (GER) or a free elective without a second thought for what the class has to offer. Some students attend and spend their time on their cell phones or use the time to study for a course in their major, simply because they are lazy. Others are lost, and are somewhat shy to raise their hand in the middle of the class due to the intense peer pressure that university students experience on a daily basis. Others still invest their full energy into learning as much as they can from these courses given that they have grasped the rudiment of religion but still need that little push to complete their religious and spiritual knowledge, and to correct their misguided beliefs.

Finally, we have others who are atheists, or those who do not believe in God and refuse to accept any notion of His existence. It must be said here that many of our students who call themselves atheists are in fact simply angry with God and blame Him for all their problems, forgetting the fact that if they are angry with God, they unwittingly believe in His existence; therefore, they are not atheists in the true sense of the word.

In this particular case, concerning the non-believers and the stubborn ones who find it difficult to connect with God, the effort to help them understand God lays in the hands of the lecturers and the courses they teach, because, „God is more interested in what I am than what I do. That’s why we are called human beings not human doings.“

Nonetheless, lecture time is limited, leaving many students asking for more and thirsting for a deeper link with their spirituality. It goes without saying that so many of our students find themselves going from a state of curiosity to a state of sheer joy and devout belief. The Pastoral Office at NDU, under the guidance of Fr. Fady Bou Chebel and his around-the-clock availability for counseling and spiritual guidance, must take the bulk of the credit for this exhilarating shift in students’ newfound perceptions on religion.

A Student’s Opinion: „As a student, I have noticed many changes in several of my peers, the courses on religion helped them change their stubborn ways of thinking and brought them closer to the Church. Many students described these courses as *‘therapeutic,’* because these courses help them fill the gap they have in their lives and help them answer countless ambiguous questions they encounter. The courses on religion are no longer restricted to memorizing Bible verses or memorizing the Seven Sacraments without linking these two sides to each other. The courses have become a personal experience each one of us can live on his/her own and relate them to others. The courses are no longer regarded as an obligatory syllabus requirement, rather, the course are an opportunity to vent frustrations and to seek

answers and understand concepts on love, faith, peace, and forgiveness. These courses complement the work of the Pastoral Office at NDU and takes faith to another level entirely. The Pastoral Office is not attendance, it is participation. It is not about having classmates, but about building friendships, a support system, and people who go through the same difficulties as you, yet who are always present to support and encourage you.“

Another Student’s Opinion: „The Pastoral Office has helped a lot of people change from being simple passive human beings to become active living beings, to the point where it became a lifestyle in its own right through the different activities and actions taken. These activities include Bible talks, discussions, spiritual retreats and weekend retreats, summer camps, and fighting one of the hardest battles: being active on campus and organizing special events in the face of political clubs and some superficial ones. The Pastoral Office is a safe haven and a heaven for many students in distress, believers and non-believers. It is where your peers do not judge you, not because they can’t (trust me they can), but because they don’t want to, since it is not the highlight of their day to judge, rather, they turn their day over to God and that becomes the highlight of their lives. There is nothing more satisfying and reassuring than for a human being to have a shoulder to cry on and the inner peace that everything is going to be okay: the definition of faith.“

The courses on religion go hand-in-hand with the Pastoral work to create a stronger love, a love of a Father, because God is love and God is what you can refuse to see but never refuse to feel. God is the love you feel for others, close or far. He is the smile that is drawn on your face even at the saddest moments. He is what keeps you going when the going gets rough, and given that our youths are currently refusing any concept of God and spirituality, the Pastoral work exists to make the concept of God more human to us, relatable most importantly to our current state. God is no longer the almighty to be feared, but the Father that is always waiting for us, even for non Christians, the idea remains true for God is love (1 John 4:8), and love knows no color, religion, or nationality. Love just is, deep in the heart of each one of us. We are thankful for the Pastoral Office at NDU, and many other universities, for giving everyone the chance to simply believe in something bigger than them, which helps them along the predicaments of life; something that doesn’t lead to them straying along the paths of desperation, fights, addictions, and loss of hope. It is a place where they feel safe, a home, and a refuge. No one should lose hope, because hope is the flame that keeps us going.

„I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace, because you trust in him“ (Romans 15:13).

SAO

Student Housing: Welcome Home

Source: Paul KHOURY

The Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) Student Housing facility is a student service dormitory on the Main Campus. With 417 rooms located in a striking five-story building, we have made every effort to create quality housing facilities and to deliver superior services. Our Student Housing provides and promotes a living environment that is conducive to learning and encourages residents to use all the available housing resources needed to pursue their education at NDU, while abiding by strict rules and regulations related to academic life and values in an atmosphere of respect and integrity.

Without a doubt, we understand your need to settle quickly so that you can begin acquainting yourself with

new friends, explore the campus, or get a head start on the new academic year. To this end, we have strived to ensure that on-campus life will prove to be exciting and that you will benefit from the assortment of on-campus activities. Living on campus will provide many opportunities to become involved with the University.

Your success as a Student Housing member largely depends on you. You will be expected to respect lifestyles that may differ from your own, and you will be expected to respect the needs of others. By doing this, you will grow as a person, succeed as a member of your new community, and excel in the classroom.



❖ Student Housing Building (external view).



❖ Security.



❖ Lounge.



❖ Kitchen.

The Student Housing is divided in Men's and Women's Residences (single and double rooms) where we provide you with a range of facilities and services such as laundry, kitchen, TV room, Internet access, etc. Front desk staff is always on duty to provide assistance, and a nurse is on call every night in case of emergencies. The facility is cleaned and maintained by professional cleaning personnel while students' rooms are cleaned on a weekly basis.

Single rooms are furnished with a single bed and mattress, computer desk, chair, wardrobes, kitchenette, mini-fridge, WC, blanket, bed cover, air-conditioning, LCD TV with cable connection, Internet connection, and internal and external telephone services.

Double double rooms are furnished with two single beds and mattresses, two computer desks, two chairs, wardrobes, kitchenette, WC, blankets, bed covers, air-conditioning, LCD TV with cable TV connection, Internet connection, and internal and external telephone services.

We encourage you to discuss with us your ideas about programs and your living environment. Consider yourself at home.



❖ TV room.



❖ Parking Bloc C.



❖ Reception.



❖ Female Block B.



❖ Male room Block A.



❖ Laundry room.

STAFF

NDU Job Fair 2013

The Public Relations Department-Placement Office at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) held its annual Job Fair from May 29-30, 2013, at NDU Main Campus, Zouk Mosbeh. The Job Fair took place under the patronage of H.E. Mr. Michel Edde, former Minister of Culture and Higher Education.

The NDU Job Fair 2013 brought together leading companies and organizations and featured a wide variety of employers from diverse industries, including banks, insurance companies, contracting and engineering firms, computer and communications businesses, catering companies, hotels, schools, airlines, transportation businesses, retail and distribution firms, logistics, NGOs, libraries, etc.

This event gives students, graduates, and alumni the opportunity to discuss with various company representatives career opportunities (from internships to seasonal, part-time, and full-time jobs). These representatives are in a position to give prospective candidates company and career

information, and to offer them assignments with some of the top marketers.

The official opening was attended by Mr. Edde.; Fr. Walid Moussa, NDU President; NDU Vice-Presidents; Rev. Fr. Francois Akl, Director of NDU Shouf Campus; NDU Faculty Deans; NDU faculty members, staff, students, alumni; representatives from various companies and organizations; and members of the press.

Following the Lebanese national anthem, Mrs. Loyal Nehme Matar, NDU Placement Officer, delivered a welcome speech and stressed on the importance of hosting this annual event at NDU, which offers intellectual, cultural, and educational growth, and helps maintain a spirit of patriotism and national pride by helping to protect Lebanon's most precious resource: its human capital.

She said, „Each time a Lebanese invests in Lebanon, it is an act to help the nation survive. Some wanted us to cease to exist, but we existed, and we will continue to exist. It is easy to observe that certain political schisms hinder job



The opening ceremony of the NDU Job Fair 2013.



Cutting the ribbon to launch the Job Fair (from left): Fr. Francois Akl, Mrs. Loyal Nehme Matar, Mr. Souheil Matar, Dr. Ameen Rihani, Fr. Walid Moussa, H.E. Mr. Michel Edde.

opportunities and hinder the dream for a prosperous life and a rosy future. Yet, the NDU Job Fair 2013 challenges this reality by providing a platform for our right to exist and survive. H.E. Michel Edde, the patron of this event, is a different breed of politician; he is a politician who cares. He has carried on his shoulders the burden of his citizens both at home and abroad. He is here today to share our worries and our successes.%

Mr. Souheil Matar, NDU Vice-President for Cultural Affairs and Public Relations, said in his speech, „ We here today are far removed from the realities, shaping our surroundings. We are here in search of job vacancies and not license plate numbers. When we vote, our concern is to find good opportunities so that we can live with dignity...As a nation, we are proud of our achievements, proud that we have built companies and institutions, but we should be ashamed because politicians have ruined and destroyed our governmental institutions and have drawn lots for our very clothes a thousand times over. It is high time we woke up. They pretend to represent us, yet they are using us. It is time to raise our voices and say „no“ in the face of this corruption, which is engulfing our society.%

Fr. Walid Moussa in his speech said, „ This annual event indicates our constant faith in the cooperation between the University and society. Our students and alumni are the sons and daughters of this society, and together we try to surmount three main challenges. The first challenge is coping with ignorance. We continue to learn and work hard as opposed to others who are bent on ruin and destruction, because ignorance and fanaticism blinds them. Being conscious is our only solution. It is dangerous if we lose our historical and civilized role in this region. The second challenge is emigration. We are all aware of how badly emigration is affecting everyone: our graduates, their families, and us. Emigration is like a plague, forcing many Lebanese to leave their homeland. But we will stay. We will keep on making every effort to ensure that everyone finds a job and establishes a career here. The third challenge is coping with despair...%

„ Lebanon has in place,“ said Mr. Edde, „ all the legislative and legal foundations, and conditions to heal itself. These foundations are the bases of a free economy, which have helped the Lebanese surmount every obstacle and crisis.%



❖ Job Fair, Open Court, NDU Main Campus.



❖ Students visiting the various stands.



❖ Students visiting the various stands.



❖ H.E. Mr. Michel Edde (center) greeting attendees.

He added, „Our unstable political climate and sporadic conflicts has played a major role in driving away local, Arab, and foreign investors. If we don't preserve Lebanon, job opportunities will cease to exist, and if we don't preserve Lebanon, the lives of men, women, and children will become a living hell in a climate of hostilities.‰

Mr. Edde stressed that we should stop abusing our important model of democracy, instead, we should aim to lead respectable lives under a government that recognizes all religions and sects. He went on to describe the NDU Job Fair 2013 as a beacon of hope and an event that would help Lebanon overcome the present hardships.

At the close of the opening speeches, and before officially declaring the NDU Job Fair 2013 open, Mr. Edde donated US\$100,000 to the NDU Student Financial Aid Program.

The Public Relations Department-Placement Office at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) invited all NDU Job Fair 2013 participants to a lavish Gala Dinner, which was held at the NDU Restaurant on Friday, June 7, 2013, at 8:30 p.m.

Attending the dinner were: NDU President Fr. Walid Mousa, Mr. Souheil Matar, Vice-President for Cultural Affairs and Public Relations, NDU Faculty Deans, NDU PR Department staff members, and owners and representatives of companies, institutions, banks, and organizations.

Singer Paul Zougheib performed a large repertoire of songs. Fiordelli Men's Wear distributed complimentary ties to all attending males while Akira Paris distributed complimentary cosmetics to all attending women.

Two participating organizations were selected, following a Lucky Draw Contest, to participate free-of-charge in next year's Job Fair.



❖ The Gala Dinner.



❖ Paul Zougheib performing.



❖ Mrs. Loyal Nehme Matar and Mr. Souheil Matar randomly drawing the names of two winning participants during the Lucky Draw Contest.



❖ Guests toast to a successful Job Fair 2013.

SPORTS OFFICE

NDU Sports Challenge

For the eighth consecutive year, Notre-Dame University-Louaize (NDU) organized from March 16 to April 24, 2013, its annual mixed gender Inter-Scholar Sports Tournament under the title of „*NDU Sports Challenge*,% in the following sport disciplines: basketball, volleyball, mini-football, swimming, tennis, and table tennis. The Sports Office at NDU organized this event under the supervision of Dr. Ziad Fahed, NDU Dean of Students. More than 40 schools and educational institutions (totaling around 1,000 students) participated in this event.

The Lycée Nahr Ibrahim was awarded the „Fair Play% award, the Lycée De Ville was awarded the „Appreciation% award, and Saint Joseph School, Kornet Chehwan, was awarded the „Most Participating School% award.

Fr. Bechara Khoury, NDU Director of Finance, delivered a speech at the closing award ceremony to congratulate the winners and to motivate them to continue in their efforts toward improving the status of sports in schools and educational institutions. He also emphasized the need to use sports as a tool in breaking society's negative behavioral patterns.

Results

- Table Tennis (Men's Category)
 - First Place: Antoine Kerbaj (SJS)
 - Second Place: Jean Pierre Hayek (Charité)
- Tennis (Men's Category)
 - First Place: Jad Salibi (German)
 - Second Place: Emilio Khoury (German)
- Tennis (Women's Category)
 - First Place: Bruna Khoury (German)
 - Second Place: Carine Saad (SJS)
- Volleyball (Men's Category):
 - First Place: NDL
 - Second: Place SJS
- Football
 - First Place: SJS
 - Second Place: NDL
- Basketball (Women's Category)
 - First Place: Antoura
 - Second Place: NDL
- Basketball (Men's Category)
 - First Place: Lycée Nahr Ibrahim
 - Second Place: NDL
- Swimming (Winners of Various Categories): Tarek Chahine; Andrew Saadeh; Gabriel Bared; Justin Helou; Andrea Mghames; Tatiana Aninkina; Theresia Khoury; and Rea Maalouf.



❖ Fr. Bechara Khoury (center) with participating students and organizers.

NDU Taekwondo Team Visits Aphrodite

Joe CHAMMA



As soon as Grand Master Joseph Khoury received an invitation from the Cyprus Judo and Taekwondo Federation, we began preparing for the camp two months in advance through numerous correspondence and follow-ups with the Cyprus Federation, processing visa applications at the Cypriot Embassy in Lebanon, and gathering the various documents required. Finally, we were all set for what would be a memorable trip.

Our early morning flight was scheduled for Friday March 29, 2013, and our return evening flight was scheduled for Monday, April 1, 2013. The Notre Dame University – Louaize (NDU) team comprised four officials and 11 students. The NDU team that went to Cyprus were: Mr. Elias Boutros, Mr. Joseph Khoury, Mr. Jean Abi Rizk, Miss Anna Maria Khawand, Miss Cynthia Nasr, Mr. Elias Issa, Mr. Elias Mattar, Mr. Elie Khoury, Mr. Joey Nassif, Mr. Joseph Harfouch, Mr. Marc Haber, Miss Nour al-Jurdi, and Mr. Peter Haber.

Arriving at Larnaca International Airport, we were transported to the Asty Hotel, located in the heart of Nicosia, close to the Lebanese Embassy. As we settled in, Mr. Elias Boutros held a small meeting with the team.

The team then met with Mr. Panikos Panayiotou, President of the Champions Club, International Referee, and member of the Cyprus Taekwondo Federation. Mr. Panayiotou thanked us for responding to the invitation and wished us an enjoyable stay. After the meeting, Mr. Panayiotou took a few team members to the Federation where they met with Mr. Phivos Christou, the President of the Cyprus Judo and Taekwondo Federation and General Treasurer of the European Taekwondo Union. The team members who stayed behind toured the city, some on foot, others riding bicycles provided by the hotel.

The first training session was held at the Champions Club in Nicosia. Two hours later and after group photos were taken, we went back to the hotel for a shower before go-



ing out for dinner at a small restaurant near the hotel. We slept early that night in preparation for the next day.

The next morning after breakfast, the team left to train with the Cypriot National Taekwondo Team, after which group photos were taken and souvenirs exchanged. The rest of the day was spent discovering Nicosia.

The third and final training session took place at the Nicolaou Taekwondo Club in Nicosia. As the team trained, our officials inspected the club's diverse equipment and made notes on what to order for our Club at NDU. The training session ended with some group photos and words of encouragement for future cooperation.

Mr. Panikos invited the NDU team to a Lebanese restaurant for dinner near Ledra Street. Our team members had a great time at the restaurant, which also showcased dancers and other forms of entertainment.

On Sunday morning, a few members of our team celebrated Easter even though in Cyprus both Catholics and Maronites celebrate Easter with Orthodox Christians, unlike Lebanon where Easter is celebrated twice a year. After an early breakfast, the group decided to walk around Ledra Street to buy some souvenirs.

One group went souvenir hunting while the other group decided to go and spend the day at the beach in Agia Napa. Many souvenirs were bought before returning to the hotel and going out for lunch.

That night we were invited to attend the Cypriot Barbeque Night Buffet at the hotel. The group that had spent the day in Agia Napa returned just in time to join us for the buffet. Mr. Panikos joined us for the evening. At the buffet, we met the Cypriot Ambassador in Lebanon, H. E. Mr. Homer Mavrommatis. After the buffet, Mr. Panikos invited a few of our officials to a local pub in Nicosia.

On April Fool's Day, we checked out of the hotel and headed to the airport for our return trip home. Given that we arrived early, the team visited the duty-free shop and passed time at the airport café. Later that day, we boarded for Beirut. It was truly a wonderful trip for all of us.

Special Thanks to Mr. Elias Boutros, Mr. Joseph Houry, Mr. Jean Abi Rizk, Mr. Sherif Zeidan (a friend of mine in the Cyprus Embassy in Beirut), Mr. Panikos Panayiotou, and last but not least Mr George Tahtah, for making the trip worthwhile.

NORTH LEBANON CAMPUS

All NLC articles reported by Mr. Edgar MERHEB-HARB
– Assistant Director, Public Relations Department, NLC.

NLC Hosts Lavish Dinner for North Lebanon Principals

Continuing its annual tradition, Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) North Lebanon Campus (NLC) invited all school principals in North Lebanon to a lavish dinner on April 19, 2013, at the Mhanna Sur Mer restaurant in Amchit where a festive atmosphere marked the entire evening. Administrators, faculty, and staff of NLC were all present at the dinner, and many directors, faculty, and staff from the NDU Main Campus joined Fr. Walid Moussa, NDU President. Fr. Moussa delivered a speech and stressed on the importance of such gatherings in strengthening ties between NDU and secondary schools in Lebanon.

Fr. Samir Ghsoub, NLC Director, noted in his speech that identical goals united the University and the educational sector at all levels: Primary, secondary, and higher education. He stressed that it is our duty to defend our educational institutions and regain lost values. Fr. Ghsoub also noted that we must continue to support and guide students, who are our responsibly, and ensure that education is always separated from politics. He stressed that the doors of NLC are always open to help secondary school principals succeed in building a healthy society and a strong nation.

Principals of the following schools were invited:

Ecole Nationale Grecque Orthodoxe, Zahriyeh;
Collège National Orthodoxe, Kobbe;
Mar Elias, Mina;
Collège des Saints-Coeurs, Haykaliyeh;
Tripoli Evangelical School;
Pères Carmes-St. Elie;



Religieuses des Saints-Coeurs, Batroun;
Ecole Saint Joseph des Pères Capucins, Batroun;
Ecole des Soeurs Maronites de la Sainte Famille-St. Elie, Batroun;
Batroun Official School;
Chekka Official School;
Universal School;
Lycee Saint Pierre-Orthodoxe;
Ecole des Filles de La Charité, Btouratije;
Collège des Frères, Deddeh;
Lebanese Institute of Technology, Haykaliye;
Deddeh Official School;
Ecole Sainte Thérèse, Amioun;
Amioun Official School;
David Karam Educational Center;
Ecole Technique Orthodoxe, Bkeftine;
Kferaaka Official School;
Ecole al Carmalia, Mejdlay;a
Rashiine Official School;
North Lebanon College;
Ecole Saint Joseph des Soeurs Basiliques, Meniara;
Mission Laique Francaise- Abdallah el-Rassi, Halba;
National Orthodox School, Cheikhtaba;
Modern School, Meniara;
Ecole Secondaire des Soeurs Sainte Thérèse, Hadchit;
Becharré Official Secondary School;
Kfarhabou Official School;
Halba Official School;
SABIS-Chouefat International School-Koura; and
Kalamoun Official School



NLC Organizes Conference on “Integrating Technology into Teaching”

The Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) North Lebanon Campus (NLC) organized on Friday, April 26, 2013, a conference under the title of *„Integrating Technology into Teaching”* under the patronage of Mr. Fady Yarak, Director General of Education, who was represented by Dr. Nahla el-Hamati NehmeĒ, Head of the Educational District of North Lebanon. Conference participants included school directors, university lecturers, and students.

The customary rendition of the Lebanese national anthem launched the conference and was followed by a welcome address delivered by Dr. Savo Karam, Master of Ceremonies, who greeted participants and highlighted the importance of the science-based meeting.

Dr. Mary-Angela Willis, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, inaugurated the conference. She said that lecturers should keep abreast of the latest technological innovations and tools, and know how to use such technology given that students have a good grasp of technology. She added that technology should serve to support education and improve communication between lecturers and students; thus, making students feel that the learning process is more meaningful, dynamic, and enjoyable. For her part, Dr. Dorine Matar Haddad delivered a speech on behalf of Fr. Samir Gh-soub, Director of NLC. She underlined the importance of technology in education and stressed the fact that the University is keen on keeping up with technological advances in order to improve educational and teaching efficiency. In this regard, NDU regularly organizes such conferences, which are aimed at benefiting both students and lecturers.

Dr. NehmeĒ underscored that the conference was aimed at integrating technological tools and methods as well as active teaching methods in the core of the educational process in order to benefit both student and nation. She said, „In 1997, the Ministry of Education devised and implemented a plan, which aimed at applying active methods in education, the most important of which was integrating technology in the curricula and classes through the continual training of teachers.”

Dr. Maha Mouchantaf, Chairperson of the Department of English, Translation and Education at NDU, chaired the first session. Dr. Maha Sourani (Lebanese University-LU) discussed the concept of utilizing Facebook for college writing. Dr. Salma Abdallah took to the lectern following Dr. Sourani’s talk.

Dr. Abdallah tackled the role of technology in teaching the Arabic language. At the end of the session, Dr. Sami Samra (NDU) and Dr. Amal Malek (NDU) discussed the role of technology in the classroom and asked whether it was a problem or a solution, or a target or a tool.

Mr. Michael Hajj, Coordinator of the Faculty of Humanity (NLC), moderated the last session in which Ms. Manal Saba (LU) discussed the use of mobile phones to improve educational outcomes. Her colleague, Dr. Hiba Chendib (LU) evaluated the electronic EFL e-programs while Dr. Zeina Trad tackled the topic of teaching vocabulary to students of different learning styles by using the Internet. Dr. Wissam Chibani (NDU) closed the conference with an address on the Collaborative Networking for Direct Feedback at the NDU Writing Center.

NLC Co-Sponsors Tripoli Semi-Marathon

The Together Lebanon Organization organized a semi-marathon in Tripoli on Sunday, May 19, 2013, under the patronage of caretaker government Minister of Youth and Sports Mr. Faisal Karami. The Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) North Lebanon Campus (NLC) participated at the event in the capacity of Bronze Sponsor.

The Tripoli semi-marathon, which is a combination of three tracks: 21 kilometers, 5 kilometers, and 2 kilometers for kids, ran under the slogan „*Together We Run for Peace*” – a much-needed peace in our beloved Tripoli. The start line was located at the Tripoli International Fair and Exhibition

Centre Boulevard (in front of the residence of former Prime Minister Najib Mikati).

With more than 40,000 supporters and spectators lining up the streets, the marathon brought together 20,000 participants, ranging from Lebanese, Asian, and European athletes to political and military figures, civil society activists, and school students.

It was a day of solidarity, fun, and sports in which various beverages and the famous sweets of Tripoli were distributed to all.



Founders' Day 2013 at NDU-NLC

The Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) North Lebanon Campus (NLC) commemorated Founders' Day 2013 on Friday, May 17, 2013. The entire NLC family and guests from across the country gathered to celebrate in the festivities from dusk till dawn.



Alumni Gathering at NLC

„Celebrating Your Next Step 2013,“ which was held on May 20, 2013, was the theme of this year's Alumni gathering at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) North Lebanon Campus (NLC). Present at the occasion were Fr. Walid Moussa, NDU President, Fr. Samir Ghsoub, NLC Director, administration, faculty, staff, and students, Mr. Simon Abou Jaoude, Director of the Alumni Affairs Office at NDU, delivered his address, noting the importance of being an Alumni and NDU student for the rest of our

lives. „Our Alma Mater is a part of us and should be treated as such,“ he said.

Fr. Moussa highlighted the fact that graduates must face their future with „faith in God and confidence, as these two factors are essential for success.“

Fr. Ghsoub and Mr. Michael Hajj, Coordinator at the Faculty of Humanities and main organizer of the event, both welcomed the students and distributed pamphlets comprising the President's Address for 2013, in addition to some other souvenirs to mark this special occasion.



NLC Dean's List (Spring 2013)

The Administration of the Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) North Lebanon Campus (NLC) honored its outstanding students of the semester from seven Faculties with a spectacular event, which was held on Wednesday, June 6, 2013, at 6 p.m.

Present were NLC administrators, faculty and staff, principals of secondary schools, parents, and students.

In his welcome address, Dr. Chadi Makkari, Coordinator of the Faculty of Engineering at NLC, highlighted the role of the educator in ensuring a suitable learning environment for students to excel in their chosen disciplines.

Dr. Michel Hayek, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering at NDU, encouraged parents to continue supporting their children and thanked them for putting their faith in NDU.

Fr. Samir Ghsoub, NLC Director, congratulated lecturers and students on this success and said that Lebanon is blessed by having such talented students. The University is not concerned with numbers, but is concerned with students and how they rank in society and uphold principles in a society where such values are missing.

Outstanding students were honored with shields. Mrs. Maguy Issa from (NNA) „Wikalah Wattaniah i3lam% was also honored and was presented with a shield for her dedication and professionalism in covering all NDU events, during the past five years.

A *zajal* (traditional oral strophic poetry) presentation by Layali Lebnan closed the ceremony, and was immediately followed by an open-air cocktail.





NDU-NLC Organizes “Building Safety in Lebanon” Seminar

A seminar under the title of „Building Safety in Lebanon” took place on May 31, 2013, at the Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) North Lebanon Campus (NLC). The event, which was divided into two sessions, was organized in collaboration with the Safe Building Alliance (SBAI) in the presence of Fr. Samir Ghsoub, NLC Director, keynote speakers, mayors, municipality heads, architects, professionals, and students.

In his welcome address, Fr. Ghsoub discussed how buildings reflect society. He noted the chaotic nature of the construction process in Lebanon and the hazardous commercialization of the industry. Buildings, he said, must be constructed to keep families safe and blend in harmoniously with their natural environments. Fr. Ghsoub called on all parties concerned to forge solid partnerships and implement safe construction standards by using existing legislation and by demanding new legislation where necessary.

Four keynote speakers discussed the main topics of the session. The speakers were: Engr. Youssef Azzam, Head of the SBAI; Dr. Jihad Abi AKI, LIBNOR; Dr. Ziad AKI, Director of YASA; and Engr. Abdel Menhem Almeddine, the former President of the Order of Engineers in North Lebanon.

Dr. Michel Hayek, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering at NDU, moderated the first session titled „Building Safe.” Dr. Hayek stressed that the government needed to play a more active role in drafting new laws and enforcing new legislation. He called on all parties, including universities and citizens, to be proactive in ensuring contractors abide by these laws.

Engr. Azzam discussed the necessity of abiding to set criteria for construction, which includes protecting structures from earthquakes, fires, floods, etc., and refurbishing old buildings.

Dr. Jihad AKI discussed Decree No. 7964, which details standard construction practices, and he stressed the need to abide by its regulations to ensure the construction of safe buildings.

Dr. Ziad AKI noted the importance of training professionals in the Department of Civil Defence, which is specialized in Disaster Management. Such trainings are of the utmost



necessity, considering that the life of a survivor, in case of an accident, for example, may depend on a few precious minutes.

Engr. Almeddine headed the second session titled „The Reality of Our Buildings.” The speakers were Mr. Ziad Hammoudah, from the Syndicate of Engineers, and Mr. Mohamad Majzoub, who discussed the position of owners of buildings, falling under the old rental law in Lebanon.

Engr. Almeddine highlighted the fact that government was not overseeing these unsafe structures, and he called for more active government participation and stricter laws. He also added that the government should not consider fining offenders as a solution. Engr. Almeddine also asked that the Order of Engineers be given more say in monitoring the construction of buildings in Lebanon.

Mr. Nabil Arja closed the session and highlighted the injustice and lack of Lebanese regulations in defending the rights of tenants. Many laws were created for the sole purpose of protecting foreigners to invest in Lebanon while ignoring the interests of the Lebanese, he added.

A cocktail followed the seminar.

SC Hosts Annual Principals' Dinner

The Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) Shouf Campus (SC) hosted its annual Principals' Dinner on Saturday, April 20, 2013, at the luxurious Hotel Le Bristol in Verdun, Beirut. Around 160 school principals and secondary heads attended the dinner.

Fr. Francois Akl, Director of the SC, welcomed all guests, thanked the event-planning team, and praised the spirit of coexistence that governs the SC. He also thanked guests



for their staunch efforts to help our youth. Fr. Akl then gave the floor to Fr. Walid Moussa, NDU President. Fr. Moussa also thanked the guests and the event planners, and stressed on the importance of cooperation between high schools and the University for the benefit of students. Following the addresses, a documentary featuring the SC was screened and a live performance of classical music, expressed through piano and violin, was the highlight of the memorable evening.



Open Doors at SC

The Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) Shouf Campus (SC) family hosted its annual „Open Doors“ ceremony on Wednesday, April 24, 2013, from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m., and included a full day of academic tours, competitions, activities, and entertainment.

Around 1,061 students from more than 35 schools participated in this instructive day. Students commuted with their teachers, friends, and parents from the regions of Shouf, Metn, Sidon, and Tyr to share this special day with the faculty and students of the SC.

Guided by dynamic ushers, students were given a tours of the campus and met with their future advisors and faculty members, collected all the information, concerning the different programs available, learned about our helpful Financial Aid Program, and participated in the competitions and activities prepared by the Faculties.

Students, moreover, were given access to all the campus facilities and services. The SC student Clubs featured attractive displays, competitions, and fun activities in which everyone took part.





SC Celebrates Founders' Day 2013

The Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) Shouf Campus (SC) celebrated its annual Founders' Day on Friday, May 24, 2013. The celebration marked the 12th Anniversary of the founding of the SC and the 26th Anniversary of the founding of NDU.

The SC was a hive of activity the week before the event with everyone on campus working in earnest preparation to host the entire NDU community from all three campuses (Main, North, and Shouf) as well as to host residents of the entire Shouf region. This year's event was extra-special given the high turnout of faculty members, staff, and students who flocked to the SC to celebrate with student clubs and guests from across the country. The exceptional work that was done on the stands under the theme „*Cartoon Characters*“ characterized this year's event.

The opening ceremony began at 3:00 p.m. prompt. A welcome address, delivered by Fr. Francois AKI, Director of the SC, followed the Lebanese national anthem and the NDU anthem. Fr. AKI addressed all students, wishing them a great day ahead and reminding them of their responsibilities given that university life is not counted in years or paper degrees. He stressed that a university is measured by the quality of graduates it sends out into the world and by the success of its graduates in their chosen disciplines. He urged the SC family to remain a strong and united family that promotes education, growth, and patriotism.

After the welcome address, the event program proceeded according to schedule: Students showcased their talents through *dabke* (folk dances) and other forms of dancing, songs, and skits. Guest stars included Sarah el-Hani, Nidal el-Zain, Anwar Nour, and Ziad Borji, who all contributed to make it a memorable and fun-filled night filled with song and dance. The crowd cheered, sang along to their favorite tunes, and danced till the wee hours of the morning. Here's to many, many more celebrations!



SC: “Celebrating Your Next Step”

Fr. Walid Moussa, President of Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU), and Mr. Simon Abou Jaoude, Director of the NDU Alumni Affairs Office, visited the Shouf Campus (SC) on May 31, 2013, at noon to meet with the graduating „Class of 2013% in an event themed: „*Celebrating Your Next Step.*%

Fr. Francois Akl, Director of the SC, spoke to the graduating students, expressing his pride in each one of them. He urged them to forge real objectives in life; objectives that entail making their communities better places in which to live. He urged them not to hang their degrees on walls, as if their degrees were a painting, but to reflect their education and University culture everywhere they went. Fr. Akl concluded with a word of advice to the graduating students, telling them that in a world where the Internet is taking over, they should love books, read them, stay attached to them, and value them.

Fr. Moussa then took the floor and addressed the eager students. He reminded them that the best feature about studying at NDU rested in the fact that NDU enjoys strong links with a diverse network of friends/professionals, which can benefit the career of each graduating student. He assured them that because of the family ties that bind students together, even those who come from different departments and have different majors will still benefit from have remarkable connections. Fr. Moussa urged students

to remain loyal to their Alma Mater, and to visit it, not only in thoughts and in memories but also physically.

Fr. Moussa said, „Come back and visit these buildings where you spent so many good days; bring your spouses and children, and show them where your classes were and where your futures were shaped. He finally encouraged them to dream; to keep dreaming, but not to do so alone because without sharing one’s dream, it will turn into a nightmare. Dreams are meant to be addressed, challenged and fulfilled.%

Mr. Abou Jaoude then took the floor and spoke to the students about the Alumni Association. He screened a showreel of NDU Alumni taken from different campuses and majors who talked about their majors, their present careers, and their best times at NDU.

Finally, Ms. Niyanar Bou Ajram spoke on behalf of the SC Graduating Class 2013, thanking administrators, faculty, and staff members for the help they extended to them during the years they labored with their courses and their projects. She thanked the SC for helping her and her colleagues to leave its buildings better equipped and ready to face the challenges of the real world. She asked her classmates to be effective members in society and to reflect the light of the SC to the world.

It was a touching gathering during which visitors and the graduating class shared moments of sincere gratitude.





Nicolas Saadeh Nakhle Gives Talk at SC

Popular Lebanese singer Nicolas Saadeh Nakhle delivered on June 12, 2013, a talk titled *„The Role of Our Youth in Building a New Lebanon,“* at the Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) Shouf Campus (SC). Nakhle enshrined as his central theme the building of a stable, patriotic, and harmonious society through our youth. He also discussed aspects of his career and encouraged the SC students to try to make a difference. Nakhle concluded his talk by thanking the SC for providing him with this unique opportunity and wished NDU the best of luck in all of its future endeavors.



Campus Voices provides a forum for our administrators, faculty, staff, students, and alumni to communicate about what's on their minds— their lives, their interests, their viewpoints, their concerns, and their perspectives.

AAN – The Cypriot Connection

Joe CHAMMA



❖ Joe Chamma in front of his old school, the American Academy Nicosia.

As in 2012, I returned to the island of Cyprus for a short visit in 2013 with the Lebanese Judo Federation. Returning to Cyprus to attend a Taekwondo Camp boosted my enthusiasm for the trip. This time around, however, my main objective was to meet up with all my old classmates. Before I left for the island on Friday, March 29, 2013, I bought a few souvenirs to give to my former classmates. We stayed at the Asty Hotel in Nicosia. After settling in, I walked around town and a huge smile painted my face when I came upon my old school, The American Academy Nicosia (AAN), where I had studied for eight years. Many good memories flooded back. Returning to the hotel, I took one of the officials accompanying me back to my school and promptly gave him a tour.

I spent the rest of that day getting in touch with my old classmates to organize a reunion. We agreed to start meeting the following day. After having dinner near the hotel, I was ready for a good night's sleep to meet the morning fresh and ready to go.

After 20 years of being away, I finally began to regroup with my former classmates. Vasilis Koufaris was the first friend to pick me up from the hotel. He drove me to his house where I met his wife, Harris, also a classmate, before leaving to pick up Vasilis' son, George, from karate class. After we picked up George, we visited Michael Kourtellas, another friend. I also met his wife and his newborn son.

We had a good chat and snapped a few photos to capture the moment before heading off to visit Stallo Hinnis.

Stallo is a warm and happy person, which made my visit all the more special. I met her two wonderful children, as we talked and caught up on past events. Vasilis, unfortunately, had a sudden and urgent meeting to attend, so our trip was cut short. We took a few photos, and as we were leaving, I met Stallo's husband before Vasilis returned me to the hotel.

The day for me was not over, however. That night I had planned to reunite with another group of classmates. Nikolaos Panayiotou, a classmate, picked me up from the hotel, and took me to his house to pick up his wife, Julie Koutsoudis, also a former classmate. We then drove to a place called Presse Café where we were to meet the rest of the gang. Seeing everyone again as I arrived made our reunion even more special.

I dished out the gifts and even brought along some old class and school photos while we sat, laughed, and had a great time discussing our wonderful childhood memories. The friends present were: Nick and Julie; Brendan Jocson and his wife, Georgia; Alex Michael and his wife; Stallo, her husband, and their children. Christina and a few others could not stay long and had to leave early. We had such a great time that wished that it would never end.

We took some group photos before Nick drove me back. After Nick dropped Julie home, he said he had a surprise for me before taking me back to the hotel. He drove me to the house where I once lived in Cyprus. I almost didn't recognize it, because the area had changed so much since 1993. It was actually good to be back to the place I call „home. After the sweet surprise, Nick drove me back to the hotel.

The next morning I intended to buy some souvenirs, but before starting my day, I met up with Andri, my Cypriot next-door neighbor in Lebanon before she moved back to Cyprus. It was great to see her and her daughter again.

I rested that afternoon before attending the Cypriot Barbeque Night Buffet, which the hotel management organized. The Cypriots got carried away watching a match between their leading local football teams: APOEL Nicosia and Anorthosis Famagusta. The result was an emphatic 2-0 win for APOEL, as both teams were placed first and second respectively in the Cypriot League.

On April Fools Day, our last day on the island, we planned to visit Larnaca in the morning before our flight that evening. Being a keen member of the NDU Astronomy Club, I wasn't about to leave Cyprus without a bit of astronomy, so I contacted an old friend, George Troullias, Cypriot Astronomer and President of the Kition Planetarium & Observatory, to spend the my last few hours on the island with him in Larnaca.

George picked me up from the airport, and first took me to his home where his planetarium and observatory are located. He gave me a tour, showing me some of his observations and experiments. He gave me a few posters and souvenirs from his place before we left for a quick lunch. After lunch, George took me sightseeing around Larnaca. We visited the Church of Agios Lazaros, a beautiful historic church listed as a World Heritage Site. He later showed me an old monument that was once an observatory several centuries ago. Following the monument, we visited an old Larnaca lighthouse, and then, for the first time, visited the Hala Sultan Tekke; the only mosque located in Cyprus right next to the airport. Our final destination was to a beautiful Catholic Church in a quiet place in Larnaca where we prayed for a while before George took me to the airport to catch my 20-minute flight to Beirut.

To sum up, it was a worthwhile trip. My main objective was to meet up with my old classmates after a 20-year absence. Unfortunately, I didn't meet a few friends. Achieving this goal made a happier and more peaceful person. Cyprus will always be a second home to me, given that I know it so well. I would most certainly repeat the experience if I have another chance to do so.



❖❖ Joe Chamma with his former classmates, 20 years later.

Bite-size news from around the world...

(compiled by Mario NAJM from various sources)

LEBANON

Going to the Beach This Summer? Think Thrice!

Decades of flawed coastal urbanization and unregulated dumping of untreated domestic and industrial waste have transformed the Lebanese coastline from a Mediterranean haven into one of the world's most polluted and disease-ridden seas. Lebanon is party to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and the Convention for Biological Diversity, but that is about where it ends. Recent laboratory measurements have shown that our sea ranks high in dangerous phosphorus; nitrogen; detergents; fecal matter; mercury; lead; zinc; pesticides; mineral oils; and other toxic wastes. Think thrice before taking a dip this summer.



MIDDLE EAST

Prince Alwaleed bin Talal Supports Women Driving in KSA

Billionaire Saudi Prince Alwaleed bin Talal recently said that he supports giving women the right to drive in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), announcing via Twitter that it would help the economy and reduce the number of foreign workers in the country. „The question of women driving will result in being able to dispense with at least 500,000 (foreign) drivers, in addition to the social and economic benefits,“ the prince tweeted. Women are prohibited from driving in the deeply conservative kingdom, and many must rely on foreign drivers for transportation.



WORLD

Toilet to Tap: A Solution to the Global Freshwater Crisis?

As the world's population continues to grow and freshwater resources continue to dwindle, where will we find enough water to meet our needs? The experts say: From our toilets! Although many people may be repulsed by the notion of drinking water that has been in our toilets, a few countries such as Singapore, Australia, and Namibia, and states in the U.S.A. such as California, Virginia, and

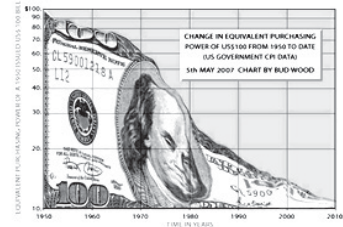
New Mexico are already drinking recycled water (although not necessarily from toilets...yet). A new study proposes that highly treated wastewater can be safe and clean to drink, and may help ease global freshwater shortages.



BUSINESS

Gloomy Global Economic Outlook for 2013

According to two United Nations reports, the world economy is teetering on the brink of another major downturn, and 2012 and 2013 will probably see anaemic growth at best. „The most pressing challenges lie in addressing the continued jobs crisis and declining prospects for economic growth, especially in the developed countries,“ one report said. The other report said that perceived failures by policy-makers and the imposition of fiscal austerity programs across Europe, owing to the sovereign debt crisis, have raised the chances of another global recession.



ENTERTAINMENT

Is Classical Music Dead?

Although officially pronounced dead by many naysayers, classical music is still breathing... barely. According to the *Herald Tribune*, in order to resuscitate classical music „we can only chart a vibrant future for classical music in our community by reaching out to new generations in new ways and endeavoring to explore fresh artistic ground.“ Rather than foretelling the obituary of classical music, concert experiences must be made accessible to youngsters and their families in order to help them appreciate and embrace the masterpieces of yesteryear lest they be lost forever.



OUT OF THE ORDINARY

Flipper to the Rescue

Dolphins are almost as intelligent as human beings are. Yet, in our ignorance and barbarism, we continue to slaughter them. Lucky for us, these beautiful mammals display a form of compassion that we can only hope to fathom, as Rob Howes learned first-hand. Howes was swimming with his daughter, Niccy, and two of her friends off the coast of New Zealand, when a group of dolphins suddenly appeared. To Howes, the dolphins appeared to display aggressive behavior by forming a tight circle around the four people, herding them together. A worried Howes tried to drift away from the group, but two of the larger dolphins herded him back, nudging him gently with their rostrums. Just then, Howes saw the sinister-looking fin of a great white shark, slicing through the water and heading straight for the group. According to Howes and several eyewitness reports, several dolphins stayed with the group, while the two male dolphins made for the shark, keeping the predator at bay as it circled its newfound prey. This state of attack and counter-attack went on for a good 40 minutes until the shark finally gave up and swam away, allowing the thankful group to swim back safely to shore.



SPORTS

Most Controversial Moment in Sports History

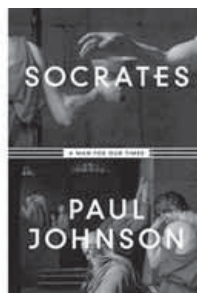
When Mike Tyson bit off a piece of Evander Holyfield's ear on June 28, 1997, it became the most controversial moment in modern sports history. The fight was stopped at the end of the third round, with Tyson disqualified for biting Holyfield on both ears. The first time he bit him, the referee stopped the match but later resumed it upon Tyson's pledge to fight fair. The second and unexpected bite, however, was severe enough to remove a part of Holyfield's right ear, which was found on the ring floor after the fight. Who could ever forget?



CULTURE

Socrates: A Man For Our Times

Socrates was undeniably one of the greatest thinkers of all time, yet he wrote nothing. The Greeks sentenced him to death by hemlock poisoning in 399 B.C. for telling them things they did not want to hear. Throughout his life, and until his very last moment alive, Socrates fully embodied his philosophy in thought and deed. In the new hard-hit-



ting biography *Socrates: A Man For Our Times*, historian Paul Johnson masterfully disentangles centuries of scarce sources to offer a riveting account of a physically ugly yet homely and charismatic middle-class man living in Athens in the fifth century B.C. Johnson describes how what this man thought still shapes the way we decide how to act, and how we understand the notion of body and soul.

SCIENCE

The "Idiot Box" Negatively Affects Educational Achievement

A brand new 26-year study, which tracked kids from birth up until the age of 26, has concluded that "television viewing in childhood and adolescence is associated with poor educational achievement by 26 years of age, and may have long-lasting adverse consequences for educational achievement and subsequent socioeconomic status and well-being." The researchers found significant long-term damage occurred even at so-called "modest levels" of television (idiot box) viewing: between one and two hours per day. For better grades, youths should either grab a good book to read or get involved in stimulating discussions.



TECHNOLOGY

3D Smart Phones to Hit Market Soon

The *Wall Street Journal* recently reported that Amazon is working on a screen for its new smartphone that allows people to see 3D images without glasses. The Internet retail giant is working on several gadgets to add to its offerings of Kindle tablets and e-readers. The 3D screen would use retina-tracking technology, allowing images on the smartphone to seem to float above the screen like a hologram and appear three-dimensional.



HEALTH

Sunshine Vitamin Looks Brighter Than Ever

Before you slather on that sunscreen this summer, you may want to read the results of the latest study on Vitamin D (the sunshine vitamin). Published in the *Canadian Medical Association Journal*, the study from the University Medical Center in the Netherlands found how suboptimal levels of vitamin D may be associated with decreased longevity. Sensible exposure to the sun has been hailed for its unique ability to dramatically lower the risk of many forms of cancer, and has been shown to lower the risk of heart disease, depression, excessive weight, diabetes, stroke, and dementia. So, soak up the rays this summer and reap the abundant health benefits the sun has to offer.



Sons of the Soil: Tony Shalhoub

Anthony Marcus „Tony% Shalhoub (born October 9, 1953) is a famous Lebanese-American actor. His television work includes the roles of Antonio Scarpacci in *Wings* and the memorable zany sleuth Adrian Monk in the well-received television series *Monk*. He won three Emmy Awards and a Golden Globe for his work in *Monk*.

Monk was a notoriously funny show in which he portrayed Adrian Monk, a brilliant germaphobic Sherlock Holmes-type detective with many obsessive compulsions and phobias.

Born to Joe Shalhoub, a Maronite from Lebanon who immigrated to the U.S.A. as an orphan at the age of 10, and Helen, a second-generation Lebanese-American, the young Shalhoub grew up in Green Bay, Wisconsin – where he still lives to this day with his own family. Shalhoub was the second youngest of the couple’s 10 children. He graduated with a Bachelor’s degree in Drama from the University of Southern Maine, Portland, U.S.A., and went on to earn a Master’s from the Yale School of Drama in 1980.

After winning the „Best Supporting Actor% award from the National Society of Film Critics for his well-researched role in *Big Night* (1996), Shalhoub went on to play many exceptional roles in films such as:

- *Men in Black* (1997);
- *A Civil Action* (1998);
- *The Siege* (1998);

- *Star Trek: Galaxy Quest* (1999);
- *Thirteen Ghosts* (2001);
- *Imposter* (2001);
- *Spy Kids* (2001);
- *The Man Who Wasn’t There* (2001);
- *Men in Black II* (2002);
- *Cars* (2006);
- *1408* (2007); and
- *Cars 2* (2011).

In addition to his acting work, Shalhoub, in collaboration with the Network of Arab-American Professionals and Zoom-in-Focus productions, established „The Arab-American Filmmaker Award Competition% in 2005. Arab-American filmmakers submitted screenplays, and the winner was flown to Hollywood to have his screenplay produced. Two runner-ups were also invited to participate in the production.

This year, Shalhoub stars opposite Mark Wahlberg and Dwayne „The Rock% Johnson in director Michael Bay’s action-comedy *Pain & Gain*. He plays a wealthy gymgoer kidnapped by a gang of thuggish bodybuilders. The true story details the kidnapping, extortion, torture, and murder of several victims by an organized group of criminals that included a number of bodybuilders affiliated with Sun Gym in the U.S.A.



❖ Tony Shalhoub in his role as germaphobic sleuth *Monk*.



❖ (from left) Dwayne Johnson, Tony Shalhoub, and Mark Wahlberg in the 2013 action-comedy *Pain & Gain*.

Wedding Announcements

And then they said, "I do..."

"I do..."

Lina Abou Jaoudeh (part-time instructor at the Faculty of Humanities – DETE, NDU) and **Dr. Rashed Zoorob** tied the knot on Friday, August 17, 2012, at the National Evangelical Church of Beirut in the heart of Beirut Central District (BCD).

A splendid reception dinner was held at the Green and Grill Restaurant, Zalka, following the church ceremony. May you both be blessed with lifelong happiness.



Notice of Omission

Due to a production error in the *NDU Spirit* (April 2013; Issue #57, p.14), **Mr. Simon A. Abou Jaoude** was mistakenly captioned as Prof. Mohamad Sawan. We apologize for this error.



❖ Fr. Walid Moussa delivering his sermon.

Mass for the Repose of the Souls of Soldiers Martyred in Sidon

Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) held Holy Mass at the University Chapel on Tuesday, June 24, 2013, at noon, for the repose of the souls of soldiers who were martyred in the recent Abra, Sidon, clashes. Fr. Walid Moussa, President of NDU, was the main celebrant.

The motto of the Lebanese Armed forces is „Honor, Sacrifice, Loyalty,“ and these loyal soldiers sacrificed their lives and died with honor to save their fellow citizens from certain death at the hands of a fundamentalist militia gone rogue.

May their souls rest in eternal peace.

„He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.“ (Revelation 21:4)

Obituary

NDU has lost one of its leading scholars, **Dr. Mansour Eid**. His commitment and love for the University touched so many lives in extraordinary ways. Mansour was the perfect example of how one person could make a difference through devotion, resolve, honesty, and professionalism. The Office of Sponsored Research and Development (OSRD), the Editorial Board of *NDU Spirit*, colleagues, friends, and students mourn him and pay tribute to him. Mansour, you will be missed.



OPINION AND CULTURE

Euro, Dollar, Yuan Uncertainties: What Does the Future of the IMS Hold?

Dr. Louis HOBEIKA



The world has been living without an International Monetary System (IMS) since August 15, 1971, when former U.S. president Richard Nixon suspended the convertibility of the U.S. dollar into gold; therefore, ending the Bretton Woods system. Since that date, the IMS has lived under the reign of the dollar given that the U.S. economy remains the largest and most dynamic. The last decade was harsh to the U.S., as in 2008 it entered its deepest recession since 1929. The Great Recession weakened the U.S. economy and its currency, and opened the door for a multi-polar IMS, which will be based on the dollar, the euro, and the yuan given that the combined GDP of the Economic and Monetary Union (EMU), the U.S.A., and China is 60 percent of global.

Conditions for an International Currency

The essential characteristics of domestic and international currencies are a medium of exchange, unit of account, and store of value. To perform an international function, a currency must be available beyond its borders and should be fully convertible. For an international currency to be considered reserve, it should have a creditor status, be issued by a large economy with a developed financial system, and should be heavily used. Clearly, the U.S. dollar fulfills these criteria, and to a lesser extent, so too does the euro, but this is not the case for the yuan, the Chinese currency. The fact that central banks and private inves-

tors consider U.S. T-Bills as safe assets allowed it to easily finance its current account deficit. Some call it „exorbitant privilege“ or the ability to print money and receive goods and services in exchange. The current situation requires countries to have faith in the U.S. dollar as the Fed prints, which weakens it. This is known as the Triffin Paradox.

Economic Foundations for the Multi-Polar System

A currency cannot have the reserve quality if it is not based on a strong economy with a solid potential. The tables below show selected and relevant „Economic and Financial Data“ given and computed by international organizations such as the World Bank and the IMF for 2011, 2012 (actual), and 2013 (estimated):

	2011	2012	2013
U.S.A.			
Real GDP Growth	1.8%	2.2%	1.9%
Current Account Balance (% of GDP)	-3.1	-3.1	-2.9
Budget Balance (% of GDP)	-9.0	-7.5	-6.0
Gross Public Debt (% of GDP)	102.8	106.7	110.7
EMU			
Real GDP Growth	1.4%	-0.6%	-0.3%
Current Account Balance (% of GDP)	0.1	0.9	1.4
Budget Balance (% of GDP)	-4.0	-3.3	-2.6
Gross Public Debt (% of GDP)	89	91.2	93.2
China			
Real GDP Growth	9.3%	7.8%	8%
Current Account Balance (% of GDP)	2.8	2.3	2.5
Budget Balance (% of GDP)	-1.2	-1.3	-1.0
Gross Public Debt (% of GDP)	25.8	22	19.4

Sources: *MF, World Bank.*

Clearly, the Chinese economy is the strongest and will soon become the largest, although on per capita basis and due to the size of the population, indicators remain weak. China’s growth is weakening as society shifts slowly toward consumerism as western buyers face increasingly difficult economic conditions. The U.S.A. and the EMU have different strengths and weaknesses, and could be considered as competitors with similar institutional and legal foundations.

Future of the U.S. Dollar

The easy monetary policy of the Federal Reserve Board, adopted since January 2001, contributed to the housing bubble; therefore, leading to the crisis and to a loss of confidence in the dollar. The policy was possibly due to savings inflows from the G.C.C., Asia, and especially China. We believe that the dollar can maintain its status as the prime reserve currency if the U.S. can stabilize its current account deficit around 3 percent of GDP along with a low budget deficit and a higher savings rate. The U.S. financial policy should change toward a strong and stable dollar, which attracts investment and promotes growth.

Future of the Euro

The crisis in the Euro-zone is severe but Europeans are succeeding in getting their act together. If austerity measures continue, however, voters are likely to revolt and extremists could take over. Financial discipline and the implementation of the Maastricht criteria are needed but not at the expense of social and political stability. The Euro-zone is heterogeneous but can improve outcomes by increasing the common central budget, so transfers happen easily in times of crisis. The Euro-zone should shift slowly into an Optimum Currency Area as defined by Robert Mundell. The euro, therefore, could improve its chances of becoming a real competitor to the dollar as a reserve currency.

Future of the Yuan

China has demonstrated impressive growth in both output and exports. China is intervening in markets to prevent an appreciation of the renminbi (Chinese yuan) against the dollar. It looks as if Chinese leaders are not eager to transform the currency from a local or regional currency to an international reserve. China's lack of open, deep, and broad financial markets means that its currency cannot assume the role of a reserve. When that country's leadership aims for such a role, it should float the currency along with full convertibility, which will raise its exchange value and lower exports. Is China ready for that transformation? No indication yet.

Future of the IMS

Quantitative easing is leading to currency competition among those adopting it. Left unchecked, it could lead to a crisis of instability. The IMF should play a crucial coordinating role among central banks and put into action surveillance of markets to avoid conflicts. The dollar will remain the most important reserve currency with a secondary but growing role for the euro. The yuan is not a competitor yet. Bergsten and Gagnon estimate that if currency intervention ceases, the U.S. trade deficit would decline by US\$ 150 billion or 1 to 2 percent of GDP. Between

one and two million jobs will be created. The Euro-zone will gain significantly, but less.

Impact on the MENA

The world economy undergoes a shift in the balance of power as Lin and Dailami expect that by 2025, six emerging economies (Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, South Korea, and Russia) will collectively account for half of global growth. The MENA region still relies heavily on oil, which is denominated in the U.S. dollar. The region favors and benefits from a strong dollar policy, which will improve the quality of life for all. It is also safer for the MENA to have over time an IMS based on three reserve currencies to diversify choices and lower risk. The MENA should deepen its relationship with Europe and China in order to prepare for the Multi-polar System whenever it happens.

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Autism: Genetic or Environmental?

Patil KALENDERIAN, Biology Major, FNAS
(Supervised by Dr. Esther Ghanem, Ph.D.)

Autism is a neurological-developmental disorder that now affects 15 out of every 10,000 children. It is part of a cluster of conditions called Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASDs), which fall under a broader umbrella termed Pervasive Developmental Disorders (PDDs). Although autism can affect children of any race and ethnicity, boys are four times more likely to develop autism than girls are.

Symptoms range from mild to severe. Most children with autism suffer in these three predominant areas in which they demonstrate: Verbal and non-verbal communication difficulties, lack of social interaction, and a series of repetitive behaviors.

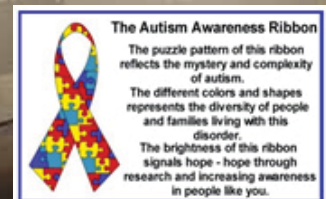
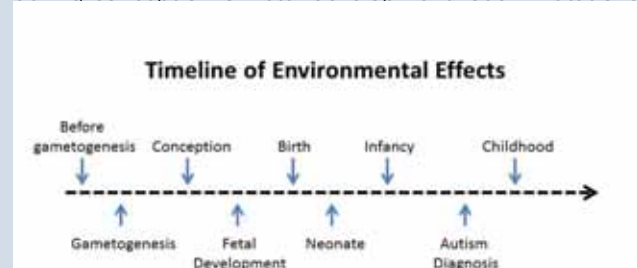
To date, major causes of autism are still unknown, but strong evidence suggests that it is *genetically triggered by environmental factors*. This disorder is often seen in identical twins, which highly supports its genetic component. In the case of fraternal or dizygotic twins, chances for both twins to develop autism do not exceed 10 percent.

In a major breakthrough in the field of ASDs, scientists have discovered the first significant link between autism and DNA in a study that could revolutionize the understanding of this disturbing behavioral disorder, which continues to

increase year after year. These findings could eventually lead to early diagnostic tests for autism and new forms of treatment, based on counteracting the fundamental errors in a patient's genetic code.

Why is it so hard for scientists to pinpoint the exact causes of autism?

Firstly, autism is a multi-factorial, polygenic disorder (Chaste and Leboyer). It is very much affected by environmental factors, which strike an individual at different and unpredictable times. For instance, a mutation may take place before gametogenesis, or during gametogenesis, or during conception or fetal development. Such mutations



once exposed to different environmental factors, such as pesticides, metals, persistent pollutants, viruses, bacteria, etc., can trigger the generation of new spontaneous mutations that might be passed on from one generation to the next.

Secondly, autism is highly related to many other complex disorders, such as Fragile X Syndrome and Down Syndrome (DS), which makes it harder for researchers to discern the roots of this disorder.

Finally yet importantly, the size of a mutation or the number of mutations is not that significant, considering the fact that countless mutations in our bodies occur on a daily basis. It is the location of the mutation, however, that is of major importance. Mutations responsible for autism have been located in *different chromosomes*, including chromosomes 2, 7, and 22 (Bayou et al., ; Liang et al., 2009; Lo-Castro et al., 2009).

Imaging studies have revealed that that the autistic brain is completely different in structure than a normal brain. An autistic brain has too many nerve fibers that are not functioning properly to facilitate communication between the various parts of the brain. Scientists think that *all of this extra circuitry may affect brain size* (Wallace and Treffert, 2004). Although autistic children are born with normal brains, they undergo a period of rapid growth from ages 6 -14 months, so by the age of about four, their brains tend to be unusually large for their age with certain *irregularities in the brain structure*.



For instance, the corpus callosum, the bridge linking the right hemisphere to the left, is wider, the amygdala responsible for emotions and social behavior, and the cerebellum for motor activity, balance and coordination, are disproportionate in size and abnormal in function (Sokol and Edwards-Brown, 2004).

Unfortunately, there is no specific cure for autism. Certain treatments, however, can enhance the learning and speech skills in autistic people, including *behavioral therapies, occupational therapies, physical therapies, and sensory integration therapies*.

Interestingly, until today there exists a raging controversy among scientists on whether the combined vaccination against Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR) provokes the early appearance of autism in children (Hilton et al., 2007; Miller and Reynolds, 2009).

Therefore, do not turn your backs on people with autism. Remember: „ NOT being able to speak is NOT the same as NOT having anything to say!%

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Women Are Not “Housewives”

It’s time to end Sexist Ads

Hasmig ‘Jasmine’ BOYADJIAN

Women should not be labeled as „housewives,% they are homemakers, business people, mothers but not „housewives% (the word itself is misleading)!

Advertisers are aware of the fact that they abuse women in advertisements, yet they demonstrate an inexplicable drive to stereotype women in all ads. Lebanon recently celebrated International Women’s Day 2013 to honor the achievements of women in the political, social, and economic spheres. The event witnessed many subject-related conferences, special broadcasts on TV/radio, and even tweets from men and women, expressing their gratitude to Lebanese women; however, immediately after the „annual% tribute, the media again began showcasing stereotypical ads against women.

Maria Bou Zeid, Assistant Professor of Media Studies at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU), says, „The problem is not how [the media] portray women; the problem is how women perceive images. How can we make a social change? First, we shouldn’t start the change with the advertising sector; we need to start *somewhere else*. In Sociology, there are two ways to make changes: through either education or drafting new legislation. If both education and legislation are combined, we will have much better results.%

Advertising executives, who are mostly men, often target both genders on special occasions to entice them to visit a certain store and boost sales. According to Melhem Rechdan, an Advertising Professional, „Big electronic stores



mainly focus on portraying women as housewives in their ads.%

During the weeks leading to Mother's Day, electronic brands usually promote products such as kitchen appliances, vacuum cleaners, and jewelry but barely advertise video games, laptops, tablets, etc. „A person's gift purchasing power could have a limit of two hundred dollars; thus, it is actually more price-related. Retailers benefit from the opportunity of people entering their shops to purchase any item during that same period.%

Rechdan believes, nevertheless, that it is the work of an advertising agency to devise a creative concept. He gives as a prime example the Exotica campaign for Mother's Day 2013, which is classy and far removed from stereotyping.

„Stereotyping is considered a shortcut by using terms like 'all women are housewives,' 'all blondes are...'. It facilitates communication, yet in the process, it's not accurate,% says Joseph Ajami, a Media Expert and Associate Professor at NDU.

Ajami also explains that women at one point or the other begin to believe these stereotyped ads, because it makes their lives easier and gives them less time to think. It is mainly related to the social roles of women and its historical tie to social norms ever since the media and society have been setting standards for social roles. Even the word „housewife% has changed and is now known more commonly termed as „homemaker.%

„There's a tradition of fixed stereotypes, and there is a lack of desire to change, which leads to the perpetuation of the idea that women belong to a certain category or belong to a certain social role... Ads usually show that women are incapable, dysfunctional, and can't handle two or three things at once,% Ajami says.

He adds that even a woman who works and multitasks is still, and at all times, identified as a „housewife.% She always belongs in the kitchen, preparing food, cleaning, and is not entitled to have fun. She cannot smoke a cigarette without fear of her man (in reference to the U.S. Virginia's Cigarette ad using the slogan: „You have come a long way, baby%).

When Nadine Rohemed, a PR Executive and a working mother of two, sees such ads, she feels offended, because they show that women are only good for cleaning, cooking, and performing house chores. „Why can't ads portray the successful working woman in Lebanon?% she wonders. As a PR executive, her evaluations concern the fact that seeing these ads shows how far removed from reality the advertisers really are.

Even though clients are the decision-makers, because they are the ones who are spending the big dollars, says Rech-

dan, advertisers, a.k.a. consultants, can always influence the decision-making process by providing their clients with rationales and insights.

Bou Zeid has already begun the practice of building a conscious generation of advertisers by teaching students at NDU that they need to be sellers of dreams and not only sellers. Educating future leaders can be of great value, yet these efforts need to be implemented before a change can be perceived.

Ajami proposes effective lobbying and women activism in an effort to raise their voice and make changes in the Lebanese perspectives. To reduce the use of stereotypes in ads, Robehmed, suggests that the feminine activists should organize huge campaigns just before Mother's Day, hoping that advertisers would think of more out-of-the-box ideas when creating Mother's Day ads.

Nada Anid, the Co-founder of Women in Front, explained that lobbying along with awareness campaigns could make a difference. She believes that if people change the reality, legislation will follow. Women in Front is an initiative that promotes professional women, and pushes them to the frontline with the aim to change the image of women in the media.

Rita Chemaly, a Researcher and a Women's Rights Activist, says that there is a media-monitoring website called *kherberr*, which exposes objectification of women and their use as objects in order to promote brands. She listed some of the brands that adopted such stereotypical methods such as Mazda, El-Rancho, Babybotte, Tefal, Radio Liban, and currently Beirut Marathon Association's Women's 10K Challenge race, which took place on May 26, 2013.

Chemaly says, „I am angry and truly disappointed by the film created by the Beirut Marathon Association for the Women's 10K Challenge race ... those who talked at the beginning are sexist and what they said is discriminating against women. I refuse totally to be a part of such an initiative!% She also adds, „People should understand that verbal abuse is refused, that stereotyping women as incompetent is refused. Stereotyping women as incapable of driving is not funny [but] discriminating.%

Many women movements in Lebanon such as Nasawiya and Women in Front are trying to make a difference in the media. We, as NDU students and future advertisers, can follow their lead and shape the future of advertising in Lebanon.

Special thanks to Dr. Joseph Ajami, Dr. Maria Bou Zeid, Melhem Rechdan, Nadine Robehmed, Rita Chemaly, Nada Anid.

Advertising: The Use and Abuse of the English Language

Mario NAJM

George Orwell wrote in *Politics and the English Language*, „The great enemy of clear language is insincerity.‰

Although Orwell was focusing on politics, he could just as well have been talking about the language of advertisers. The language used, and oftentimes abused, in the advertising industry refers to the words and images that shadily „doublespeak‰ to try to „sell you anything.‰

Doublespeak by definition means, „Language intended to distort or obscure its actual meaning. Doublespeak may take the form of euphemisms, unsupported generalizations, or deliberate ambiguity.‰

Edward S. Herman, a political economist and media analyst, writes in his book *Beyond Hypocrisy*, „What is really important in the world of doublespeak is the ability to lie, whether knowingly or unconsciously, and to get away with it; and the ability to use lies and choose and shape facts selectively, blocking out those that don't fit an agenda or program.‰

The predatory art of advertising is doublespeak personified. An advertising agency will make every effort (unscrupulous effort, that is) to convince you · the intended prey · that its brand is somehow different or better than a competing brand. Maybe that's why you prefer Ariel to Persil, or Pepsi to Coke.

Advertisers use a combination of flashy words and sexually charged images that dazzle the eyes and excite the brain. They also throw in some cleverly masked doublespeak words to get your heart racing such as „helps,‰ „new,‰ „like,‰ „virtually,‰ „improved,‰ and the deadly combination: „new and improved.‰ At first glance, these seemingly potent words appear to be brimming with promise, when in fact they mean... zilch.

Those words are intentionally used to psychologically seduce you into feeling that if you buy the advertised brand/item, the benefits you derive will border on the miraculous, whether it's buying that „dream home‰ or simply „getting rid of that pounding headache.‰

In short, by abusing the English language to no end, advertisers will use doublespeak to create a heroic promise to reel you in. Such baseless claims favor the use of the word „helps,‰ for example, which in advertising jargon means „in essence, or effect, *although not in fact.*‰ Its usage can range from „helps keep you looking younger‰ to „helps keep you glowing‰ for a facial cream, but what does the word „helps‰ in this context really mean? Nothing. If you think long and hard, many things will „help‰ keep you



looking „younger‰ or „glowing‰ such as a good night's sleep, proper hydration, a balanced diet, exercise, or maybe even a facelift!

The reality would be different, however, had the ad stated, „Guaranteed to keep you looking younger!‰ But what commercial brand would dare to make such a wide-sweeping claim? None.

Another favorite doublespeak combo is the use of „new and improved.‰ Whenever you come across this one, you immediately assume a change for the better has taken place. But is that really the case? Not really. „New‰ could simply mean that the formula of, let us say a detergent, has changed slightly, and in many cases, if you read the labels carefully, the main, and sometimes toxic, ingredients are still the same. So what is „new‰ about the *same* product?

Based on this premise, the suspicious word „improved‰ raises more questions than it answers: What has been improved? The packaging? The size? The inclusion or exclusion of an ingredient? What? I doubt that you will ever find an honest answer. Such assuring words are usually used as gimmicks to boost sales (oftentimes dwindling).

The English language is a versatile tool, but an extremely dangerous one in the wrong hands, especially in the hands of people who know how to use it effectively to „help‰ you.

Nutella

Nutella is a popular chocolate spread that combines sugar with vegetable oil, hazelnuts, cocoa, and skim milk. Nutella recently came under fire from the U.K. consumer



watchdog Which? for making misleading health claims by suggesting its product was a „healthy‰ breakfast option. In fact, according to the consumer watchdog, Nutella is anything but healthy. Which? complained that Nutella's advertising was misleading (based on doublespeak communication), because it failed to state that it also contained a high percentage of unhealthy sugar (55%) and fat. Secondly, Nutella was accused of promoting ads that were likely to encourage poor nutritional habits or an unhealthy lifestyle, especially in children. The result? Nutella agreed to limit its „healthy‰ claim in all future ads.

ARTICLE IN FRENCH

SI LES LIBANAIS M'ÉTAIENT CONTES

CHECRI GANEM ŸLe grand combattantŸ ou le héros de l'indépendance du Liban qui faillit être nommé Haut-Commissaire de la République libanaise en 1920.

Dr. Georges LABAKI

Chécri Ganem a vécu dans une période mouvementée de l'histoire contemporaine du Moyen-Orient. Sa vie fut tour à tour marquée par la création du Moutassarifat du Mont Liban, les différentes tentatives infructueuses de réformes de l'Empire Ottoman, la première guerre mondiale, l'instauration du Mandat Français sur le Liban et la Syrie et la création de l'État du Grand Liban. Infatigable, Ganem s'engagea à fond dans les principales questions qui agitaient son époque et joua un rôle de premier plan dans certains de ces événements cruciaux de l'histoire du Moyen-Orient et dans la formation du Liban moderne.

La naissance de Ganem en 1861 coïncide avec la création du Moutassarifat du Mont-Liban qui dépeça le Liban en séparant le littoral, la Békaa, le Nord et le Sud du Mont-Liban. Coincés dans un territoire exangue et aux ressources fort limitées, les habitants de la montagne libanaise furent forcés de s'expatrier en nombre de plus en plus grand pour gagner leurs vies. Ganem lui-même, devait lui aussi en faire l'expérience. Un incident qu'il racontera lui-même plus tard devait brusquer ce grand départ. *„J'étais jeune, écrit-il, et réputé comme mauvaise tête...Témoin d'une scène où un jeune officier Turc brutalisait un enfant d'une quinzaine d'années et dégainait, menaçant de son sabre ce petit être, j'eus la folie de lui arracher son arme et de la briser sur mon genou, avec un accompagnement d'épithètes dont la langue arabe est prodigue. Je dus fuir dans la montagne et demander refuge à des Français. Ce fut à Krayé où s'élevaient des filatures lyonnaises...»* Deux mois plus tard, Ganem quitta la montagne libanaise pour l'Égypte, fit un bref passage par la Tunisie où il travailla comme traducteur auprès des autorités françaises et se fixa en France. Auparavant, il avait reçu une solide éducation francophone au Collège des Lazaristes à Antoura à une époque où la langue française avait gagné ses lettres de noblesse au pays des Cèdres et était parlée par l'élite libanaise de l'époque. Son frère Khalil Ganem ancien député à l'Éphémère Parlement Ottoman l'Ÿ avait précédé et y avait fondé une revue „La France Internationale».



Paris terre d'élection des intellectuels libanais

A cette époque, Paris était devenu le centre de ralliement pour tous les rescapés de la persécution ottomane et pour ceux qui luttèrent pour l'émancipation du Levant. La lutte menée par les libanais réfugiés dans la capitale française prit la forme de comités, de sociétés, de mémoires, de pétitions, de requêtes, de conférences dirigés en premier vers les autorités françaises. Tout d'abord secrètes ces sociétés travaillèrent dans la clandestinité avant de paraître au grand jour. Comme l'écrit, le Père Sélim Abou, la langue française était devenue la langue de combat. En effet, c'est en français que le mouvement national libanais va trouver son expression la plus forte. Ainsi, en 1905, Najib Azouri publie à Paris le premier essai sur l'arabisme intitulé *„Le Réveil de la Nation Arabe.»* En 1908, Paul Jouplain alias Noujaim publie une thèse soutenue à la Sorbonne sous le titre évocateur de: *„La Question du Liban.»*

Un autre intellectuel libanais, Khairallah Khairallah connu pour sa défense acharnée de l'indépendance libanaise s'installe à Paris et devint rédacteur à *La Revue Islamique* et au *Temps*. Khairallah publie des ouvrages sur la Syrie et sur l'avenir du Levant.

„Paris, écrit Chécri Ganem, est le carrefour du monde. Pour les Orientaux qui vont en Amérique, en Angleterre ou en Allemagne, c'est une ville où ils s'arrêtent longuement, où ils reviennent souvent et où beaucoup d'entre-eux se fixent. Presque toute la jeune Turquie s'y est formée...De plus Paris fut le berceau, en somme de l'évolution Ottomane... A la faveur des idées françaises d'émancipation humaines, nos idées en seront imprégnées, se répandront au dehors plus facilement...»⁽¹⁾

Toute cette élite intellectuelle est en recherche sur les meilleurs moyens pour la solution de la question d'Orient avec le souci de la préservation des intérêts du Liban et du Levant. D'où les hésitations, les changements d'orientation qu'on retrouve parfois chez la même personne y compris Ganem. Et comme l'écrit Pierre Rondot: *„En présence d'une Europe qui est à l'origine de cette évolution [littéraire], le jeune chrétien arabe... lance dans l'Orient l'idée nationale. Il la propose d'abord dans le domaine de la langue moderne et des lettres, mais aborde le domaine politique*



où il se rencontre avec les novateurs musulmans artisans de renaissance islamique... Dans ce contexte on note que chez les jeunes intellectuels chrétiens libanais, coexiste avec le désir ardent de porter un message de liberté et de progrès à l'ensemble du monde arabe, le souci du destin de leur petite patrie déjà si avancée dans l'ordre culturel et politique. L'activité des sociétés secrètes organisées en vue de soulever le joug turc montre l'imbrication, parfois dans le même homme des sentiments encore mal différenciés, recouverts et conciliés par l'urgence de la lutte contre le tyran.⁽²⁾

L'option Ottomane (1908-1912)

Ainsi, en 1908, au lendemain de la Révolution des Jeunes Turcs, Chécri Ganem forma avec deux autres libanais, Alfred Surssock et Najb Trad et le syrien Georges Samné, la Ligue Nationale Ottomane dont le but était la réforme de l'Empire Ottoman, sa décentralisation, et le rétablissement des libertés publiques à travers le respect de la Constitution. Il résumait de la sorte sa pensée: « Faire de cette poussière de peuples dont est composé l'Empire un seul peuple, fondre les races en une seule, respecter les religions diverses, les cultes innombrables tout en les régissant, changer, du jour au lendemain, la voix, le geste et jusqu'à l'âme de chaque fraction de ses fractions, les déshabiller de tourner à tout instant leurs regards vers l'Europe et barrer la route à l'ambition de celle-ci, et tout cela avec une branche d'olivier à la main.⁽³⁾

Au cours de la même année (en 1908) Chécri Ganem fonda la Revue « Correspondance d'Orient » qui devint la tribune où il proférait de sa plume prolifique ses idées politiques. Le but affiché de la publication était de propager les idéaux d'égalité et de fraternité véhiculés par la culture française et le rapprochement de l'Orient et de l'Occident. Ganem devait très rapidement se rendre à l'évidence: les membres du Comité Union et Progrès - parti politique issu des Jeunes Turcs - appliquèrent un régime centralisé à outrance allant même jusqu'à interdire aux députés arabes de prier dans leur langue. « Il faut avouer, écrit Chécri Ganem dans Correspondance d'Orient que nos amis les Turcs veulent bien être constitutionnels, mais dans la mesure seulement que leur permet leur caractère dominateur d'anciens conquérants. Ils ne peuvent oublier qu'ils le furent. Et ils continuent à se croire tels. Ils ne veulent pas comprendre que du moment qu'ils ont institué un gouvernement constitutionnel avec un régime parlementaire, ils ont donné le droit absolu à chaque race de s'en prévaloir et d'exiger l'égalité légale dont je parlais dans le Temps.⁽⁴⁾

Le Comité Central Syrien

Après avoir été déçu de la possibilité de réforme de l'Empire Ottoman, Chécri Ganem changea de vision politique vers le début de la première guerre mondiale. Les faveurs poli-

tiques de Ganem se portèrent alors vers la libération de l'Orient sous l'égide de la France. Il était aidé dans son approche par les solides contacts qu'il avait tissés avec les autorités françaises.

En 1913, Chécri Ganem participe en temps que Vice-Président au Congrès Arabe de Paris. Charles Debbas en était le Secrétaire Général. Le Congrès qui rassemblait des Chrétiens et des Musulmans réclamaient l'octroi aux arabes de l'Empire Ottoman leurs droits politiques, la réforme des institutions de l'Empire et la reconnaissance de l'Arabe comme langue officielle. Chécri Ganem pouvait écrire à ce propos dans sa pièce de théâtre Antares des vers annonciateurs de la révolte qui couvaient contre les Ottomans:

« ...Rien n'empêche un peuple en marche,
Il monte! Je le vois monter de marche en marche,
Du Levant au Couchant, dans un tel flamboiement,
Que l'étoile d'or pâlit au sein du firmament...
...Vers un royaume qui se fonde,
Et dont l'éclat bientôt éblouira le monde...⁽⁵⁾

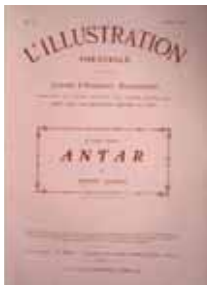
En 1917, Chécri Ganem fonda le Comité Central Syrien dont il assumait la présidence pendant plusieurs années. L'article premier du statut du Comité annonçait clairement la couleur politique adoptée à savoir « la libération de la Syrie et son accession à l'indépendance, sous l'égide de la France et avec son aide et sa garantie, par un régime fédératif d'autonomie provinciale, laissant ainsi aux diverses régions (Liban - qui bénéficie déjà d'un régime autonome, Palestine,...) leur caractère propre et le libre développement de leurs légitimes aspirations ».

De quelle Syrie s'agit-il?

Chécri Ganem pense à une Syrie qui engloberait pratiquement tout le Croissant Fertile. « La Syrie, affirme-t-il, est formée d'une longue côte montagneuse dans son plus grand parcours et relativement peu profonde dans son centre qu'enserme le désert. Sa profondeur s'accroît à partir de Caïffa, en tirant une ligne presque droite en arrière, il y a le fertile Hauran et, un peu plus au nord, Damas. Cette profondeur devient immense derrière la ligne côtière jalonnée par Tripoli, Tartous, Lattaquieh et Alexandrette. C'est alors Homs, Hama, Alep et plus avant les plaines de Palmyre, de Deir-el-Zor, Ourfa, Mossoul et la Merveilleuse Mésopotamie, grenier du monde qui trouve en elle son déversoir naturel dans le Golfe Persique qui est le lot de l'Angleterre.⁽⁶⁾

Mais Ganem met en garde clairement que s'il désire faire une grande patrie syrienne, **il voudrait assurer au Liban « la liberté dans la dignité ».**⁽⁷⁾

Au plan politique Chécri Ganem jouissait de solides entrées auprès des autorités françaises. Il faut dire qu'à l'époque la question d'Orient battait son plein et Ganem joua un rôle de premier plan dans les bouleversements qui allaient s'opérer à la faveur de la première guerre mondiale.



L'influence de ce Comité s'étendit dans les divers pays de la diaspora libanaise comme l'Égypte, l'Amérique du Nord, l'Amérique du Sud et l'Afrique Occidentale. Khairallah Khairallah, écrit à ce propos: „ De New York, de Sao Paolo, de Buenos Aires, du Caire, comme de tous les coins du Liban tout convergeait vers Paris, et Chécri Ganem se trouvait placé à la tête de ce magnifique mouvement, qui groupait l'élite intellectuelle libanaise, en vue d'affranchir cet amas de rochers, qui, des bords de la Méditerranée et sous les rayons courroucés du soleil oriental, montent insolemment à l'assaut du ciel... »⁽⁸⁾

Contestée par d'autres Comités libanais aux programmes différents Chécri se défend de sa bonne foi et de son désir de construire un Orient débarrassé du confessionnalisme et du sous-développement sous l'égide de la France. A tous ceux qui critiquèrent ses choix politiques, il se demande „ s'il nous est permis (en tant qu'Oriental)–de refaire à notre gré- comme quelques uns de nos jeunes s'en paient la fantaisie- la carte de l'Asie et avec elle, celle de la Syrie, d'élargir ou de rétrécir telles ou telles frontières, disposer, contrairement à nos principes mêmes, de telles ou telles populations. ? »⁽⁹⁾

Le soutien de l'indépendance Libanaise

Dès 1920, Chécri commença à prendre partie pour l'indépendance totale du Liban sous l'égide de la France. Il participa au Congrès de Versailles auprès du Patriarche Maronite qu'il mit en contact avec les autorités françaises de l'époque. En outre, Ganem quitta en 1921 le Comité Central Syrien. Très vite, Chécri Ganem finit par se rendre à l'évidence. Trop de discordes et de haines ont séparé les habitants d'Orient au cours des siècles. Le fédéralisme ne tient plus et pourrait être réalisé que dans un avenir lointain. „ La Syrie, écrit-il dans la préface du livre de Georges Samné du même titre, étant donné ses divisions religieuses actuelles et l'état d'esprit de ses populations, héritages de plusieurs siècles de tyrannie, ne peut qu'être formée en trois parties ou quatre si la Palestine ne doit pas en rester disjointe% sous un régime démocratique et républicain.⁽¹⁰⁾

Le rôle de Ganem fut éclipsé après 1924. Il faut dire qu'à temps nouveaux hommes nouveaux. Malade, il se retira à Antibes où il rendit l'âme la nuit du 2 mai 1929 dans sa villa la Libanaise à Antibes (elle appartient aujourd'hui au chanteur Johnny Halliday) qu'il fit construire sur les restes d'une colonie phénicienne.

Il faut signaler que la carrière politique de Ghanem se double d'une importante carrière littéraire. En effet, Chécri Ganem peut être considéré comme le père de la littérature libanaise d'expression française. Ses écrits littéraires se distinguèrent par leur cachet oriental. Ainsi, son roman *Daad* (1908) est une description du Beyrouth du début du siècle avec ses différentes communautés qui coexistaient sans trop se mêler. Quant à son recueil de poésie *Ronces*

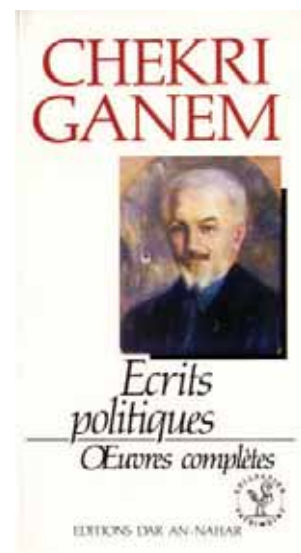
et *Fleurs* (1904) il évoque des thèmes puisés dans la lumière d'Orient et dans la vie personnelle de l'auteur dans son pays natal. Toutefois, le grand succès de Ganem est sa pièce de théâtre *Antar*. Ecrite à Compiègne, *Antar* fut lue par Pierre Loti qui s'enthousiasma pour la pièce et en parla au célèbre Antoine qui venait d'être nommé directeur du théâtre de l'Odéon. *Antar* fut jouée au Théâtre de l'Odéon en 1910 avant d'être reprise à l'Opéra de Paris en 1921. Cette pièce connut un grand succès et peut-être considérée comme la première grande manifestation de la littérature libanaise de langue française.

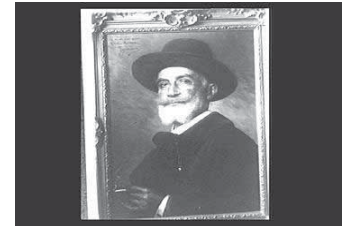
La facette la plus mystérieuse de Chécri Ganem concerne sa vie privée. Il épouse Anais Couturier le 14 décembre 1894 à la mairie du 17^e arrondissement de Paris. On sait peu de chose des circonstances de leur rencontre si ce n'est qu'en 1893, Anais vit chez sa mère à Paris, 31, rue Fortuny. Dans la même rue résident Sarah Bernhardt, Edmond Rostand et la Belle Otero. Cette proximité pourrait être à l'origine des relations nouées entre Anais et le milieu artistique parisien ainsi qu'à l'origine de sa rencontre avec Ganem.

Les Ganems s'établissent à Macheumont dans la villa y Eliott entre 1894 et 1897. L'auteur y entame en 1895 l'écriture de *Antar*. La vie à Macheumont que Maximin Roll décrit comme „ un délicieux petit village (...) devenu l'été une cité théâtrale est idyllique. Ganem et son épouse comptent y finir leurs jours, comme l'atteste l'achat de la concession au cimetière où une pierre tombale porte leur nom: Ganem Couturier. Le couple emménagera en 1927 à Antibes où Chécri fait construire sa villa nommée *La Libanaise*.

Chécri Ganem reçut la Légion d'honneur à l'âge de 68 ans. Il rendit l'âme, paralysé par une attaque, la nuit même. L'acte de décès porte la mention suivante: „ Le 2 mai 1929 à vingt-trois heures trente, est décédé à Antibes, villa La Libanaise, Chécri Ganem, homme de lettres, époux de Marie Anais Couturier, commandant de la Légion d'honneur, né à Beyrouth... le quatorze septembre 1861, fils de Ibrahim. »

La vie de Chécri Ganem est d'une étonnante actualité. Ce grand patriote dut s'exiler de son pays natal à cause de la persécution dont il a été victime. Etabli à Paris comme beaucoup de patriotes liba-





nais, l'avenir de son pays le hantait. Sa longue démarche politique qui peut aujourd'hui nous paraître contradictoire était celle d'un patriote à la recherche des meilleurs moyens pour la sauvegarde de son pays dans un contexte international en l'occurrence européen en pleine évolution et en changement permanent. La fin de sa vie est semblable à celle de beaucoup de ses compatriotes qui ne purent regagner leur terre natale et finirent leur vie sous d'autres cieux. Dans une lettre adressée au poète Charles Corm qui sur les pages de La Revue Phénicienne l'invitait à regagner le Liban pour contribuer à l'œuvre de redressement national, Chécri Ganem écrit: ***"Je ne crois pas qu'il me sera donné de le revoir [le Liban] avant que mes yeux se ferment à vie. Peut-être vaut-il mieux ainsi. Son souvenir en moi reste de la sorte intact et, par les yeux de l'esprit, je le vois tel qu'il était... Vous ne me parlez que de Paris et de mes amis qui y résident et en vous lisant, surtout après vous avoir lu, c'est au Liban aux vieux amis de là-bas que j'ai pensé.***

L'imagination, elle, ne s'embarrasse pas de la distance, des difficultés morales et matérielles dont nous sommes les esclaves..Et, c'est ainsi que j'y vais. Ma pensée m'y transpose sans fatigue et sans frais. Le retour, évidemment, en est plus dur, plus pénible. Quant la pensée revient à son gîte, son flot d'amertume nous monte du cœur et que de regrets nous assaillent... Alors, on fait de sages et prudentes réflexions, on pense aux déceptions, à tous ceux qui, depuis le départ, ont disparu et qui, pour nous, sont toujours vivants et jeunes et l'on se dit: pourquoi s'exposer à revoir des lieux vides ou si changés, des mœurs et des habitudes de vie différentes de ce qu'elles étaient, où on risque de se sentir des étrangers. Et l'on reste et l'on mord- comme on dit en arabe- sur sa blessure.⁽¹¹⁾

Leçons à tirer de la vie de Chécri Ganem

Ce grand héros libanais est un exemple pour nous à un moment où le Liban et spécialement les chrétiens vivent aux milieux de grandes turbulences politiques forts menaçantes. Tout d'abord il affronta des défis bien plus graves à savoir l'empire Ottoman dans toute sa puissance vieille de 4 siècles. Il travailla avec son frère Khalil ancien député au Parlement Ottoman pour se débarrasser de ces derniers. Ensuite, il excella dans son travail. Il devint si puissant et si instrumental dans la politique française au Moyen-Orient qu'il pouvait rencontrer le Ministre français des affaires étrangères sans rendez-vous comme on le dit chez nous au Liban.

De plus, il mis toutes relations au service du Liban. Peu de gens savent par exemple que le Patriarche Maronite Elias Hoyek descendit chez lui dans son domicile à Denfert Rocherot à Paris lors de son voyage en France pour participer à la conférence de la Paix à Versailles. Ganem mis

tous ces efforts au service du Patriarche car la question de l'indépendance libanaise n'était pas acquise.

Aujourd'hui la question d'Orient et le sort des minorités est de nouveau soulevé. Chécri Ganem avait pensé avoir trouvé la solution: une grande Syrie placée sous l'égide de la France garante des droits de chacun dans un cadre de gouvernement démocratique et libre. Si cette solution n'est plus de mise le spectre Ottoman que Ganem et son frère Chécri avait combattu de toutes ses forces revient dans un retour cyclique de l'histoire. Il appartiendra aux minorités d'Orient de conclure de nouvelles alliances pour garantir leur avenir. Des personnages de l'allure de Chécri Ganem pourraient leur servir d'exemple.

En outre, la lettre qu'il adressa à Charles Corm est une leçon pour tout immigré libanais. Quel que soit le degré de réussite que vous réaliserez à l'étranger vous resterez des étrangers... Et on vous le fera savoir au moment opportun. Enfin, en cherchant désespérément la Villa yLa Libanaise construite par Chécri Ganem je découvris qu'elle est aujourd'hui la propriété du célèbre chanteur français Johnny Halliday.

Dernier détail de cet attachement de Ganem, il raconte dans un article ses émotions quand il rencontra le Patriarche Hoyek en visite à Paris en 1905. Ganem vint à sa rencontre et dès qu'il le vit il fondit en larmes comme un enfant.

Il s'agit de la tristesse éternelle des sources.

Dr. Georges Labaki

Un des derniers humanistes

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