

■ Whoever wants to lead must first become a bondservant; otherwise, he shall never lead, not even for a day!

To serve is to sow, and to lead is to harvest. Those who sow good seeds advance in their communities. In reality, it is their communities that help them flourish.

Anything else is, sadly, nothing but a pain-filled reality engulfed in fraud, false claims, deceit, and half truths, many of which can be found in the moral lessons of the fables of Ibn al-Muqaffa' and La Fontaine .

Should service become a mere avenue for deceit or self-interests, or should leadership become a form of "pharaonization" and tyranny, then the following virtues must exist to remedy the condition: Unconditional love, a pure and tender heart, and other selfless acts and sacrifices to preserve the freedom and dignity of humanity—the very acts of our crucified Savoir.

With true service, we fulfill some needs and foresee others. With true service, we avoid some wounds and heal others. With true service, we console, strengthen, and mend broken hearts.

With true leadership, we direct our effort, skills, and energy toward fraternal communion... We transcend ego and put the common good first ... We become selfless ... We bravely face evils... And we refrain from committing shameful acts, such as executing Socrates or Cicero...

True leadership is only formed in the womb of true service... in the great spirit of gratuitousness...

O, woe unto an authority if born not from true service or gratuitousness!

O, woe unto an authority if it walks not the path of the great Pope Francis, who, in a gesture of utmost respect, kissed the hand of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I.

## NDU Spirit

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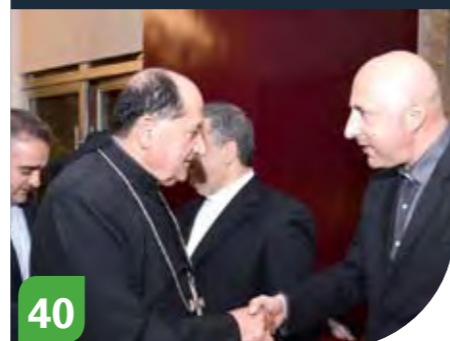
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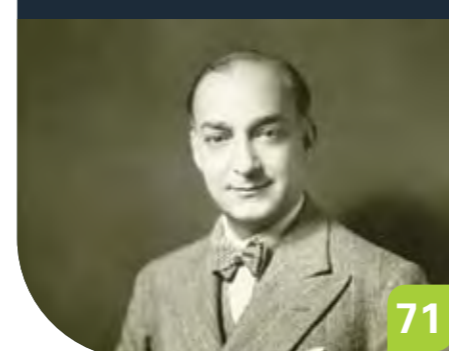
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“ FAITH IS AN OASIS  
IN THE HEART  
WHICH WILL NEVER  
BE REACHED BY  
THE CARAVAN OF  
THINKING. ”

*Khalil Gibran*



### CELEBRATING FAITH

Spring is upon us again! Just a week after celebrating Easter, the Paschal Mystery, and Our Lord Jesus Christ's act of redemption, the Holy See — and I would say the whole world — rejoiced in elevating to sainthood two special Popes of our time: John XXIII and John Paul II.

Both saints marked the twentieth century and the end of the second millennium through their decisions and actions, and through their great wisdom and

long-term vision, they paved the way for our journey into the third millennium.

Pope John Paul II affirmed on August 15, 1990, in his Apostolic Constitution on Catholic Universities that the Catholic University "has always been recognized as an incomparable center of creativity and dissemination of knowledge for the good of humanity. By vocation... it is dedicated to research, to teaching and to the education of students who freely associate with their teachers in a common love of knowledge... It shares that gaudium de veritate, so precious to Saint Augustine, which is that joy of searching for, discovering and communicating truth in every field of knowledge. A Catholic University's privileged task is to unite existentially by intellectual effort two orders of reality that too frequently tend to be placed in opposition as though they were antithetical: the search for truth, and the certainty of already knowing the fount of truth."

In short, it is a question of faith.

Because enigmas of large magnitude face every thinking human being, we must always ask ourselves the following questions: Do I believe? Do I have faith in what I say, what I teach, what I preach, what I do, and what I ask others to do? Do I fully understand the meaning behind faith? Do truth and education bring joy to my life? How passionate am I about my vocation?

It is clear that at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU), our vocation can only be about finding the link among faith, truth, and joy. We need to believe that the passionate search for truth will undoubtedly generate a valuable outcome and sustainable joy. That valuable outcome is the result of sincere engagement of critical elements. Would it be possible for a bush to produce figs? The outcome validates the process and gives the proper meaning.

Our two exemplary saints, John XXIII and John Paul II, tell us that our ultimate concerns need to be focused on the good of humanity. In our mission as educators, we are responsible for the welfare of our students, and together with those students, we are responsible for the future of the world and for humanity itself.

No matter which way you look at it, it all boils down to faith: Faith in the nobleness of our Mission, faith in our students, but above all, faith in ourselves.

In the case of our students, let us go to them and not wait for them to come to us! Let us be there for them! Let us give to them and let us share with them our rock solid faith and values, and our joyful beliefs and time-honored principles. That is dedication!

Saint John Paul II stands at the main gate of our University to guide us throughout the journey to which we have made the choice to commit ourselves.

**Father Walid Moussa O.M.M.**  
President



# ACADEMIC AND STUDENT ACTIVITIES

**CENTER FOR APPLIED RESEARCH IN EDUCATION**

**Care In 2014-2016**

The Center for Applied Research in Education (CARE) at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) invited all peers across seven Faculties to its event titled, "CARE IN 2014-2016", which took place on March 12, 2014, at noon, in Friends Hall, NDU Main Campus. The event opened with a reception. Dr. Bassel Akar, the newly appointed Director of the Center, introduced the Mission and Vision of CARE to:

- Lead, collaborate, and support in research studies that address the most urgent issues, regarding access to and quality of education;
- Enhance the quality of learning and teaching at NDU, other higher education institutions, and schools by sharing and disseminating experiences and supporting learning communities through evidence-informed approaches; and
- Engage with civil society in the design and implementation of education development projects to further advance conceptual frameworks and practical approaches to assure access to quality education.

Dr. Akar also outlined a number of future projects for the academic years 2014-2016. Research themes ranged from citizenship and history education, education for refugees in Lebanon, international education in the Arab region, and methodologies involving youths as participants. The activities also highlighted opportunities for collaboration between the CARE and other Faculties through different research projects.

Discussions explored means and areas of collaboration with the CARE in relation to various disciplines. Dr. Akar presented research grant opportunities, with a focus on the National Council for Scientific Research, Lebanon (CNRS).

The Director also went through a number of subjects, pertaining to the CNRS grants while focusing on individual and joint projects. Furthermore, handouts on grants, fellowships organizations with the full addresses were distributed to the attendees.

Finally, Dr. Akar discussed the "Program for Learning and Teaching Excellence," which aims to facilitate professional development activities based on issues and themes identified by NDU Faculty. The Center also aims to further develop its website as a space for accessible and up-to-date resources and information.

**COUNCIL FOR RESEARCH IN VALUES & PHILOSOPHY**

**"The Legacy Of Chinua Achebe Dialogical Explorations In Philosophy, Literature, And Politics"**  
- ROUBA EL-HELOU

The Council for Research in Values and Philosophy (CRVP) at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU), in collaboration with the Embassy of Nigeria in Lebanon and through the sponsorship of Lebanese-Nigerian businessman Said Fayeze Khalaf, organized on March 21, 2014, an international conference at Friends Hall, NDU Main Campus, titled, "The Legacy of Chinua Achebe: Dialogical Explorations in Philosophy, Literature, and Politics."

The event honored one of Africa's greatest literary giants Professor Chinua-lumogu Albert Achebe, a.k.a. the "Eagle on Iroko," who passed away last year at the age of 82 in Boston, Massachusetts, U.S.A.

World-renowned Nobel Laureate Professor Akinwande Oluwole "Wole" Soyinka attended the conference in the capacity of Guest Speaker. Soyinka was awarded the 1986 Nobel Prize in Literature; thus, becoming the first African laureate. Present at the event were the:

- Nigerian Ambassador to Lebanon Amos Idowu;
- Papal Ambassador Gabriele Caccia;
- Indonesian Ambassador Dimas Samodra Rum;
- Sudanese Ambassador Ahmed Hassan;
- Chairman of the Board and General Manager of Bank Audi Raymond Audi;

- Representative of the Commander of the Lebanese Armed Forces Colonel Edward Akiki;
- Representative of the Director General of State Security Georges Qaraa, Marwan Safi;
- Representative of the Director General of Public Security Major General Abbas Ibrahim, Colonel Elie Murad;
- Labor Minister representative, Thomas Wakim;
- Vice-President of Cultural Affairs and Public Relations at NDU Mr. Suhail Matar;
- Assistant to the President for Planning and Development Dr. Assaad Eid;
- Vice-President of Academic Affairs Dr. Antoine Farhat;
- Dean of the Faculty of Humanities Dr. Mary Angela Willis;
- Vice-President of Administration Fr. Ziad Antoun; and
- International speakers, faculty members, academics, scholars, guests, and students.

Dr. Ameen Albert Rihani, representing NDU President Fr. Walid Moussa, said, "Comparative literature is like comparative love or religion or politics, it became an essential part of comparative thought that flies around the planet, overcoming all barriers and trying to study the human experience and consequently the human artistic, social, spiritual, and scientific expressions about those experiences." Rihani concluded that he learned a lot while discovering African Literature through the work of both Achebe and Soyinka.

Philosophy Professor and Director of the CRVP at NDU Dr. Edward J. Alam welcomed the audience, asking them to join him in a moment of silence to acknowledge the legacy of Chinua Achebe. Alam explained the idea behind honoring Achebe, which was initiated following Achebe's death; however, it was not fulfilled until a year after the incident. "We dream of strengthening the cultural and intellectual ties between Lebanon and Nigeria," Dr. Alam said.

"The elite between Nigeria and Lebanon have been one sided and one dimensional. One sided in that many Lebanese nationals have made their fortunes in Nigeria; however, few Nigerians, if any, have done so in Lebanon," he said.



Lebanese-Nigerian Students Association



Dr. Ameen Rihani, representing NDU President Fr. Walid Moussa.



(from left) Dr. Maha Mouchantaf, Chairperson of the PEPE, FH, and Fr. Ziad Antoun, V.P. of Administration. (rear) Honorée Claris Eid.



(from left) Abbot Boutros Tarabay, Apostolic Delegate Gabriele Caccia, Director of Bank Audi Raymond Audi, VP Suheil Matar



Organizing Committee, Rouba el-Helou and Juliana Khalaf.



(from left) Dr. Guita Hourani, Dr. Edward Alam, Willie Fawole, Eugene Sensenig Dabbous, Nour Dabbous, Nigerian Ambassador Amos Idowu, Ernest Emenyonu, Ike Odimegwu, and Rouba el-Helou.



Awards for the Speakers from the Cedars of Lebanon

Dr. Alam added, "This is the very first time that NDU has been graced by the presence of a Nobel Laureate, and his presence here was achieved with the help of Juliana Khalaf, a Lebanese-Nigerian artist, who played an essential role."

Dr. Ernest N. Emenyonu, Professor of Africana Studies at the University of Michigan-Flint, said, "On Thursday, March twenty-first, two thousand and thirteen, Chinua Achebe, quietly transited blissfully into 'another country' at the Harvard University Teaching Hospital in Massachusetts. He was eighty-two years old. Since the mid-twentieth century, he had been the most important figure in the field of African Literature. Some have described him as the 'creator' of African Literature; others have called him 'the grandfather of Nigerian Literature.'"

Emenyonu referred to Achebe as "Africa's best novelist and craftsman, and one of the world's greatest, living or dead," quoting the American writer James Brooks who described Achebe as the "the necessary angel who restored something in Africa that slavery took from us."

Nobel laureate Wole Soyinka described Achebe as a storyteller who earned global recognition, insisting that those who claim that he is the father of African literature are ignorant.

Soyinka said, "Achebe and I believe that even cultural values are not static, and that culture itself constantly evolves, and that it is a dynamic process of humanity; therefore, even traditional values must constantly be questioned. What is tragic to many people is external values. We boycotted the Nigerian elections, because it is wrong to participate in a process that not only offers us neither value nor benefit, but is guaranteed to humiliate our people."

Soyinka concluded that Achebe's most essential achievement was that African people have their own culture, and that their societies had enjoyed philosophy, literature, and values long before the advent of colonialism.



The Akwa Ibom troupe performing a typical Nigerian folk dance.

The closing ceremony was held at Issam Fares Hall, NDU Main Campus, and included cultural exchange activities as well as traditional Nigerian and Lebanese folk dances.

Achebe was 28 years old in 1958 when he published in his first novel, *Things Fall Apart*. The novel today is one of the world's classic; it has been translated into at least 65 languages. The novel is vital in understanding the modern era's cultural confusion as well as Africa's Achilles' heel.



The Phoenix Group performing the Lebanese dabke.

## LEBANESE EMIGRATION RESEARCH CENTER

### LERC'S Director Designated Country of Origin Information Expert (COI) for the Fahamu Refugee Programme - JASMIN LILIAN DIAB, LERC

Dr. Guita Hourani, Director of the Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU), has accepted to be the designated Country of Origin Information Expert for Lebanon with the Fahamu Refugee Programme (FRP) in Oxford, England.

The COI expert "acts as an information source to provide 'objective' information on the conditions that lead a refugee to flee his/her country."

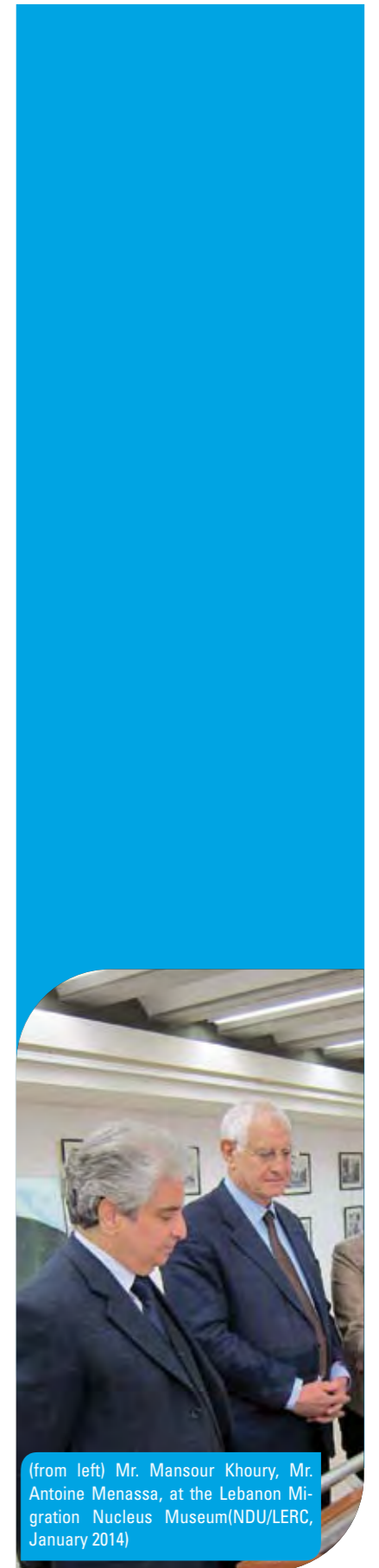
As a Country of Origin expert for Lebanon, the FRP has listed Dr. Hourani's qualifications and contact information on its website to allow asylum seekers and lawyers handling asylum cases to contact her to seek her assistance in verifying country information or constructing a country conditions declaration. When contacted, Dr. Hourani's task will be to review the case and render any assistance she deems appropriate.

### Representatives of the HALFA Visit LERC - JASMIN LILIAN DIAB, LERC

The Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) received representatives of Hommes d'Affaires Libanais de France Association (HALFA), or the Lebanese Businessmen Association of France. The HALFA representatives were Mr. Antoine Menassa, President, and Mr. Mansour Khoury, Secretary-General.

HALFA is an association created within the World Lebanese Cultural Union (WLCU) to promote networking among its members and with Lebanon. The WLCU is an international, secular, non-denominational, non-profit organization sponsored by the Government of Lebanon but working independently in cooperation with Lebanese emigrants and their descendants. It strives to "unite descendants of Lebanese origin and friends of Lebanon into one worldwide organization or union with the aim to promote and preserve Lebanese culture and heritage and to ensure its spirit for generations to come."

The LERC team first escorted Mr. Menassa and Mr. Khoury to the Lebanon and Migration Nucleus Museum where Ms. Liliane Haddad, Chief Archivist and Indexer, gave them a guided tour of the exhibited collections.

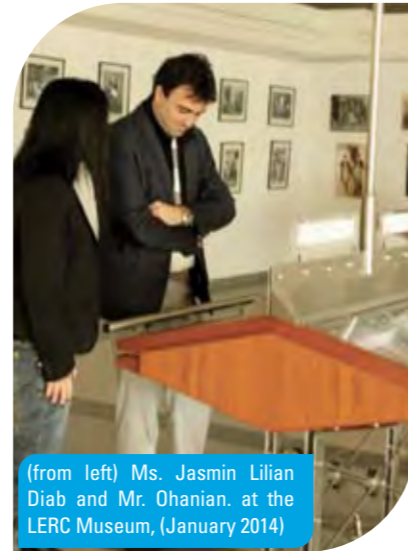


(from left) Mr. Mansour Khoury, Mr. Antoine Menassa, at the Lebanon Migration Nucleus Museum(NDU/LERC, January 2014)

**Howard Karagehusian Association Director Serop Ohanian Visits LERC - NAREG KROUZIAN, LERC INTERN**

Mr. Serop Ohanian is the Lebanon Field Director of the Howard Karagehusian Association in Beirut, an independent NGO for child welfare in the country. After being introduced to the Lebanon Emigration Database and Archive (LEAD) and visiting the Lebanon Migration Nucleus Museum at the Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC), Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU), Mr. Ohanian met with LERC's Director Dr. Guita Hourani to discuss common interests.

Mr. Ohanian briefed Dr. Hourani on the association's mission and vision, its current plan of action, and its overall task in providing medical services to local community members. Mr. Ohanian emphasized the association's non-partisan, non-religious, and non-gender biased approach to serving the residence of the Bourj-Hammoud district.



(from left) Ms. Jasmin Lilian Diab and Mr. Ohanian. at the LERC Museum, (January 2014)

**The German Orient-Institute of Beirut Sends its Interns to LERC - JASMIN LILIAN DIAB, LERC**

The Orient-Institute of Beirut, as part of its mandate to support young academic researchers and its cooperation with numerous academic institutions across the Middle East, sent two students, Ms. Monika Spottl and Ms. Anastasia Stratschha to take a tour of the Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) and look for material for their respective papers.

Ms. Spottl, a student in Arabistics and Islamic Studies from Austria, is completing her internship at the Orient-Institute while attending the University of Vienna. Ms. Stratschha is an Islamic Studies student from Marburg, Germany, who is also completing the same internship along with her colleague while attending the Phillips Universitat of Malburg. Ms. Stratschha expressed her interest to know more about Islam and the Lebanese in the Ivory Coast, a matter Ms. Liliane Haddad, Chief indexer and archivist at LERC, was able to help her with.



(from left) Ms. Stratschha, and Ms. Spottl at LERC offices (February 2014)



(from left) Mr. Elie Nabhan, Mr. Antoine Chalhoub, and Ms. Liliane Haddad at the LERC Museum (NDU/LERC January 22, 2014)

**Mr. Antoine Chalhoub, Nigerian of Lebanese Descent, Visits LERC - JASMIN LILIAN DIAB, LERC**

Mr. Antoine Chalhoub, entrepreneur and businessman, visited the Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) along with former LERC staff member Mr. Elie Nabhan to further strengthen ties with the Center as well as his home country. After Ms. Liliane Haddad, Chief Indexer and Archivist, welcomed Mr. Chalhoub, he was given a short tour of the LERC Offices as well as a brief presentation on LERC's digitized collections and database.

Mr. Chalhoub's father, Mr. Toufic Mikhael Chalhoub, migrated to Nigeria in 1930 from the village of Raskifa near Zgharta. Born in 1937 in Ibadan, Nigeria, Mr. Chalhoub has spent most of his life there.

**Dr. Paul Tabar and Dr. Lama Kabanji of LAU Visit LERC - JASMIN LILIAN DIAB, LERC**

The Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) welcomed Dr. Paul Tabar, Director of the Institute for Migration Studies (IMS) at the Lebanese- American University (LAU) and his associate, Dr. Lama Kabanji, Researcher at the Centre population et développement (CEPD), Paris, France. Both Dr. Tabar and Dr. Kabanji visited the LERC after meeting with Mr. Simon Abou Jaoudeh, Director of the Alumni Affairs Office at NDU, to disseminate a questionnaire to the NDU Alumni as part of their research project titled, "International Migration of the Highly Skilled and Academics: A Lebanese Perspective."



(from left) Ms. Liliane Haddad, Dr. Lama Kabanji, Dr. Guita Hourani, and Dr. Paul Tabar at the LERC Offices (February 2, 2014)

**Diplomats from Brazilian Embassy in Beirut, Visit LERC - JASMIN LILIAN DIAB, LERC**

Two diplomats from the Embassy of Brazil in Beirut, Mr. Adam Jayme Muniz, Second Secretary, and Mr. Fabio Rabello de Oliveira, Cultural Attaché, recently visited the Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU).

The purpose of the visit was to learn more about the Center's resources, programs, and services, and to explore possible partnerships on topics of common interest.

After a tour of the Center and a meeting with Dr. Guita Hourani, LERC Director, Ms. Liliane Haddad, Chief Archivist and Indexer at the LERC, briefed Mr. Muniz and Mr. Oliveira on the LERC's electronic archive and database.



(from left) Mr. Oliveira, Dr. Hourani, and Mr. Muniz at the LERC Nucleus Museum (March 2014)

**STUDENT AFFAIRS OFFICE**

**TEDxNDULouaize: A Brand New Leadership Challenge**  
- MARY CHRISTINE FAKHOURY | NATALIA GEHA | SUZY TASLAKIAN

The countdown began at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU); everything the TEDxNDULouaize volunteers had worked for was about to start. As the clock struck 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 16, 2014, four musicians made their way to a stage; the same stage they had performed on numerous occasions over the course of the past few semesters.

This time, however, the event was different. The first TEDxNDULouaize Salon, "Leadership in Action," began with an opening song delivered by NDU's Department of Music and Musicology. As the soft notes from Nat King Cole's Autumn Leaves faded, the Salon's host, NDU Political Sciences student Talar Demirdjian, took to the stage to give an audience, comprising of students, administrators, Faculty, and TEDx organizers, an hour and a half of TED-like entertainment.

"Leaders can let you fail and yet not let you be a failure" - The first 'TED Talk' that was shown was by four-star General Stanley McChrystal, "Listen, Learn...then Lead," leaving the audience asking the question, "How does a leader stay credible and legitimate when they haven't done what the people they're leading are doing?" Once the video ended, TEDxHamraStreet organizer, Sara Sibai, opened the discussion by arguing against General McChrystal's point on following all the rules, "...he mentioned that the generals give out the rules and

the soldiers follow them, but here is the problem, they are following the rules."

Another attendee, political science NDU student Jad Abou Rjeily, responded, "...in the army there is something called blind loyalty and those men have faith in one another...you cannot have leadership without trust." At the end of the first debate, the audience pretty much agreed on Neale Donald Walsch's saying, "A true leader is not the one with the most followers, but one who created the most leaders."

When the debate ended, an interesting social game, prepared by NDU Media Studies graduate student Julnar Doueik, was introduced to the audience. The ice-breaker was set to make the audience interact on a deeper level, mixing all ages and statuses together. With stickers on their backs, attendees were asked to guess the names of the leaders they were given by asking the person behind them questions.

Needless to say, seeing students interacting and relating with the Vice-President of Academic Affairs Dr. Antoine Farhat, and the Dean of the Student Affairs Office (SAO) Dr. Ziad Fahed, among other faculty and staff members in an informal setting, reflected how the team spirit of TEDxNDULouaize had struck every single person in the hall. It was time for the second video; the host introduced social psychologist Amy Cuddy's Your Body Language Shapes Who You Are. After the video ended, quotes in the form of questions were posted on the screen to help the audience reflect: 1) "What do the minds of the powerful versus the powerless look like?" and 2) "Can power posing for a few minutes really change your life in meaningful ways?"



NDU student Talar Demirdjian hosts the show with a bright smile and an engaging voice.



Attendees mingling in the reception area.



NDU student Jad Hakme contributes to the event with a brilliantly designed logo.



As the second debate started, the audience seemed more involved and interactive. TEDxLAU Curator Reine Azzi spoke about the importance of "learning these life hacks and gaining self-confidence, especially during oral presentations. But it's also important not to neglect the essentials, as in the concrete knowledge of our subject matter, and to not consider these 2-minute hacks as a substitute for knowledge." A student attendee provided a powerful ending to the discussion by expressing her positive personal experiences with power posing.

NDU's Musicology students, Mary Christine Fakhoury, Joy Hakme, Sana Bou Chedid, Wissam Abboud, and Mark Eid, indicated the closing of the Salon by performing Paul Anka's My Way, leaving the audience inspired as they made their way to the Social Space organized by NDU instructor Nadine Robehmed. The SAO offered coffee and cookies through the Sponsorship Office, while William Cheese restaurant offered sandwiches and drinks. NDU student photographers Nath-

alie Moussa and Hisham Sharafeddine moved swiftly from one spot of the gathering to the other, snapping photos of people huddled up, giggling, and chatting, while not forgetting to take a few memorable snapshots of the TEDxNDULouaize team gathered on stage.

Under the famous TED slogan, "Ideas Worth Spreading," yet another independently organized TED event set foot in Lebanon. Inspired by the first TEDxBeirut organizer in Lebanon, Patricia Zoughaib, and by TEDxLAU organizer Reine Azzi, NDU instructor Natalia Geha took the initiative to create TEDxNDULouaize with a team of 27 student and Faculty volunteers, and the support of the SAO. After around a month and a half of hard work and dedication from the whole team and especially 'behind-the-scenes' student volunteer Rani Nehme who managed the show with his passion for technology, the first Salon was a success. TEDxNDULouaize's main event will take place on May 21, 2014, with a newly published website.



(from left) Music Department students Mariy Christine Fakhoury, Joy Hakme, Sana Bou Chedid, and Wissam Abboud performing My Way, the show's finale.



The TEDxNDULouaize team of volunteers gathers on stage for a post-event group picture with the Dean of the SAO Dr. Ziad Fahed.



**FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE, ART, AND DESIGN - Music Department**

**LeBAM Workshop 2014 at NDU**  
- DR. LOLA BEYROUTI

The Department of Music at the Faculty of Architecture, Art and Design (FAAD), Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU), has organized many events and activities with the Lebanese Band Association for the Promotion of Music (LeBAM), in line with the Mission of NDU to encourage and support the initiatives of LeBAM.

The "2nd LeBAM Teacher Training Workshop 2014" took place at the Department of Music to help promote musical performances at NDU. International guest trainers and conductors trained lectures on band conducting, switching instruments, etc.

Attendees from the LeBAM, the Lebanese Conservatory of Music, the Lebanese Army, and the Department of Music benefited greatly from the workshop.



**Department of Music Students Attend Alexander Technique, France**

Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) sponsored students from the Department of Music at the Faculty of Architecture, Art and Design (FAAD) to attend Alexander Technique, France, from April 21- 28, 2014.



The Alexander Technique teaches students how to stop using unnecessary levels of muscular and mental tension during their everyday activities by teaching them unique techniques in improving the way they use the body's support system and applying these techniques to help them attain excellent performances and augment their abilities while playing instruments.

The workshop took place at a 70-m2 music studio at Cité des Arts in Paris (working hours from 10 a.m.-noon and 2-5 p.m.). The first lesson involved a detailed explanation of the technique they were about to learn along with an immediate practical demonstration.

The students were then asked to present themselves and perform in front of Agnès de Brunhoff, who Parisian theatrical actors dub the "priestess" of the Alexander Technique.



The first two days were thoroughly focused, helping students realize how important it was for them to discover how their "machine," i.e. the human body, functioned in addition to pointing out their individual mistakes and unnecessary body tensions and wrong supporting axes, and how their movements influenced the way they played their instruments; hence, influencing the way they produced music.

The students really enjoyed the lessons and learned a lot, allowing Mrs. De Brunhoff to help them find keys to their weaknesses while performing.

They were divided into two groups to help optimize their training sessions. The students were receptive to her instruction and asked well-targeted questions, which demonstrated their eagerness to learn.



### Easter Concert

The Department of Music at the Faculty of Architecture, Art and Design (FAAD), Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU), in collaboration with the Office of Public Relations, held on Tuesday April 15, 2014, a special Easter Concert. The concert featured Arabic and Jazz musicology students as well as the participation of Mrs. Layal Nehme-Matar. Religious music translated the Gospel hermeneutically and both bands spread the joy of Easter.



### Inter-school Music Competition

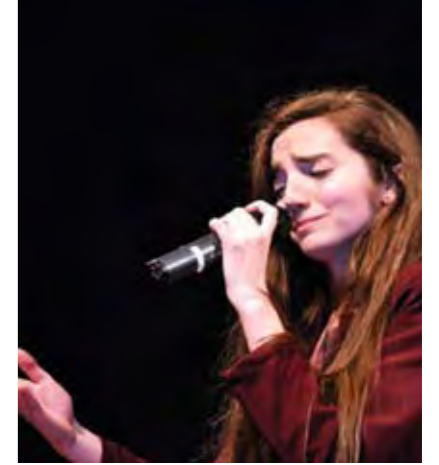
The Department of Music at the Faculty of Architecture, Art and Design (FAAD), Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU), in collaboration with the Office of Public Relations, organized between April 29-30, 2014, at Issam Fares Hall, the first-ever "Inter-School Competition."

Many talented musicians and singers from various schools partook in the event. Round One (April 29) witnessed 12 gifted competitors vying for the top spot. Six people were chosen to move onto the second round with three emerging in the first, second, and third positions respectively.

NDU President Fr. Walid Moussa and NDU Vice-President and Director of Public Relations Mr. Souheil Mattar distributed prizes, which were:

- First Prize: 100% tuition paid by NDU for a one-year study period at the University.
- Second Prize: 75% tuition paid by NDU for a one-year study period at the University.
- Third Prize: 50% tuition paid by NDU for a one-year study period at the University.

In a show of goodwill, Fr. Moussa surprised everyone by offering a special consolation prize for all participants: 25% tuition paid by NDU for a one-year study period at the University.



**FACULTY OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION & ECONOMICS**

**CLIMASP: CLIMAtE Change and Sustainability Policy  
A new EU-Tempus Project at NDU**

- DR. NANCY KANBAR, **CLIMASP Institutional Coordinator**



A new EU-funded Tempus project for the development of an interdisciplinary program on CLIMAtE Change and Sustainability Policy (CLIMASP) has just kicked off at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU). The coordinating institution of the project is the University of Crete, Greece, and it has been awarded a grant of over one million euros from the Tempus Programme to implement this three-year project. The CLIMASP project involves partners from six countries: Greece, Cyprus, Germany, Lebanon, Egypt, and Jordan.

**INVOLVED PARTNER COUNTRIES' INSTITUTIONS:**

**E.U. PARTNERS**

- University of Crete, Greece
- Frederick University, Cyprus
- Leuphana University Lueneburg, Germany

**ARAB REGION PARTNERS**

- Notre Dame University- Louaize (NDU), Lebanon
- Lebanese-American University (LAU), Lebanon
- Hashemite University, Jordan
- University of Jordan, Jordan
- American University of Madaba, Jordan
- Jerash Private University, Jordan
- Jordan Environment Society, Jordan
- Suez Canal University, Egypt
- Aswan University, Egypt
- Port Said University, Egypt
- Education for Employment Foundation, Egypt
- Egyptian Business Women Association, Egypt

Higher Education plays a critical role in contributing to climate-neutral and sustainable society. It prepares most of the professionals who develop, lead, manage, teach, work in, and influence society's institutions. Though Arab countries only contribute to about five percent of global emissions, carbon dioxide emissions in the Arab region are increasing at a fast rate. This arid region is vulnerable to the impacts of climate change in many ways, such as worsening the water shortage problem, reducing agricultural production, intensifying urbanization, and causing biodiversity losses. The most recent Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change indicated that the Arab region will be subjected to severe water stress due to a decline in rainfall, acute deterioration of water quality, increase evapotranspiration rates, and increased water demand.

As this region is one of the most vulnerable regions to climate change, higher education institutions recognize the urgency for meeting this challenge and help prepare their students to tackle the urgency of the regional climate change impacts. Thus, CLIMASP is launched to transform current unsustainable practices with respect to interdisciplinary collaboration and promote interdisciplinary climate change curricula in the partner universities. The project aims to integrate and implement the CLIMASP program as an integral part to existing undergraduate academic degrees in disciplines, such as economics / business, applied sciences, engineering, education, and social sciences.

The specific objectives of CLIMASP are to:

- Develop capacity-building workshops for building interdisciplinary and multi-stakeholder driven climate change curricula responsive to societal needs.
- Develop an undergraduate interdisciplinary program on climate change and sustainability policy in each partner country university.
- Integrate, implement and assess the CLIMASP program as an integral part to existing undergraduate academic degrees.
- Contextualize the Europass supplement diploma in the partner universities and the region.



Engaging key stakeholders in climate change programs.

Besides the integration of CLIMASP into various academic disciplines, other key outcomes include:

- Development of a Center for Integrative and Interdisciplinary Studies with an ICT Laboratory in each partner University to support CLIMASP.
- Promote interdisciplinary curricula as well as the establishment of an International Network of CLIMASP Studies.

The opening meeting of this project was held in Athens in February 2014. Dr. Nancy Kanbar (Assistant Professor of Economics at the Faculty of Business Administration and Economics-FBAE, project coordinator at NDU) attended the meeting where the project's main goals, objectives, administrative, and managerial structures were presented.



Dr. Aravella Zachariou, Frederick University, Cyprus



Dr. Michel Afram Director, Lebanese Agriculture Research Institute

NDU hosted the first training national training workshop in March 2014. The workshop was organized by the NDU-CLIMASP team, and it was held in the Main Campus, Zouk Mosbeh. It involved University staff and other key stakeholders (mainly students, NGOs, government and research institutions as well as professionals) to discuss the processes and practices for the stakeholders' involvement in the CLIMASP program and to identify and analyze the barriers and drivers of stakeholders' inputs to interdisciplinary curriculum development. Many stakeholders were at the meeting, and the workshop agenda included the following sessions:

- A. **Welcome and Introductory Session:** Dr. Nancy Kanbar (NDU), Dr. Aref al-Soufi (EU-National Tempus Office, Earsmus+ office), Dr. Ghazi Asmar (Assistant Vice-President for Research and Graduate Studies, NDU), Dr. Antoine Farhat (Interim Vice-President for Academic Affairs, NDU).
- B. **Session 1: Role of Government and Civil Society.** This session was moderated by Dr. Tanos G. Hage (Faculty of Natural and Applied Sciences-FNAS, NDU) and the presenters included: Dr. Michel Afram (Director, Lebanese Agriculture Research Institute -LARI) and Dr. Ziad el-Sayegh (CEO, Civic Influence Hub-CIH).
- C. **Session 2: Workshop for Engaging Stakeholders in Climate Change Programs.** This session was moderated by Dr. Aravella Zachariou (Frederick University, Cyprus).
- D. **Session 3: Climate Change from Different Perspectives.** This session was moderated by Dr. Talal Salem (Faculty of Engineering-FE, NDU) and the presenters were:
  - Dr. Tanos G. Hage, Faculty of Natural And Applied Sciences (FNAS), NDU;
  - Dr. Georges Labaki, Faculty of Law and Political Science (FLPS), NDU;
  - Dr. Elsy Ibrahim, Faculty of Engineering (FE), NDU;
  - Eng. Pierre el-Haddad, Save Energy Plant Trees (SEPT), Faculty of Business Administration and Economics (FBAE), NDU;
  - Dr. Jose Manuel Madrigal, School of Architecture & Interior Design, LAU;
  - Dr Mohammad S. Al-Zein, School of Arts and Sciences, LAU;
  - Dr. Mahmoud Wazne, School of Engineering, LAU; and
  - Andrew el-Khoury (student), Faculty of Business Administration and Economics (FBAE), NDU.
- E. **Session 4: Planning the Multi-stakeholders Engagement in the CLIMASP Project.** Dr. Nancy Kanbar (NDU) and Dr. Aravella Zachariou (Frederick University, Cyprus) moderated this session.



Opening Session. (from left) Dr. Nancy Kanbar (CLIMASP project coordinator at NDU), Dr. Aref al-Soufi (National Erasmus+ office), Dr. Ghazi Asmar (Assistant Vice-President for Research and Graduate Studies at NDU), Dr. Antoine Farhat (Interim Vice-President for Academic Affairs at NDU)

The workshop succeeded in promoting the CLIMASP project and in highlighting the interdisciplinary nature of the climate change challenge. The networking event brought together many industry professionals along with researchers, academics, and civic society representatives to reinforce mutually beneficial partnerships through a dialogue among stakeholders in different thematic areas of expertise. Participants shared their knowledge, explored links between climate change research in the different academic disciplines, as well as developed an understanding of how research and curriculum improvement could create synergies that help addressing societal challenges in our Arab region. This is vital to social development, as well as economic and environmental sustainability.

## FACULTY OF ENGINEERING

### NDU SDC Winners Compete in ASME - IMECE Finals - SALIM YOUNES | JAMIL RIACHY

As the First Prize winners of the Student Design Competition (SDC) in District J (Middle East and Africa) held from May 26-27, 2013, at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU), Lebanon, we were invited to compete in the finals at the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) 2013 International Mechanical Engineering

Congress & Exposition (IMECE) in San Diego, California, U.S.A.

Founded in 1880, the ASME is a not-for-profit professional organization that enables collaboration, knowledge sharing, and skill development across all engineering disciplines, while promoting the vital role of the engineer in society. Their mission is to serve our diverse global communities by advancing, disseminating, and applying engineering knowledge for improving the quality of life and communicating the excitement of engineering.

Annually, and for this purpose, they organize the lively ASME Stu-

dent Design Competition, which provides a platform for ASME Student Members to present their solutions for a range of design problems - from everyday household tasks to groundbreaking space exploration. Each team is required to design, construct, and operate a prototype, which meets the requirements of a determined problem statement.

The SDC highlights the extraordinary talents of mechanical engineering students while encouraging them to develop innovative ideas toward an improved quality of life for all. Each year, several teams compete at the Student Professional Development Conferences in districts worldwide. Winners then proceed to finals at the ASME-IMECE.

After the Fukushima nuclear facility tragedy, following the March 2011 Tohoku earthquake and tsunami, the nuclear industry issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) to design and build a small, remotely-controlled inspection vehicle. The purpose of the vehicle is to determine the level of radioactivity at specified locations and inspect for damage. This vehicle will protect the human operator from absorbing a high dose of radioactive contamination. The inspection vehicle can gather information and notify plant operators to either avert an accident or begin repairs.

The 2013 competition problem statement was to design a remotely-controlled, proof-of-concept vehicle for inspection purposes. The vehicle must be able to negotiate around obstacles, both in getting to the inspection points and in bringing the sensor back to the designated return area. The vehicle must then return to its starting location, ready for another run.

Our success could not have been achieved without the sup-



(from left) NDU students Salim Younes and Jamil Riachi.

port of NDU's Faculty of Engineering and its Mechanical Engineering (FE) Department, which afforded us the opportunity to attend this annual event. We wish to thank everyone who contributed to this funding, and we would especially like to thank our Dean Dr. Michel Hayek and our Chairperson Dr. Najib Metni. This is NDU's fourth year attending the ASME SDC finals as First Place winners in Middle East and Africa, and we feel privileged to be part of both NDU's and NDU's teams that participated in this competition.

This year, the SDC was wonderful and the competing groups were very efficient, well-prepared, and demonstrated high standards. We loved the way it was organized, and the professionalism between the teams, judges, and attendees was exceptional.

In San Diego, California, 24 other team winners from around the world joined us; we all quickly became friends and shared our knowledge and passion to develop skills and win. In addition, we came to the attention of various university representatives and instructors, and left the competition with many new contacts ranked and in the 5th place as an international country, and 15th place among all competing teams worldwide.

You will never know how important this trip to us especially after being the first Lebanese team ever whose device was able to complete all required tasks in the competition without errors or penalties and scoring the best result ever made by a Lebanese participant. This kind of honorary status is no doubt a testimony to the quality of education provided by the Department of Mechanical Engineering at NDU.

We hope an NDU team can go again next year, because we believe that this conference and competition is an essential part of becoming a better mechanical engineer.

Again, thank you ever so much NDU for this honor and thank you for such a beautiful experience and thrilling time at this year's conference.



The official list of various universities competing in the finals of the ASME Student Design Competition.



The robot designed by Younes and Riachi.

## FACULTY OF LAW AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

### Panel Discussion: "Women in the Public Sphere" - JOELLE HARFOUCHE

On International Women's Day, which is celebrated annually on March 8, the Faculty of Law and Political Science (FLPS) in collaboration with the Student Union at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) organized a panel titled, "Women in the Public Sphere." The event was aimed at highlighting the experience of three female Lebanese pioneers who have impacted their respective fields. FLPS representative Ms. Joelle Harfouche introduced the speakers on behalf of the Student Union.

The first guest, Ms. Nada Khayat Nashef, is a successful Human Re-

sources consultant and Head of HR at the Lebanese Forces Party. Ms. Nashef spoke about her personal struggle and the battle to exist in Lebanese civil society. Mrs Nashef is now an active member in the Lebanese Forces Party and sits on the general committee, training women to fill vacancies in elective positions and develop their work in municipalities, local communities, and hopefully parliamentary and ministerial positions in the future.

The second guest, Ms. Suzanne Jabbour, represented the civil society sector through the Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) RESTART Center. Ms. Jabbour talked about this NGO and how it deals with victims of torture, prison detainees, and refugees. She became a partner of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); joined the International Council for the Rehabilitation of Victims Torture (IRCT), where she later became President of the Association

and then was elected a member of the UN Special Commission for the Prevention of Torture.

The third guest, Major Suzanne el-Hajj Hobeish, addressed the role of women in security, and explained how she joined the ranks of the Lebanese Internal Security Forces (ISF), at a time where the number of women in the organization was two for every 25,000 men. The presence of the female element in the ISF, according to Hajj, enhanced trust between the community and the security forces, through the representation of segments of society in this institution. Major Hajj explained how she trains other women elements in the military and how she reinforces their role in the military.

Finally, she addressed the students saying, "Women should empower themselves and their capabilities, enhance their capacities, and accomplish their goals."

### Guilty Until Proven Innocent? - FRANCISCA ANKRAH\*

Ever since the Lebanese civil war, the level of impunity and lack of proper law enforcement has increased exponentially to the point where people are unwittingly putting their life and freedom on the line each time they step inside or outside their homes. What makes this even more worrying is the fact that most people are unaware of these dangers, the most frequent of which is arbitrary detention.

According to article 11(1) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, "Everyone charged with a penal offence has the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law in a public trial at which he has had all the guarantees necessary for his defense."

A majority of Lebanese lawmakers

ers and politicians would scoff this article, because saying that they have not tried enough to live up to this standard is an understatement.

In a recent study conducted by Act for Human Rights (ALEF), it was made clear that arbitrary detention is indeed a bigger problem than most people think. The figures are as follows:

- Statistics released by the Ministry of Interior revealed that only one-third were serving sentences while the rest were still awaiting trial; and
- The total capacity of Lebanese prisons is 3,653. By 2014, this number was exceeded by almost 150%.

The study also found that the people most at risk of being arbitrarily detained are journalists, LG-BTQI, suspects of crimes relating to national security, sex workers, women, children, victims of drug addictions, migrant workers, refugees, minorities, and youth.

Alarmed by these facts, and

wanting to raise awareness on the issue of arbitrary detention in Lebanon, the Human Rights Club at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU), within the scope of an awareness campaign in collaboration with the ALEF, organized a stunt on April 15, 2014, which enacted a scene where students were violently apprehended by an unknown group without any respect for their rights. Following the stunt, members of the Human Rights Club and the ALEF distributed brochures that represent the situation of arbitrary detention in Lebanon and raising awareness on the rights of the detainees. The NDU students were also invited to sign the petition on [change.org](http://change.org)

This event and the campaign titled, "Guilty Until Proven Innocent," is part of the wider project titled, "Promoting for Better Protection Mechanisms against Arbitrary Arrest, Lengthy Pre-Trial Detention and Long Delays in Trial," which is implemented by the ALEF and funded by the European Union.

\* President of the Human Rights Club

## FACULTY OF NATURAL & APPLIED SCIENCES - Department of Mathematics and Statistics

### Research Activities

The Department of Mathematics and Statistics, a unit under the Faculty of Natural and Applied Sciences (FNAS) at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU), is one of the largest Departments in our University. It is home to 16 full-time faculty members and numerous part-timers whose fields of interests include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Algebra;
- Analysis;
- Differential Equations;
- Differential Geometry;
- Information Theory;
- Number Theory;
- Topology;
- Fundamental Mathematics;
- Operations Research;
- Time Series Analysis;
- Statistics;
- Financial Mathematics; and
- Actuarial Sciences.

In Fall 2012, the Department of Mathematics and Statistics began hosting monthly seminars.

#### Goals of the Monthly Seminars

These monthly seminars are intended to keep faculty members updated on the latest developments in Mathematics, as well as to encourage research among faculty members.

#### Time, date, and place

During Fall 2013, the Mathematics seminars were scheduled on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at the Science Conference Room of the FNAS.

#### Website, News, and Events

In Fall 2012, a "News and Events" tab was added to the

Mathematics and Statistics webpage. All previous and upcoming seminars, conferences, etc. are announced there. From NDU website: Academics > FNAS > Dept. of Mathematics and Statistics > News and Events or simply <http://www.ndu.edu.lb/academics/fnas/dms/news.htm>



Dr. Youssef Rafoul's talk (Spring 2014).

### Seminars Schedule for Spring 2014:

DATE	SPEAKER	UNIVERSITY AFFILIATION	TITLE OF THE TALK
March 3	Dr. Youssef Rafoul	University of Dayton, Ohio, US	"Fixed Points or Lyapunov Functional?"
March 24	Dr. Youssef Rafoul	University of Dayton, Ohio, US	"Boundedness and Exponential Stability in Highly Nonlinear Stochastic Differential Equations"
April 10	Dr. Tamer Tlas	AUB, Lebanon	"Ashtekar-Lewandowski Measure as a Restriction of the Product One"
May 5	Dr. Abbas Hakim	AUB, Lebanon	"Limit Theorems for Bessel Processes for General Dimension"
June 4	Dr. Joanna Bodgi	USJ-Mansourieh, Lebanon	"T.B.A"

## FACULTY OF NURSING & HEALTH SCIENCES

### Conference Report "e-Health: Opportunities and Challenges" - MS. NANCY ABI KARAM DR. LIONEL KHALIL

Under the Patronage of the Minister of Public Health Mr. Wael Abou Faour, the Faculty of Nursing & Health Sciences (FNHS) at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) in collaboration with the Lebanese Information Technology Association (LITA) and the IEEE Computer Society, Lebanon Chapter, held on March 26, 2014, a conference at the Auditorium, NDU Main Campus, titled, "e-Health: Opportunities and Challenges."



Dr. Aziz Barbar, giving his talk.

e-Health is the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) to improve the relationship between healthcare provider and patient, and to support and strengthen the development of all healthcare and social services. When we talk about e-Health, we need to focus on the core of a fundamental evolution around all those activities, namely, data processing by using ICT to collect, analyze, and exchange information, and augment cooperation in the fields of surgery, medical consultation, and management records of all kinds, including health cards, patients' files, doctors' files, research, digital images, etc.

Medical informatics impact all actors in this sector — from public administrations to private institutions — that work toward enhancing the management of resources, follow-ups, and decision-making. More specifically, managing e-Health records of patients on a larger scale requires updated Ethics and Risk Policies.

The conference aimed to promote awareness, drive capacity building, and call for training to ensure proper development of e-Health for our communities. In this context, the conference identified the impact of new ICT in the development of medical practices and healthcare service delivery. It also highlighted new trends in the field of medical/ healthcare informatics and the potential use of electronic medical/ healthcare records, and reviewed the challenges in Lebanon to support the development of e-Health in terms of infrastructure and legalities, and the potential responses to these factors.



Conference speakers and participants.

The conference covered three main axes: Understanding medical/healthcare informatics prospects and challenges, presenting the state-of-the-art in electronic medical/healthcare records, and discussing views on capacity building in Lebanon.

Three speakers presented the first session.

Mrs. Lina Abou Mrad, Director of the National e-Health Program, a program recently launched by the Ministry of Public Health, discussed the main challenges faced by the program, such as:

- Defining a core set of minimum standards;
- Ensuring interoperability;
- Drafting a policy and setting up a governance framework for full adoption at the national and sub-national levels;
- Building human resources' capacity at all healthcare levels; and
- Developing e-Health competency framework to guide and help ensure sufficient skills for various healthcare professionals.

Dr. Mira Thoumy delivered the second presentation. Dr. Thoumy highlighted the new paradigm spurred by the use of e-Health:

- Creating a continuous and dynamic link between the patient and the healthcare system in general;
- Giving physicians new technological tools to provide a better, timely, and more accurate diagnosis; and
- Allowing those in the field to enjoy a clearer vision of managing healthcare organization through richer statistical analyses.



Ms. Lina Abou Mrad, representing the Minister of Public Health

Dr. Mona al-Achkar Jabbour gave the third presentation. She underlined that e-Health professionals are eager to see the draft law, concerning the protection of online data adopted. The adoption will increase confidence in the exchange, access, and archiving of sensitive data, such as medical ones.

The second session targeted the state-of-the-art in electronic medical records. Dr. Ali Krecht, Senior Technical Operations Management expert at the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA), focused on the importance of the development of the broadband telecom network as the determinant for the development of e-Health in Lebanon. One of the goals of the TRA consists of supporting the spread of e-Health.

Dr. Farid Jabbour highlighted the pressing need for a legal and technical framework to build up capacity to manage the growth of medical informatics in the healthcare sector. He pointed out the risks inherent to the use of electronic medical records from a legal standpoint. He emphasized the types of cybercrimes that could target electronic medical records as well as the liabilities resulting from such cybercrimes.

During the panel discussion, the different speakers had the chance to present their views on how to enhance e-Health capacity building in Lebanon. Dr. Marie Khair and Dr. Thoumy raised the key components for the implementation of an educational program in the field of e-Health, targeting students and professionals at undergraduate and graduate levels.



Dr. Marie Khair, panel discussant

Dr. Antoine Aoun showed that the benefits of e-Health are already

embedded in the daily life of a professional and that authorities cannot roll back the clock; nevertheless, they have to ensure that the legal frontiers of the technical framework will be better defined soon. Finally, Dr. Farid Jabbour highlighted the absence of legislation in the field of cybercrime and the dramatic consequences deriving from this legal void.

This journey was a rich introduction to the concepts of medical informatics, cyber medicine, and e-Health, examining along the way challenges and opportunities for medical practitioners. The medical healthcare record has a central role in computerized medical information systems. Speakers highlighted technical aspects of the protection of medical data and the lack of regulatory measures for privacy protection of sensitive medical data. The different representatives from the government pointed out the responsibilities of the government in the strategic development of e-Health. Lebanon needs to develop specific skills in e-Health.

During the conference, the idea to launch an e-Health and Medical Informatics Institute arose. It is hoped that such an institute will be able to benefit from the head start given by the National e-Health Program. Interdisciplinary e-Health programs do not exist in any other institution of higher learning in Lebanon or the Middle East.

NDU is preparing a new Master's degree program in e-Health with a course structure and content that will meet the challenges of the integration of ICT and healthcare. Prospective graduate students will be able to obtain a B.A./B.S. in any discipline related to Health Sciences, Law, Computer Sciences, or Business.

## A Taste of South America - ZEINA NAKAT

Students, Faculty, and staff members of Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) were invited on January 15, 2014, to explore the taste of national dishes from a selection of South American countries and to learn about the diverse factors that influence food preferences of population.

Faculty of Nursing and Health Sciences (FNHS) students enrolled in NTR 215, "Foods and Nutrition of World Cultures," one of the general education courses offered by the FNHS, organized and hosted the event. NTR 215 aims to develop students' understanding of the relationship between foods and culture, economic factors, availability of ingredients, taste preferences, environmental conditions, social determinants, and religious considerations, among others. Besides preparing a national dish of a selected South American country, students were also asked to research the country, its facts, habits, and culture, and present their findings on a poster.

Students, moreover, were expected to simulate the spirit of their chosen country, using appropriate decoration, outfits, table setting, and music. Thirty-six students divided into nine groups participated in the event.

A jury, consisting of Dr. Jessy el-Hayek and Dr. Antoine Aoun from the FNHS, evaluated groups for the best presentations. The Chilean group (Sarah Merhi, Razane Makrouss, Marc Saber, and Ralph el-Khawand) took first place while second place went to the Brazilian group (Stephanie Rachoin, Joy Rihane, Rackelle Sassine, and Rami Akl). The event was indeed a tasty day for NDU community members.



Chilean group: (from left) Sarah Merhi, Marc Saber, Raphel-Khawand, and Razane Makrouss.



Brazilian group: (from left) Stephanie Rachoin, Joy Rihane

## SPONSORSHIP OFFICE

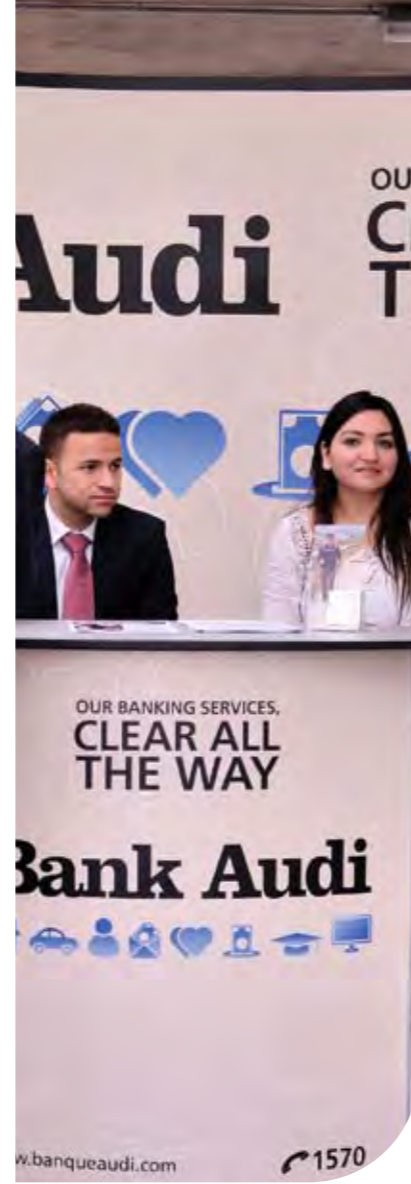
### On-Campus Banking VIP Lounge at NDU

The Sponsorship Office, a unit under the Office of Finance at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU), organized its annual On-campus "Banking VIP Lounge," from December 2013 to January 2014 (Fall Semester).

Participants from the banking sector were mainly those that enjoy close business ties with the NDU Administration such as Byblos Bank, Bank of Beirut, Bank Audi sal - Audi Saradar Group, and Banque Libano-Francaise. Representatives from each of the aforementioned banks chose three or four days to set up a unique business lounge on the Main Campus.

The main objective of this Lounge was to provide these banks with the opportunity to build solid relationships with members of the NDU community (administrators, full-timers, part-timers, staff members, and students). This forum served to promote the banking sector to NDU community members and provided them with a platform to inquire about issues that interest them such as student loans, car loans, housing loans, personal loans, Master-Credit-Visa cards, opening of current/saving accounts, special offers and rates, etc.

To ensure that the event was stimulating and appealing to participants visiting the Lounge, the banks presented creative competitions/games and distributed souvenirs, gift items, etc.





# GENERAL NEWS



## PLACEMENT OFFICE SERVICES

The Placement Office at NDU, a unit under the Public Relations Department, offers our students and alumni a variety of lifelong career services, tools, and resources. We provide employment opportunities by acting as a liaison between NDU graduates and a growing network of more than 1,500 local, regional, and multinational companies. Our Mission is to ensure that each eligible student gets a job opportunity that best suits his/ her requirements and potentials. To date, we have helped hundreds of fresh graduates and alumni land promising jobs in reputable companies both at home and abroad.

Among our most effective tools to help our students land the best jobs and get a head start in life, we rely on:

- Providing online access to job listings through which our students can search for full-time or part-time employment;
- Organizing an annual Job Fair, which gathers leading companies operating locally, regionally, and internationally, to reach as many of NDU students, graduates, and alumni as possible; and
- Conducting seminars and workshops all year long, relating to interview skills, job readiness techniques, job search techniques, labor market information, career preparation, and vocational information.

**"LIFELONG CAREER SERVICES, TOOLS, AND RESOURCES"**



# NORTH LEBANON CAMPUS



### NLC FIELD TRIP

Environmental issues are important preoccupations of modern society since human activities are increasingly threatening the sustainability of our planet. Environmental education is a first step toward spreading awareness and raising a young generation conscious of the importance of the environment and the positive role we can play to protect and restore our planet.

The Environmental Science course (ENS 201) offered at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) is a General Education Requirements (GER) course that is open to students from different majors. In this context, a field trip was organized on November 17, 2013, for the students of the North Lebanon Campus (NLC).

The first stop was at a pioneer water treatment station in Becharri that uses reeds to purify water from organic matter. After a physical treatment process, which eliminates solid material, water is progressively poured into three reed beds. Reed plants have a massive root system that absorbs the mineral elements resulting from the decomposition of organic materials by aerobic organisms. "Clean" water results from this treatment can be used to irrigate fruit orchards around the station. The visit to this pioneer water treatment station demonstrated to the students how local communities can manage water and reduce the amount of waste water they produce by recycling it and using it again.

The second stop was at Horsh Ehden Natural Reserve, an important example of Lebanon's rich biodiversity. During the visit, many concepts explained in class were discussed and observed. Students learned to distinguish between the main forest tree species present in the reserve such as oaks, pine, cedar, fir, and juniper, and learned where each species grew, according to altitude.

They also discovered some of Lebanon's endemic plant species. The recycling of matter in a forest ecosystem was highlighted and the students learned more about the important ecological services spurred on by the decomposition of organic matter, resulting from dead trees, branches, animals, and litter. The absence of air pollution in the Ehden reserve was demonstrated through the abundance of bio-indicator species such as lichens. Lichens are formed by a symbiotic association between a fungal partner and algae, and are very sensitive to air pollution by sulfur compounds. Lichens disappear when the air is polluted by sulfur compounds; therefore, their presence is a living demonstration of air purity! Finally, nature demonstrated the importance of precipitation in sustaining the water cycle!



### NLC DEAN'S LIST

A ceremony was held at Notre Dame University-Louaize North Lebanon Campus (NDU-NLC) on January 29, 2014, at 5.30 p.m., to honor outstanding students in the presence of their parents, friends, and instructors.

Mr Micheal Hajj, Faculty of Humanities (FH) Coordinator, was the Master of Ceremonies. Dean's award ceremony started with the Lebanese national anthem. Outstanding students were called forward to receive their certificates from the coordinators of their Faculties. A few talented NLC students sang local songs in between the distribution of awards. Father Samir Ghsoub gave a brief speech in which he congratulated not only the outstanding students but also their parents' guidance and role in contributing to the students' success. He also praised the students for being not only high achievers but also well-mannered.

Finally, the attending students posed for a group photo with Father Ghsoub and Faculty coordinators. An open buffet followed the ceremony.



### FH HOSTS TALK AT NLC ON A LEBANESE TELEVISION SERIES

The Faculty of Humanities (FH) at Notre Dame University-Louaize North Lebanon Campus (NDU-NLC) organized on Wednesday, January 29, 2014, at 10 a.m., a talk in the Seminar Room on a Lebanese television series titled, *Wa Achrakat al-Shams (And the Sun Rose)*. May Abi Raad, the show's producer, and actors Emme Sayah and Salameh were present. The three celebrities shared their experience with NLC students, who, especially Radio/TV majors, were intrigued about the success of the series and asked many questions.



### BOOK SIGNING AT NLC

Notre Dame University-Louaize North Lebanon Campus (NDU-NLC), in collaboration with the Loubnani Association, organized on Friday, February 28, 2014, at 3.30 p.m., in the NLC Conference Room, a book signing event for Dr. Adnan al-Sayed Hussein, President of the Lebanese University (LU).

Dr. Hussein discussed the contents of his book titled, *Al-Mouwatana: Ousousoha Wa Adabaha (Citizenship: Principles and Dimensions)*, in the presence of NDU and LU faculty members and deans. Many guests purchased Dr. Hussein's book and waited in line to have their copies signed by the author.



### OPEN DOORS AT NLC

Each year, Notre Dame University-Louaize North Lebanon Campus (NDU-NLC) provides visitors from the public with an opportunity to learn more about what NDU offers and what makes it unique by allowing them to spend the day at NDU-NLC Campus.



This year, Open Doors at NDU-NLC took place on Friday, March 21, 2014, and gave students from various high schools a unique advantage to experience the spirit of NDU. The high schools represented included: Kalamoun Official School; Rashiine Official School; Ecole des Soeurs de la Ste. Therese; Hadchite; Chekka Official School; Notre Dame du Salut; Chekka; and Dar Ennour-Ecole des Filles de la Charite in North Lebanon.

Active, Pastoral, Free Will, Green, Horizon, Discovery, and Music Clubs at the University put on various activities and played lively music. Each Faculty had its own representatives giving explanations, but they all had one main goal, which was to introduce NDU-NLC's various Faculties and majors to prospective students.

Visiting students were taken on a tour of the Campus, meeting with faculty and staff members and interacting with current NLC students. The visiting students also toured different sites such as the Art facilities, Computer Center, Laboratories, and Library. Moreover, they saw interesting exhibits and demonstrations. NLC professors, administrators, and students devoted their time and effort to make this an exceptional event.



### NLC HOSTS ANNUAL DINNER FOR HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPALS

Notre Dame University-Louaize North Lebanon Campus (NDU-NLC) held on Friday, April 4, 2014, its Annual Dinner for high school principals at Mhanna Sur Mer.

Present were NDU President Fr. Walid Moussa; Assistant to the President for Planning and Development Dr. Assaad Eid; Vice-President for Finance Fr. Bechara Khoury; NLC Director Fr. Samir Ghsoub, Faculty Deans from the Main Campus, NLC faculty members and staff, as well as invited high school principals.

Following the Lebanese national anthem, Fr. Ghsoub expressed his deep concern over the interaction among schools and universities in orienting future generations and guiding them toward enrolling in an appropriate major to help them find a suitable and rewarding job. In other words, Fr. Ghsoub asked both school and university representatives to complement each other by keeping a firm eye on their students' future.

For his part, Fr. Moussa praised the unrelenting efforts of the Lebanese Armed Forces in bringing peace to North Lebanon, and he lauded the new decree issued by the Ministry of Education & Higher Education.



### WEDDING CELEBRATION AT NLC

Notre Dame University-Louaize North Lebanon Campus (NDU-NLC) recently organized an informal celebration to congratulate two NLC students, Joseph Azeezi and Souad Franjeh, who recently tied the knot. The celebration was held during lunch break at the Amphitheatre in the presence of Father Ghsoub, NLC Director, faculty members, staff, and students. Thunderous music blared through the Amphitheatre from the loudspeakers in an attempt to recreate the atmosphere of a real wedding. After the celebration, the newlyweds cut a three-tier white wedding cake, and Father Ghsoub wished them a happy life together.



OFFBEAT

## BITE-SIZE NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD...

(Compiled from various sources by MARIO NAJM)

### LEBANON

#### The Jackie Chamoun Scandal

Topless photos and racy video footage of Lebanese Olympic Skier Jackie Chamoun sent shockwaves across Lebanon, and the images took Lebanese social media by storm. The backlash, many have said, was overblown especially when a summer stroll down Lebanon's beaches reveals a wide spectrum of female dress: From ground-skimming shapeless black veils to thongs, high-heels, and hot pants. Despite overwhelming criticisms of her actions, Lebanon's online news portal, NOW, took her side, by placing Chamoun's pinup alongside an image of a heavily armed man in camouflage under the headline, Boobs Over Bullets.



### MIDDLE EAST

#### No Jobs for Men with "Weird" Haircuts in Saudi

Saudi authorities told thousands of applicants for government jobs that they would not be accepted if they wear improper clothes or sport a "weird" haircut. The Civil Service Ministry recently posted the statement on its website after inviting nearly 5,000 Saudis to apply for various government posts. "The ministry stressed that those who come to the test wearing improper clothes or have weird hair cut would be barred," Sada newspaper said.



### WORLD

#### World's Weirdest Hotel

ICEHOTEL is the world's largest hotel made from snow and ice. Guests can sleep in a bed made of snow and ice (like most of the other furniture), at temperatures around minus 5 degrees Celsius! The entire building melts and is reconstructed every year. Each November, a team of architects rebuilds the rooms, bar, and chapel from several hundred tons of ice. If your ideal vacation consists of walking around in snow pants and fur, ICEHOTEL is worth a visit.



### BUSINESS

#### Crazy Million-dollar Company

A company in the U.S.A. has taken the art of preserving your family to a completely new level. Created by Intellitar, the Virtual Eternity Program gives families the chance to digitally create each member, so they can be preserved in an interactive time capsule for future generations. With the program, families will have the opportunity to interact with a digital clone of brothers, sisters, children, and grandparents; thereby, ensuring your immortality, albeit, virtually.



### ENTERTAINMENT

#### One of the Most Controversial Movies Ever

In Sacha Baron Cohen's hugely offensive spoof, Borat — the misogynistic, homophobic and anti-semitic Kazak TV reporter — heads across America in search of his true love, Pamela Anderson. Banned all over the Arab world (except for Lebanon), the film was

branded in Dubai "vile, gross, and extremely ridiculous." The Kazak government branded it "a concoction of bad taste and ill manners." Cohen was accused of fraudulently embroiling victims in a dishonest expose of prejudice. The villagers of Romanian village Glod whined that they were deceived and were portrayed as incestuous and ignorant.



### OUT OF THE ORDINARY

#### Snake Eats Crocodile in Australia

A huge snake has won a life and death battle against a crocodile in Australia, swallowing the animal whole after a lengthy struggle before amazed onlookers. Travis Corlis, who watched the fight at Queensland's Lake Moondarra, said the snake, thought to be a python, was about 10 feet (three meters) long and "healthy looking." The crocodile, which the snake coiled itself around and swallowed whole, was about three feet in length.



### SPORTS

#### Most Notorious Tennis Player Named

John McEnroe has recently been voted as the most notorious player in the history of tennis. He was the No.1 player in the world through much of the early 1980s while winning seven Grand Slam singles titles. He became a pop culture icon because of his outlandish outbursts on the court. His publicized tantrums targeted himself and the crowd but mostly officials, and those emotional outbursts identified him as much as his tennis excellence did. The British tabloids nicknamed McEnroe "SuperBrat," and according to The Sun, "He is the most vain, ill-tempered, petulant loudmouth that the game of tennis has ever known."



### CULTURE

#### Don't Step on my Blue Suede Shoes

Elvis Presley, a.k.a. the King of Rock 'n' Roll, is still laughing all the way to the bank 36 years after his death. The King's only pair of blue suede shoes recently sold at auction as part of Julien's Auctions renowned Rock n' Roll memorabilia lot in Los Angeles, U.S.A. Selling for a whopping USD 80,000 at the celebrity auction house, the genuine stage attire actually came in just under the tipped price of around USD 88,000. "These shoes were to El-

vis what the white subway dress was to Marilyn Monroe," said auctioneer, Darren Julien.



### SCIENCE

#### Think It's Safe to Type a Quick Text While Walking? Think Again

Texting and walking is a known danger, but researchers now claim that distracted walking results in more injuries per mile than distracted driving. Consequences include bumping into walls, falling down stairs, tripping over clutter, or stepping into traffic. The issue is so common that in London, for example, bumpers were placed onto light posts along a frequented avenue to prevent people from slamming into them. Though injuries from car accidents involving texting are often more severe, physical harm resulting from texting and walking occurs more frequently, research shows.



**TECHNOLOGY**

**First Contagious Airborne Wi-Fi Virus Discovered**

Researchers at the University of Liverpool have shown for the first time that Wi-Fi networks can be infected with a virus that can move through densely populated areas as efficiently as the common cold spreads between humans. The team designed and simulated an attack by a virus, called "Chameleon," and found that not only could it spread quickly between homes and businesses, but it was able to avoid detection and identify the points at which WiFi access is least protected by encryption and passwords. So far, a vaccine has not been found.



**HEALTH**

**Eat More to Lose Weight**

As whacky as it might sound, eating more actually helps you lose weight, according to recent research; however, there exist some caveats. You must avoid all fried foods, junk food, vegetable oils, sugar, and wheat. So, what's left? Everything else! You can eat to your heart's content every day, provided you restrict yourself to three square meals per day and hit the gym to lift some heavy weights at least twice per week.



**TOP JOKE**

A fellow walks into a bank in New York City, asking for a USD 4,000 loan. "Well, before we lend you the money, we are going to need some kind of security," said the manager. "No problem," the man responded, "here are the keys to my car. It's a special edition black Porsche parked in your parking lot."

A few weeks later, the man returned to pay off his loan. While he was paying back the loan, along with the USD 11 interest, the manager came over and asked, "Sir, we are very happy to have your business, but if you don't mind me asking, after you left we looked into your records and found out that you are a millionaire several times over, so why would you need to borrow four thousand dollars?"

"Well," the fellow responded, "it's quite simple: Where else can I park my car for three weeks in New York for eleven dollars?"



**SONS OF THE SOIL:**

**GABRIEL YARED**

Oscar-winning composer Gabriel Yared was born in Lebanon in October 1949. He studied Music Theory and Performance. After obtaining a law degree, he began composing for films in France, making his debut with Jean Luc-Godard's *Every Man for Himself*. He has scored over 100 French and American films, lending an old-world elegance to them all. "As a composer," Yared says, "I go into exploring musical ideas to their limits."

Yared is one of the most respected and renowned composers in film today. He won the Academy Award for his score to Anthony Minghella's *The English Patient*, which also garnered a Golden Globe and Grammy Award. He received a Grammy nomination for *City of Angels*, directed by Brad Silberling, and was nominated for an Emmy Award for the pilot to the critically acclaimed *The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency*.

His scores for *The Talented Mr. Ripley* and *Cold Mountain* were both nominated for an Academy Award and Golden Globe. His other film scores include *Coco Chanel & Igor Stravinsky*, *The Actress' Ball*, *The Hedgehog*, *Adam Resurrected*, *1408*, *Shall We Dance*, *Sylvia*, *Autumn in New York*, *Message in a Bottle*, and *Amelia*. Yared scored Angelina Jolie's directorial debut, *In the Land of Blood and Honey*. Other recent films include *Glenio Bonder's Belle Du Seigneur*, the Oscar-nominated film *A Royal Affair*, *Haute Cuisine* for The Weinstein Company, and *Therese* from director Charlie Stratton.

Yared also scored several films that appeared at the 2013 Toronto International Film Festival, including *Tom At The Farm*, directed by Xavier Dolan and *A Promise*, directed by Patrice Leconte.



SOCIAL





## OBITUARIES

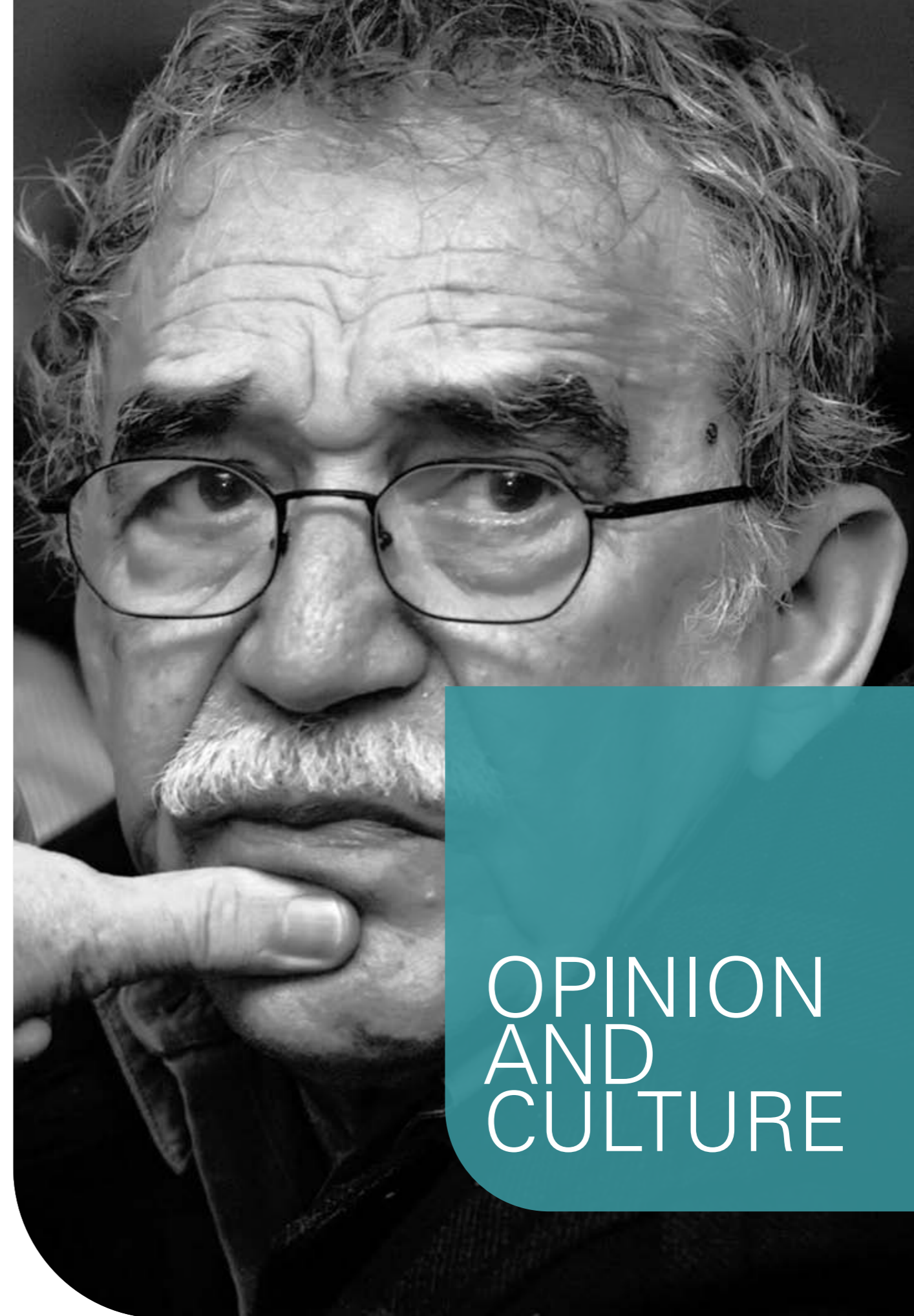
It is with deep regret and sorrow that we announce the deaths of the following individuals:

- **MR. ABDALLAH NAIM GH AIS**, father of Dr. Chahine Ghais who was the former Dean of the FPSPAD, and currently Professor of International Relations at the Faculty of Law and Political Science (FLPS) and Assistant to the President for Policies and Procedures;
- **DR. RITA SABAT**, full-time Assistant Professor of International Relations at the Faculty of Law and Political Science (FLPS);
- **MR. CHAKIB EID**, father of Ms. Alice Eid, Brother of Bishop Francois Eid;
- **MRS. MARY T. BREIDY**, Mother of Mr. George Breidy, Lab Supervisor at the ECCE, FE;
- **THEO SARNOUK**, infant son of Mrs. Remie Moussa Sarnouk, NDU nurse;
- **SAMI FRANCIS FRANCIS**, Computer Science Sophomore student.
- **MRS. VICTORA ZAKHOUR**, mother of Mr. Kamal Zakhour (Senior Lecturer/FBAE);
- **PETER DAGHER**, Electrical Engineering student at NDU.

May all the souls of the departed rest in eternal peace.

## CONGRATULATIONS!

We are delighted to announce the appointment of Professor Georges Labaki to the position of Chairman of the Board of the Lebanese National School of Public Administration. Professor Labaki is a Professor at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) and an expert in Lebanese Public Administration. He earned his Doctorat d'Etat in Law from France in 1984. Upon the recommendations of the French president, he received the Medallion of the "Ordre National du Mérite," which is one of the highest academic distinctions in France. He has also published numerous articles and given noteworthy lectures both locally and internationally. Please join us in congratulating him on his appointment.



OPINION  
AND  
CULTURE

## WHERE DO WE COME FROM?

### A Scientific Viewpoint - ALI LEZEIK\*

The question of our origins and where we come from has always puzzled scientists, including the philosophers. It was one of the first questions Aristotle and Plato asked, and the same question the great minds of twentieth century, such as Albert Einstein and Stephen Hawking, asked. To answer such a question, we have to go back in time to the first moments of creation.

#### What is "time"?

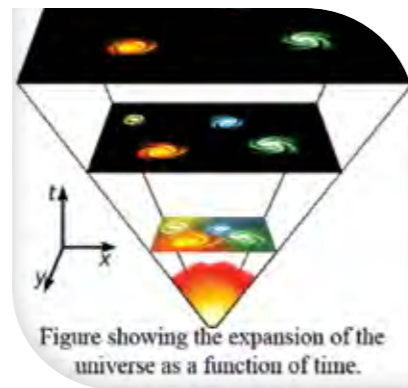
Most of us define time in physical terms, which is the measurement of what a clock reads, however, time is more than just a clock ticking, time is a dimension. That would sound a bit strange to the ears of non-physicists, for most witness only three dimensions in their daily life, which are the spatial dimensions known by their basic directions: Up/down, left/right, and forward/backward. What makes time different and a later discovered dimension is that it is not spatial, we cannot move freely in time, but subjectively move in one direction. In other words, no matter what we do, move left/right or up/down, we cannot travel back in time — no matter how fast we are. We are forced to always move forward in time.

#### How did it all begin?

Moving forward in time has been happening since the dawn of time itself, since the very first moments of creation! For thousands of years, we have gathered our observations of the heavens into books that could fill countless libraries, and we have build

a vast body of knowledge of the universe, how it all began, how will it all end, and how it is a work in progress. So, where do we begin? Let us begin with the beginning: The big bang.

The big bang is the theory of cosmic evolution; it tells us how the universe evolved, how it changed, from a split second after the first moment of creation. When we look at the universe, with modern telescopes, and look at other distant galaxies, we see that these great bodies are moving away from us in outward expansion velocities. So, if we think about it, everything must have been compressed into one inconceivably dense point. The term "big bang;" however, is inaccurate and can be misleading, for the big bang was not, as the name implies, "big." It started at a small point called "singularity", and there was no "bang" for there was no air to carry the vibrations. The big bang, therefore, is in some sense a misnomer, but the name stuck. Everything we see, touch, hear and smell, is the aftermath of the big bang. So actually, no one knows what "banged," all we do know is that this bang is the cause of the creation of our universe.



But what does all this have to do with us and the origin of human kind? Well, less than a billionth of a second after the big bang, a bubble much smaller than a fraction of an atom formed. This

is the universe. It is unimaginably small and unimaginably hot. So technically, the atoms that make up you and me are inside this bubble but were not there because they were not yet created. This bubble, however, is somehow unstable, which causes it to expand. As the universe expands, it cools. The universe is still less than one second old. Roughly three minutes after the big bang, the temperature of the universe dropped to a mere one billion degrees Fahrenheit (approx. 555,555,537.77°C), cool enough for the atomic nuclear to form. The element hydrogen forms, some hydrogen atoms fuse to create helium. 380,000 years later and light travels through the darkness. So yes, the universe was in complete darkness for 380,000 years since photons (particles of light) could not bear the conditions of this early universe and were unable to travel in space. A billion years after the big bang, stars take shape, producing the heavier elements, such as nitrogen, oxygen, and carbon. Roughly nine billion years, matter and gravity combine to form a perfect typical star. Pressure creates heat at its core, and a star is born. A circum stellar disk of dust remains, however, which eventually turns into an entourage of planets and moons. One of these lumps of star dust, after being pummeled for eons by meteorites, temperature becomes warm enough to allow hydrogen dioxide water to build up in the atmosphere, liquid water gathers on the planet's surface and under water chemical reactions ultimately forms LIFE! 13.7 billion years after the big bang our universe is 156 billion light years across, the sky is full of star. Our solar system has eight planets, more or less, and the third planet is nearly covered in carbon-based life forms, and some just realize what infinite small specs they are, in the grand scheme of things.

Millenniums have passed as these primitive life forms in wa-

ter evolved into much greater and more complex species, one of those species, and due to natural selection (a key factor in evolution) evolved to humans who eventually dominated this planet. In other words, you and me.

**"RECOGNIZE THAT THE VERY MOLECULES THAT MAKE UP YOUR BODY, THE ATOMS THAT CONSTRUCT THE MOLECULES, ARE TRACEABLE TO TH CRUCIBLES THAT EXPLODED THEIR CHEMICALLY ENRICHED GUTS INTO THE GALAXY. SO THAT WE ARE ALL CONNECTED, TO EACH OTHER BIOLOGICALLY, TO THE EARTH CHEMICALLY AND TO THE REST OF THE UNIVERSE ATOMICALLY. WE'RE PART OF THE UNIVERSE. WE'RE IN THE UNIVERSE AND THE UNIVERSE IS IN US"**

Neil deGrasse Tyson



\* Mechanical Engineering student at NDU

PRAPHRASING EGOISM

- DR. JOSEPH R. YACOUB\*

It is said that experience is a good school, but the fees are very high. To experience life one needs an "archeology of the soul" as Freud describes it. It is a "hell" of an experience. One goes deeper and deeper into the multi-dimensional layers of the soul that puzzles all kind of interpretations. In this quasi-essay, I venture to paraphrase what Dostoevsky and Scott Fitzgerald taught me about egoism: Dostoevsky in his book, *The Insulted and Injured*, and Scott Fitzgerald in his book, *This Side of Paradise*. Both writers have been an inspiration in my psychological and spiritual life. Having a Russian and an American as my inspiration prove to me that emphasis on culture could be very dangerous if not used as a pointer to the deep layers of the soul. Yes, culture is important, but humanity is essential. In humanity, one experiences human beings in their incalculable depth as well as in their moral equality. All through the cultures of the world, egoism is identical even in its variations. Egoism oppresses the love that binds humanity together. This oppression means that egoism becomes the guiding principle and makes love its agent to satisfy its desires.

Dostoevsky describes the egoist. "...all is for me – the whole world is created for me" (243). In this sense, egoists love their virtues, but they do not love the other. They use an aborted virtue. That is why when they lose control of their external environment they remind everyone of their favors. Egoists know the language of love without being loving and they know the language of honesty without being honest. They are con-artists. Their logic is the logic of self that desires dominance and conquest. They are devilish for themselves and too disguised for others. Shakespeare in Hamlet says that the devil has many pleasing shapes. Having these pleasing shapes, egoists have the ability to put goodness on their side and use justice in the service of what their egoism deserves. Their suffering is not the suffering of humanity, but the suffering of their own egoism. That is why they "meaninglessly" say the "right" things and they theatrically accept great things that they may achieve not the love inherent in the virtues, but that they may achieve a "conquest" of others. With such character traits, egoists speak justly, but without having a sense of justice, i.e. they speak justly without having a love for justice. In other words, they have the skills of justice, but they do not have the love that brings justice for others. On this account, egoists separate their good deeds from love the same way they separate love from their virtues. Using a biblical perspective, egoists divide the kingdom of the good so that they may prevail. As the Holy Book teaches us, any divided kingdom disintegrates. Oftentimes, the egoists separate the best from the good. By doing this, they allow the best to oppress the good. This shows the absence of the virtue of prudence, i.e. wisdom. Alyosha cheats on his wife and uses forgiveness that he may patronize her. While his father, the Prince, uses the "cunning of reason" that carries him from A to B without having the loving imagination for the other. This is the many pleasing shapes of the devil.

Scott Fitzgerald follows in the steps of Dostoevsky and astutely elaborates on the egoists' character. Amory in the novel is the "romantic egoist." He is the prisoner of vanity; and vanity is the "highway" of egoism. Amory, however, has Reverend Darcy as his indirect spiritual



Dr. Joseph R. Yacoub

director. In one of his letters to Amory, Fr. Darcy writes, "You are unsentimental, almost incapable of affection, astute without being cunning and vain without being proud {...} often through life you will really be at your worst when you seem to think best of yourself {...} I picture you're living an intellectual vacuum; and beware of trying to classify people too definitely into types (117-8). Fr. Darcy knows that Amory's romantic egoism can bribe many people with honest trivialities. Amory's logic is dictated by his egoism and his rationality is owned by his egoistic feelings. The virus of ambition attends him. Social recognition is his goal. Intoxicated by his selfish wants, he uses all the "weapons" of virtue for his selfish interest. His use of the virtues as a beguile to sabotage himself and others. That is why the reader notices a "juvenile struggle" and "reckless accuracy" in Amory's personality traits. His sincere words and acts are "faint in meaning." They are a way to patronize others and himself. Such types of personalities lead themselves to "moral confusion." There is a lack of authentic social encounter and a lack of

"temperamental control" whenever they are not the point of reference. Amory is highly "disturbed" when feeling marginalized, and highly "joyful" when accepted. However, for Fitzgerald the joy for being accepted does have neither a "social" nor a "moral dimension." It has only the joy of "conquest" over the other. This conquest over the other manipulates his sense of belonging to a group. On this account, the situation of care is very conflicting issue for Amory. He acts that he may be appreciated. So, he has a conflict between his egoism and the "morality of care." This conflict escalates itself until "morality of care" gives egoism the wheel and gives the persons a drive to their downfall. To facilitate this ride, exclusion for egoists causes a "psychological hymophilia." Being intolerable of exclusion, they exhibit an uncontrollable aggressiveness against the ones who exclude them. Not only aggressiveness takes hold of them, but also an excruciating psychological pain. In the general perspective, the egoist's existence becomes a "colorless existence." All in all, egoists oscillate between the pain of being victims and the "joy of conquest." Amory does not see his personality traits as they are. He thinks that he belongs to an "aristocratic family" not pertaining to the common people. Egotistically, he is an "aristocrat." Amory is "physically handsome" and "charming." Yet, he is morally and psychologically weak. Given his vanity, he lacks "courage" and "self-respect." What makes things worse, according to some literary critics, Amory associates goodness with stupidity and intelligence with faults. Also, they see in him a conflict between "authenticity" and "pretension."

With such considerations, egotists like Amory, Alyosha, and the Prince "abort" life in themselves and they live an illusory paradise interrupted by psychological pain and the joy of conquest. Fitzgerald describes Amory as a person who "was always {in} the becoming he dreamed of, never the being" (21). This is to say, he loves his virtues, but does not love the others. He lives his own illusions rather than his truthful self.

Psychologically speaking, egoism for Fitzgerald and Dostoevsky is a mixture of acknowledgement and denial. Egoists reason selfishly, and in the same vein deny the existence of the other as separate from them. Even they get to the point to oppress their authentic self. They live untruthfully to themselves as well as to others. They mock themselves.



Truly, Shakespeare describes them in his play *Macbeth, Act I, Sc, VII*.

Away, and mock the time with fairest show;  
False face must hide what the false heart doth know.

Yes, the egoists are glued to a self that does not have solitude. Egoists use logical forms, but in essence, they are confused. Thomas Mann in his novel, *The Magic Mountain*, supports Fitzgerald and Dostoyevsky by giving us two types of egoism: The egoistic devotion and the devoted egoism. This deserves writing another essay.

\* Assistant Professor at the Department of Psychology & Education, Faculty of Humanities, NDU

References: Fitzgerald Scott (1995), *This Side of Paradise*, Pocket Books, NY, Dostoevsky, F (2011), *The Insulted and Injured*, trans. Boris Jakim, William Eerdmans publishing Company.

## 7KIYA

- NAGHAM KHOURY

As a student of Graphic Design at the Faculty of Architecture, Art and Design (FAAD), Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU), I was assigned to prepare a campaign for an important issue, tackling Lebanese society. After lots of research, an idea popped into my head, which I found critical and felt I had to share.

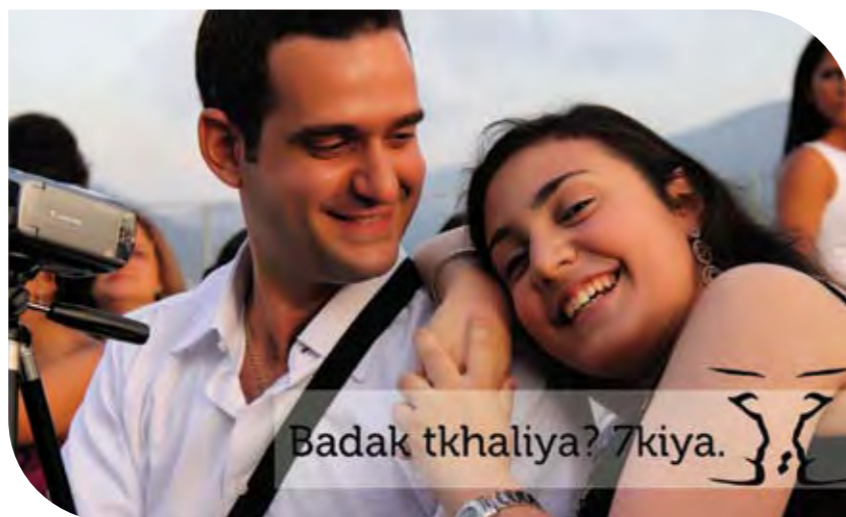
Imagine a life without communication. How difficult would that be?

We, as human beings, communicate through speech. Language is what differentiates one country from the other; it is what our ancestors have passed down to us through generations. Today, unfortunately, we think that Arabic is outdated or no longer "cool," and as a result, the use of our language is on the decline, causing our identity to vanish.

"7kiya" (speak it) is a campaign that aims to revive the Arabic language in Lebanese society. It combines Latin alphabets with numbers to give the language a friendlier feel and presents it in an informal way-almost like chatting. This way, youths are able to speak and chat in Arabic without having to use other languages to express themselves.

The campaign is based on pictures of typical Lebanese citizens along with three slogans, which are:

- 7kiya Abel ma tensiya (speak it before you forget it);
- Bet7eba? 7kiya (do you love it? Speak it); and
- Badak tkhaliya? 7kiya (do you want to keep it? Speak it).



## GABO LIVES!

- Compiled by M.N. from various sources

The late Nobel-prizewinning Colombian author Gabriel García Márquez, known affectionately as Gabo, breathed his last in Mexico City on April 17, 2014, at the ripe old age of 87. As a novelist, short-story writer, screenwriter, and journalist, many experts consider him as the twentieth century's most important authors.

He was awarded the 1972 Neustadt International Prize for Literature and the 1982 Nobel Prize in Literature. Gabo was best known for his million-selling novels, such as *One Hundred Years of Solitude* (1967), *The Autumn of the Patriarch* (1975) and *Love in the Time of Cholera* (1985).

Beginning his career as a reporter and editor for a variety of newspapers, Márquez wrote fiction for much of his life but did not publish his first full novel until he was 40, after he became disenchanted by journalism and longed for a better way to explore the truth.

That novel was a doozy: *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, which most still consider his masterpiece. Many of the subjects he would explore in his novels and novellas came from raw material he collected during his newspaper career — for example, the murder at the center of "Chronicle of a Death Foretold" and the main character of "The Autumn of the Patriarch," exiled Venezuelan dictator Marcos Perez Jimenez.

It is often said that his works are quintessential examples of "magic realism": Fiction that integrates elements of fantasy into otherwise realistic settings. Turning those true stories into fiction allowed him to, as his translator, Edith Grossman, said, "use fantasy to tell the truth; that is what literature does. It tells the truth through invention and make-believe. The magic comes from encountering a writer of genius who turns everything he touches into gold."

His works have been translated into more than 30 languages.



## TYPE II DIABETES GENE SILENCING:

**A Potential Therapy?**  
- CYNTHIA ABI ABDALLAH\*



Cynthia Abi Abdallah

Diabetes Mellitus is predicted to be the seventh leading cause of death in 2030, according to a 2013 World Health Organization (WHO) report.<sup>[4]</sup>



Diabetes is a disorder concerned with either an impaired secretion of the hormone insulin by the pancreatic cells (type I diabetes) or a defect in responding to high levels of insulin by fat, muscle, and liver cells (type II diabetes). Insulin regulates the uptake of glucose to provide our cells with energy to fulfill their function and maintain homeostasis. Thus, in type II diabetes, an irresponsiveness or resistance to insulin would block the uptake of glucose resulting in blood hyperglycemia. In type I diabetic patients, an intensive and lifelong treatment de-

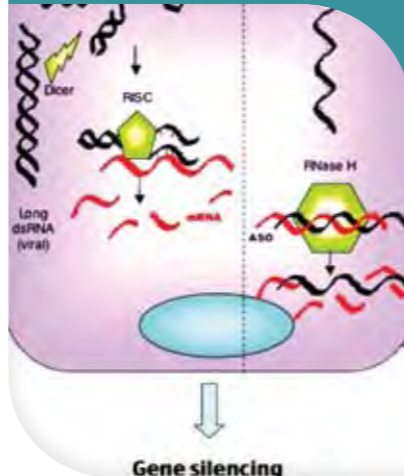
pends on insulin-shot injections. Treating patients with type II diabetes is obscure, however, due to a constant production of insulin to compensate for the high levels of glucose, leading to hyperinsulinemia. Under such conditions, fat cells use their own storage of triglycerides, releasing fatty acids into the blood, which in turn can be converted to glucose synergistically raising the levels of blood glucose. Interestingly, obesity and a stressful lifestyle exacerbate the symptoms of this disease. Thus, type II diabetes is not only genetically predisposed, but it can emerge from genes sensitive to external environmental factors. An easy approach to combat early symptoms relies on a daily light exercise routine to relieve the stress on the cells, thereby, reducing stress hormones. Administration of drugs is also effective, such as drugs targeted to reduce glucose reabsorption in the kidney, thereby, increasing glucose filtration in the urine.

Nowadays, scientists are highly interested in unleashing modern techniques to silence specific genes that are highly related to this disease. One example highlighted here is to knock-down a gene that encodes for a transporter expressed two to three folds higher in diabetic patients.<sup>[1], [2]</sup>

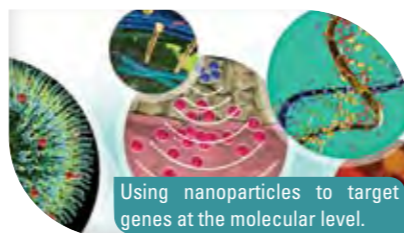
Knocking-down can be performed using "RNA Interference" and the "Antisense Therapy." Both serve as magic bullets to pull down the symptoms of type II diabetes. To start with, RNA Interference consists of injecting a double stranded RNA fragment into the body, a technique similar to vaccination, resulting in a complex series of enzymes, RISC, which in turn cleaves the target RNA that holds the codes of the protein of interest.

Upon RNA cleavage, protein production is halted. Experimental results of applying RNA Interference in liver

Potential therapy of diseases by using short fragments of nucleotides, such as small interference RNA (siRNA) and antisense oligonucleotides (ASO). These fragments can bind specifically to the gene product of interest, thereby knocking-down its protein expression.



cells, showed a reduction in the levels of the target key enzyme; decreasing glucose levels in the blood. On the other hand, Antisense Therapy involves the uptake of a single stranded antisense RNA oligonucleotide (ASO) that directly complements the RNA of interest; similarly it blocks protein production by breaking down its coding RNA. This method yielded similar results as those of RNA Interference, and helped in reducing hyperglycemia.<sup>[3]</sup>



Using nanoparticles to target genes at the molecular level.

In conclusion, it appears that Antisense Therapy seems to be more promising in vivo, as it is small and of less negative charge; therefore, it easily penetrates the cells. RNA Interference, however, has shown more success in vitro and scientists are working on overcoming its in vivo limitations.<sup>[3]</sup> Continuing research using gene silencing is being extended as treatment regimens for several other diseases, such as multiple sclerosis and cystic fibrosis, with potential power in the near future.

## ABAAD

**Making a Difference in Gender Equality**  
- TALAR DEMIRDJIAN

ABAAD (Dimensions)-Resource Center for Gender Equality is a non-profit, non-politically affiliated, non-religious civil association founded in June 2011 with the aim of promoting sustainable social and economic development in the MENA region through equality, protection, and empowerment of marginalized groups, especially women.

I sat down with Rony Abou Daher, one of the main psychologists working with ABAAD at their Men's Center, to inquire more about the work of the NGO.

**Q: What is it that ABAAD does that distinguishes it from other NGOs working for gender equality?**

**A:** We are a resource center for gender equality; we work for women's rights and ending violence against women. While doing so, we not only work with women but also work with men who have abusive tendencies. This is a new concept in the Middle East; however, it has proven quite successful, because it is a preemptive measure, since working with just women would not lessen abusive behaviors among these men, it would just be rehabilitation for the women. So, we work with these men to discover the reason for their abusive behavior, why they take it out on women, and how we can prevent it.

**Q: What method do you use in doing so? Counseling? Therapy?**

**A:** We have multiple activities at the Men's Center. We have individual counseling sessions — a form of psychotherapy where we work on the core of these anger issues— and we offer preventive sessions for men and boys in schools and community centers. We also work for support groups for men and boys, stress and anger management training, and provide IEC materials, which are mass distributed in Lebanon. All of these strategies are intended to train these men to find other outlets for stress, and how to deal with it properly.

**Q: Where are your areas of operation?**

**A:** The Men's Center is located in Furn el-Chebbak, but the trainings that we do and the support groups are widespread across the country. We work with other NGOs, schools, and the government, and through all of these other organizations, we try to disseminate our approach.

**Q: How does one find out about this Men's Center?**

**A:** Every year, we have a huge media campaign focusing on this issue, approached in different ways. These campaigns attract a lot of attention, particularly from men who are seeking help for their problem, and they find the Men's Center to be a safe haven for them, where they will not be judged, especially since we provide anonymity and free services.

**Q: How many beneficiaries have you had so far?**

**A:** The Men's Center, was established two years ago, and with all our activities to date, including individual sessions and multiple trainings, I can say we have had around thirty thousand beneficiaries.

**Q: What are the future prospects of the Men's Center by ABAAD?**

**A:** We are planning to develop our method, and to duplicate our experience in Lebanon and in the MENA region.



Talar Demirdjian

If you are interested to know more about the work of the Men's Center check out ABAAD's,  
**Website:** <http://abaadmena.org/>  
**Facebook Page:** <https://www.facebook.com/abaadmena>  
**Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/AbaadMENA>

\* Cynthia Abi Abdallah is a Senior-Standing Biologist

[1] C. Ibolya et al. "G6PT-H6PDH-11HSD1 triad in the liver and its implication in the pathogenic Mechanism of the Metabolic syndrome" *World J Hepatol.* 2012; 4(4): 129-138

[2] D. Hanze et al. "Specific Reduction of Glucose-6-Phosphate Transporter May Contribute to Down-regulation of Hepatic 11-hydroxysteroid Dehydrogenase Type 1 in Diabetic Mice"; *J Mol Endocrinol.* 2013; 50(2): 167-178.

[3] P. Florin-Dan et al, "A review of antisense therapeutic interventions for molecular biological targets in asthma"; *Department of Pharmacology, University of Medicine and Pharmacy.* 2007: 271-284

[4] "WHO Fact Sheet N°312"; *World Health Organization.* 2013

## EL GRECO AT 400

### A Painter Who Was Too Good for His Own Time

- Compiled by M.N (various sources)

El Greco, a.k.a. "The Greek", born Doménikos Theotokópoulos (1541–April 7, 1614), was a Greek painter, sculptor and architect of the Spanish Renaissance. He trained in the Byzantine tradition of icon painting under Titan (the most renowned painter of the day), but in his mid-20s, brimming with ambition, traveled overseas. Crete was then a Venetian colony, and the young painter sought to leave the rigid stylization of icons behind and reinvent himself in Italy. He spent less than 10 years there — first in Venice, then Rome — and the artistic gear-change, from eastern tradition to western, in so short a space of time is stunning.

Soon, El Greco was off again, though, this time to Philip II's Spain — a thriving transatlantic empire, whose art-loving monarch needed artists in large quantities to decorate his new monastery-palace complex, El Escorial.

In Toledo, which was the first big Islamic center to fall to Christianity in 1085, El Greco met Diego de Castilla, the Dean of the Toledo Cathedral, who commissioned El Greco to paint a group of works for the altar of the church of Santo Domingo el Antiguo (such as *The Trinity* and *The Assumption of the Virgin*, both 1579). Castilla also facilitated the commission of *The Disrobing of Christ* (1579), and these paintings would become some of El Greco's most accomplished masterworks.

Another notable work from this period is *View of Toledo* (1597), which is considered the first landscape in Spanish art. It is also one of the only, if not the only, surviving landscape done by El Greco, who rarely strayed from religious subjects and portraits, which chiefly depicted elongated, tortured figures, the style of which baffled his contemporaries but helped establish his reputation in the years to come. His works from this period are seen as precursors of both Expressionism and Cubism.

Because of the strangeness of his paintings, it is tempting to see El Greco through the clichéd lens of the lone genius, yet his arrival in Spain should really be set in a broader historical context. The Renaissance had largely passed the country by, yet in the wake of economic and political success came the belated cultural flowering we now call the Spanish Golden Age. Antipathy toward him used to be as strong almost everywhere in the world, the artist being considered too devotionally — and deliriously — Catholic for sober European tastes.

El Greco's eccentric vision has been variously attributed to insanity, hashish use, and the optical defect of astigmatism. Philip II, meanwhile, never took to El Greco's style, commissioning him once and never again. Living in the wake of Picasso's anatomical and spatial distortions in *Les Femmes d'Alger*, we today will never fully grasp how radical El Greco once was — and can only imagine the startling effect he must have had on this conservative monarch.

El Greco's style continued to grow more abstract and out-there over the years, and among his greatest paintings is the altarpiece for his own tomb,



El Greco



The Trinity

1612's *Adoration of the Shepherds*. Stretched, flame-like figures — ripplingly draped in a riotous array of colors — huddle together in a spectrally lit scene of suddenly shifting perspective. In short, El Greco draws on his many influences — mystic, Mannerist, Venetian, and Byzantine— and transcends them all, to create a synthesized art of idiosyncratic richness.

Today, in our era's highly globalized art world of endless fairs, festivals and biennials, El Greco harks back to a very different time: When a brilliant, misunderstood artist died unappreciated... only to be acknowledged some 400 years later.



The Assumption of the Virgin



The Disrobing of Christ



View of Toledo



Adoration of the Shepherds

## FOR WHOM SHOULD I DESIGN?

- TERRY BITAR\*



Architecture is a lifelong learning experience, which will eventually end up in designing a “structure” for another individual. Architects bust their heads while preparing interesting blueprints and designs when a person suddenly comes along and drastically changes everything the architect has created! This is the main experience that architects will face while studying architecture, and this experience will haunt them until the end of their careers...

At university, students prepare different proposals and then explain them to their professors who are usually architects. This is relatively the process of designing for another architect. The entire conversation is based on architectural claims and statements. They both use technical words while looking at the proposed design, as an architectural combination of elements. The professor valorizes the product according to the spirit of the time, the nature of the design, the function dispositions, and the material combination use. The conversation is purely architectural, the student is not being corrected according to temptations and desires; rather, it is according to the architectural value of the design combination. This whole dialogue would be “relatively” on the same level of thinking, guided by the architectural values that reign in our spirit of the time...

After five or six years of constructive dialogue, architects talking, technical words used, the student is finally an architect. The first thing this student would do is design a mansion or building for some rich relative. It would be the peak of the architect’s joy when the work starts. But when the architect starts proposing a design and explaining the spirit of the time, this relative stops the architect to say that the design is not what he had in mind! And that’s where the whole story begins. The student starts exhaustive explanations, but no one understands. It is not that the relative is uneducated or anything like that, it could be that the latter is a successful doctor, but architecture wise, he does not have a clue. Designing for a non-architect is not easy. It is a conversation between two very different people. The client does not understand the architect’s reasoning on issues, such as the spirit of the time, and simply says that he does not care about the spirit of the reigning time! That is why an architect should be smart enough to try to convey his contemporary thoughts in the clients’ language. It is hard to implement all the desires of the client. Sometimes, those desires are impractical, but the client still strives to have these included.

On the other hand, we should not forget that the architect is as guilty as the client is! It is not only that the client does not know the architectural values and the design assessment but also it is sometimes the architects’ dreamy vision of the design proposed that causes the problem. While designing, the architect does not consider the budget of the project, and that brings rise to the first problem. There are many architects that are superbly creative, but due to the lack of funds, that creativity remains on paper. That is why for an architect designing for a client, the first step to take is to have an idea of the budget so that the architect can design accordingly.

The architect’s life is not as easy; he/she has to express the deepest hypothetical claims of the reigning time while convincing clients (non-architects) that this is their desire as well!

Finally, whom I design for remains the question! It is not that I have the choice; rather, I prefer being open to all the people who want me to design for them, and I hope that I can meet their level of expectation.

\*Terry has a Bachelor’s degree in Architecture from NDU

## HEROD THE KILLER

- ANTOINE FREM SALAMEH

*“The past is never dead, it’s not even past”*  
- William Faulkner (1897-1962), from “Requiem for a Nun”.

Today, everyone tends to grieve the day when Herod the Great, son of Antipater the Idumaeen (who ruled from 37 to 4 B.C.), embarked upon a murderous mission.

The reality is bitter and the scenes terrifying!

Pandemonium prevails everywhere; dust spreads in the air and a thunderous silence penetrates the lamentation.

Roman soldiers on horseback leave quickly the serene alleys of Bethlehem and its suburbs after completing their unspeakable acts.

Afflicted mothers mourn the life that was born of them, after nine months of exhausting pain.

Children bathed in innocence and stained with iron daggers were thrown everywhere, scented only by the musk of purple blood martyrdom.

Here was a Mother cradling her son stabbed with a knife in his chest before he was taken from her. Another mother was kissing the lacerated body of her son before burying him, and over there, a father was weeping for his son, and yet another shed tears for the person in whom he saw the future, sisters also bewailed their brothers with whom they were playing.

Blood flowed, decapitated bodies, and still warm lifeless corpses were all that remained after Herod, King of Judea, slew all male children aged two or less (*Matthew 2:16*), fulfilling the prophecy of the Prophet Jeremiah, “A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more.” (*Matthew 2:17-18*)

Later, God’s angel appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt (*Matthew 2:19*) saying, “Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child’s life are dead.”

Herod died after massacring “fourteen thousand children” (according to traditional accounts), because he could not bear the birth of a person threatening his sovereignty and speaking of justice in his presence. He committed a massacre against thousands of children to guarantee the continuation of his reign and his authority over human beings... He quickly died after he ruled, played the tyrant, soared, and fell to lay down under the soil.

The surprise, however, was bigger! Herod is alive; he never passed away and still exists in the corners of a painful history, appearing under different forms, speaking all the languages of the world, bearing the colors of all races and ethnic groups and taking on a male form during one



Antoine Frem Salameh

period and a woman during another.

How many Herods have we known generation after generation: Herods of wars to keep their power, Herods of drugs to gain money, Herods of the Internet to poison people's mind, Herods of sex to satisfy lust...

Hundreds of children are victims of kidnapping, explosions, massacres, and are provided with weapons to defend a cause they know little of.

Thousands of children are administered with drugs to promote the merchandise and the market movement.

The wolves of technology mutilate the angelic innocence of millions of children.

Billions of minors are exploited to satisfy the adult's wild greediness for sex and prostitution.

Herod prisoner of the tomb, where hills of corpses are amassed amid a spreading stench, still dwells in us across generations.

He lives in us when selfishness, lust, immorality, religious, racial, and sectarian discrimination blind us.

He takes place between us when our entity is separated from ourselves, from God, and from the other.

He seizes us when we step on others to achieve our goals.

Children of Bethlehem poured their blood on the Altar of the Nativity, as a testimony to the Divine Child before His birth. How many people today are pouring their soul as a sacrifice and an offering to the altar of humanity searching the truth?

Herod will not die unless we return to our life, killing the beast residing in our savagery, awaking the good God living within, according to Seneca, the Pagan Roman Philosopher.

Then, Herod will be buried in the world of forgetfulness, in hell's path, and will be manifested in the truth embedded in our knowledge of Jesus of Nazareth's resurrection from death, as a Sovereign, a Lord and a Mighty God, preaching, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life" (John 14/6).



## SPRING SPIRITUAL RETREAT

- FADIA EL-HAGE

Every semester, the Administration of Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) invites its community to attend a spiritual retreat. This semester, we were invited on April 5, 2014, to the Monastery of St. Abda, Deir el-Qamar, Shouf. A group of about 85 of us arrived around 10:00 a.m.

The NDU Shouf Campus (SC) members along with the SC Director Fr. Francois Akl welcomed us warmly. The program began with morning prayers, and then Fr. Akl gave a talk on the "Joy of Faith."

Fr. Akl said that faith is to worship the Lord, and that the existence of Man proves the existence of God in our life. Worshiping and praying, therefore, should be a source of joy. Man should not worship idols, i.e., money, prestige, etc., because none of these things bring Man real happiness; each might only grant Man temporary joy. Science, moreover, has failed to prove "what God is," because proving His existence through science is difficult.

The Lord is the door to salvation. It is important to fear losing our relationship with our Creator. The fear of God in and of itself is a source of joy for Man. In the Old Testament, wisdom and understanding were the source of happiness in Man's life. In the New Testament, joy came with the birth of Jesus Christ in the Nativity, His burial, and His resurrection. It is the joy of resurrection.

Here, we come to say that worshipping Jesus Christ in His incarnation and redemption is what gives Man his real joy. Worshiping the Lord is a main source of joy especially when preaching to others through the teachings of Jesus Christ, where one can sow love and joy in the hearts of others.

Saint Augustine spoke about "pure

joy," which is far removed from insulting others and gives spiritual pleasure, not physical one. "Rejoice with those who rejoice." Fr. Akl ended his talk by saying, "The real love of God is finding the secret of joy, which is to enjoy a beautiful life while maintaining faith."

After the talk, we had a coffee break and a snack, followed by a tour in the garden, the museum, and the Monastery of St. Abda.

Around noon, Fr. Akl, Fr. G. Nassif, Fr. Z. Antoun, and Deacon A. Hanania celebrated Holy Mass. After Mass, we headed to the garden for a delicious lunch in nature while enjoying the beautiful weather.

After lunch, Fr. Francois Akl unveiled and blessed with holy water the statue of St. Charbel, located in Deir el-Qamar near the Monastery. We were then given a tour of the Church of Saydet al-Talleh (Our Lady of the Hill).

Later on, we thanked the Shouf Campus members, especially Fr. Akl, for their hospitality and returned to Zouk Mosbeh.

Thank you Lord. It was a lovely day; it was fruitful, and everyone enjoyed the spiritual retreat, the natural views, and the hospitality of our colleagues in Deir el-Qamar





**OBITUARY FOR DR. RITA G. SABAT\***

- DR. GUITA HOURANI



Dr. Guita Hourani

Dr. Rita G. Sabat, Assistant Professor of International Affairs at the Faculty of Law and Political Science (FLPS), Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU), Lebanon, passed away peacefully on December 29, 2013, after a long battle with breast cancer. Dr. Sabat was born in March of 1974 in Lebanon to (Amin) George Sabat and Yolande Saber. She studied in Lebanon, Cyprus, and the USA and received a Ph.D. in International Affairs from Florida International University in 2010. Since her appointment at NDU, she taught courses in the areas of international institutions, gender, non-governmental organizations, and development. As the only female professor to date, she played an important role in developing both gender balance and a gendered approach to teaching in the Department of Government and International Relations at NDU.

Dr. Sabat conducted extensive field research on the women's movement in Lebanon in the areas of human rights and peace and security, and on the use of the arts in peace-building for the Peace-Building Academy. She assisted in the design of methodologies of research for several projects and proposals including ones on women-owned business, discrimi-

nation and corruption, and conflict resolution through community-level case studies. Dr. Sabat served as a member of the Regional Network on Women, Peace, and Security, which aims at developing policies in the MENA region according to UNSC Resolution 1325, and was a member of the Technical Task-Force of the National Gender-Based Violence Unit, which is headed by the Lebanese Ministry of Social Affairs and Lebanese-based NGOs, and an advisory board member for *Abaad* Resource Center for Gender Equality.

She was also a senior consultant to the Lebanese Development Network (LDN) and its Carthage Center for Research and Information (CCRI) where she served as gender and human rights specialist. Between 2012 and 2013, and despite her illness, she presented her research on gender equality, women's non-governmental organizations, violence against women, and gendered human security in Lebanon at international conferences in Switzerland, the USA, India, and the Emirates. With LDN/CCRI she fulfilled her role as a gender expert for a Swiss labor policy project in five MENA countries (Lebanon, Jordan, Kuwait, Qatar, and the EUA) and in the same capacity for an International Labor Organization (ILO) project assessing the employability of the Syrian Refugees in Lebanon.

Dr. Sabat published a chapter titled, "*Translating International Gender Equality Norms: The Case of Combating Violence against Women in Lebanon*," in *Feminist Strategies in International Governance* edited by Elisabeth Prügl, Güelay Caglar, and Suzanne Swindle (Routledge Press 2012). She also guest edited an issue of *Al-Raida* on "*Gender-Based Violence in the Arab World*." Not long before she passed away, she spoke at a panel organized jointly by the Community Service Office (CSO) and the Human Rights Club (HRC) at NDU on the role of religion in stopping gender discrimination and at another event in New York co-hosted by the International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN), the International Peace Institute (IPI), and the Norwegian Mission to the UN where she focused on the connection between gender based violence in Lebanon and international insecurity.

Her grieving colleagues, students, and friends described her as someone who was genuine, passionate, generous, caring, committed, humble, spiritual, and energetic. According to a friend of hers, who spoke to her four weeks before she departed this world, Dr. Sabat stated that she knew God's will and that she was ready to accept it. All of those who knew her through this and other ordeals testified to her brave, gracious, and collected manner in dealing with life's challenges.

Dr. Sabat spent her short life advocating for justice, gender equality, and human rights. In her condolences note, a US colleague of hers wrote, "The world has lost an important voice."

With Dr. Sabat's passing, the gender equality and human rights movement in the Middle East in general and Lebanon in particular have lost a promising scholar and a staunch activist. A group of friends, students, and colleagues in Lebanon, Switzerland, and the USA is in the process of establishing an endowment in her name that would help carry on her most endearing cause that "women's rights should be a foreign policy priority."

She is survived by her daughter, Samira Haymen, her husband, Jad Hassan, her parents, her brothers, Toni and Gilbert and their families.

\* Assistant Professor of International Relations at Notre Dame University-Louaize, Lebanon

**DR. RITA SABAT**

**The Cypriot Connection**  
- JOE CHAMMA

How many of you believe in coincidence? Coincidence is how I describe my short-lived, though everlasting, friendship with Dr. Rita Sabat. I have known her in obscurity for about 25 years, and it was in the last few years since I finally got the chance to meet her. Now, I think it is the right time to tell my story.

It all started back in the 1980s during my eight-year stay in Cyprus due to the ongoing war in Lebanon. While I was accepted at the American Academy School in Nicosia (AAN), my brother and sister were enrolled at the Falcon School, also located in the capital, Nicosia. One day, the Falcon School organized a used book sale for students. My brother and sister bought several books. Among those, I noticed a name written on certain titles: Rita Sabat.

Years flew by but that particular name stuck in my head. Every time I was to open these particular books, her name popped up. I returned to Lebanon in the summer of 1993 with Rita's name now firmly engraved in my long-term memory. As the years rolled on, my chances were starting to evaporate, until one day magic cast its spell. While wandering across Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU), I heard one NDU staff member mention the name Rita Sabat.

Hearing her name again aroused my curiosity to find out who she really was, and if she was really the Rita Sabat whom I had wondered about all these years. I searched for her on social media and browsed through her profile, noticing that she, too, studied at the Falcon School. I then sent her a personal message telling her my story. I received a positive feedback from her given that my story pleased her. Shortly after the correspondence, I finally met her and was drawn by her remarkable personality.

Despite only knowing her personally for a short time, the coincidence that brought us together grew to become something very special. I know her as a very warm, caring, and unbelievably supportive person to every individual. She basically had a magic touch that brought comfort to her surroundings. Those qualities really made me appreciate an individual with such a beautiful mentality and a positive outlook in any situation.

Hearing of her passing was a great shock to me as well as to her colleagues and students. During my last visit to Cyprus in 2013, I bought her a small souvenir from the beautiful island. She was thrilled to receive it as her memories of Cyprus flooded back. The influence she had on me since my childhood made me relish at the fact that I did not give up on the search and the chance to get to know her. I am sure that her positivity helped ease a troubled individual in a tense situation despite having opposite feelings herself.

Here are a few emotional words from her colleagues and students in memory of our "fighter." Their contributions have really made me speechless.



Joe Chamma



Dr. Rita Sabat

- *“Life took away a one-of-a-kind teacher, caring woman, great mother, and a fighter. She was more than a teacher; she was my inspiration and motivation. Our everyday hero, you are truly missed.”*  
– **Liza Dordulian, NDU Graduate.**
- *“I will never forget your smile; mighty fighter. You inspired us all with your strength and love for life.”* – **Nadine Mazraani, NDU Graduate.**
- *“Dr. Sabat, was not only our professor, but also a great mentor and support. She provided us with real-life examples, and she taught us how to stand tall in life despite everything. It’s true she’s not here anymore but all her teachings will guide us to move forward.”*  
– **Adriana Bou Diwan, NDU Graduate.**
- *“Dr. Rita was a strong woman; full of energy and positivity. Her cheerful face and charming smile can’t be forgotten. She always believed in human rights specifically, and based on this, she used to treat all people with respect and integrity. She was a professional instructor as she used to teach her courses in a different and special manner focusing on deep discussions, logical explanations, giving examples from real life and doing research on a regular basis. Dr. Rita used to encourage and assist her students to participate and work in the civil society community, such as national and international NGO’s, and organizations. In addition to this, she successfully participated in numerous Faculty activities, conferences, and workshops, and shared her rich knowledge and values. On top of that, she was a fighter. She loved life and fought her cancer bravely, and optimistically, unfortunately, Fate was stronger than she was. Knowing a great person such as Dr. Rita, was my honor, and she will always be my inspiration. May her soul rest in peace.”*  
– **Ghia Jheir, NDU Graduate.**
- *“I am truly thankful for having had the chance to meet and learn so much from Dr. Rita. Life took her to many places, and eventually brought her close enough for her to cross paths with me. She truly made an impact far out of balance to the amount of time that she had with us, and far too deep to be erased by her absence. Needless to say, her absence is deeply felt, aggravated by the guilt of not having made enough effort to see her one last time. No words can truly honor her, but instead, carrying on with her mission in the same spirit. Wherever she went, she brought her own sunshine, and inspired so many of us to do so. I miss her dearly.”*  
– **Mary-Joe Alavalas, Graduating Student.**
- *“Rita Sabat is the most lively person I have ever known! She defied her illness and smiled right through her ordeals. A true fighter! Loved by her students and her colleagues alike, she managed to render her classes exciting and lively in spite of her pain and suffering. Her voice filled the corridors and her spirit brought everything to life! I wish things had been different! I wish she were still with us! But God must have had other plans for her. I’m sure he wanted her beside Him, He wanted to end the pain and suffering. I miss her dearly. I miss her laughter. I miss seeing her walking around with her coffee mug and her tablet. Her memory lives on in our hearts and minds. I pray that I may have her strength, her patience, and her love of life.”*  
– **Dr. Joyce Menassa, NDU Instructor.**
- *“I am still finding it hard to believe that I am writing about my dear and*

**“A GREAT SOUL NEVER DIES! YOU ARE FOREVER LOVED AND ENDLESSLY LIVE ON IN OUR HEARTS.”**

**Dr. Esther Sleilati**

*lively friend, Rita, using the past tense! How do I start? What can I say? There is so much that can be said, yet all I can say is, “Why did she have to go?” Her spirited attitude and her ceaselessly optimistic outlook about life were a source of admiration whether from her colleagues or students. She bore her cross with a smile and extreme courage. And it is this same cross that enabled her to admirably empathize with others, including me. Despite her agony, how often did she offer to help me whether with my daughter or with any of the household chores that were hindering my progress with my academic duties! But it was I who was supposed to relieve her of some of the load weighing on her shoulders! Some people come into our lives, leave footprints in our hearts, and we are never the same again! Sweet Rita, you have touched each of our lives in a way beyond our conception. Your pleasant voice; your peaceful demeanor; your affable and comforting smile; and your heartening words will be forever engraved in all of our hearts. Just by remembering all you have done with us and for us, we know that a great soul serves everyone all the time. A great soul never dies! You are forever loved and endlessly live on in our hearts.”*  
– **Dr. Esther Sleilati, NDU Instructor.**

Below is a poem written by E. E. Cummings, which **Michele Fenianos Rached, NDU Graduate**, dedicated to Rita:

*[I Carry Your Heart With Me (I Carry It In)]*

I carry your heart with me (I carry it in my heart)  
I am never without it (Anywhere I go you go, my dear; and whatever is done by only me is your doing, my darling)  
I fear no fate (For you are my fate, my sweet)  
I want no world (for beautiful you are my world, my true)  
And it’s you are whatever a moon has always meant and whatever a sun will always sing is you  
Here is the deepest secret nobody knows (Here is the roof of the roof and the bud of the bud and the sky of the sky of a tree called life; which grows higher than soul can hope or mind can hide)  
And this is the wonder that keep the stars apart.  
I carry your heart (I carry it in my heart).

I will conclude with an emotional poem written by **Jeff Fahed, NDU Graduate**, for our dearest mentor:

The University is silent but for the sound of tears,  
Your death was one of our greatest fears,  
It wasn’t your time to go,  
And everywhere your friends are saying no,  
We will miss the Words of Wisdom from you,  
And all the jokes too,  
Your class is quiet,  
So is the class beside it,  
I look in as I pass your classroom door,  
But you are there no more,  
Not sitting at your desk,  
Not pacing the floor,  
Not standing in the doorway,  
I’m looking at an empty door.

“Everyone wanted you to be present at our graduation but I am sure you will be watching over us from above. We will make you proud, promise.”

I thank everyone mentioned in this article who affectionately contributed to this special tribute to an amazing individual. She may be gone, but the influence she had on others made the difference. A very special “thank you” goes to Dr. Rita Sabat. Gone, but never forgotten.

**“ANYWHERE I GO YOU GO, MY DEAR; AND WHATEVER IS DONE BY ONLY ME IS YOUR DOING, MY DARLING”**

**E. E. Cummings**

## THE SESQUIPEDALIAN DILEMMA

- MARIO NAJM

I have come across many a “sesquipedalian” in my line of work. Sesquipedalian simply means “lovers of big words.” Most writers think that they sound smarter when they use big, complex-sounding words. The truth of the matter is that smart communicators use simple and effective words that (i) they understand and (ii) their readers are likely to understand.

The purpose of writing is to communicate a message clearly and not to force your readers to scamper off to the nearest dictionary to decode every second word. To make matters worse, some writers do not even understand the actual meaning behind the big words they use. I often-times cringe when I am forced to reconsider my self-imposed ban on editing the insipid diarrhea such writings usually spew.

Why would you ever say, “I recognize the inexplicable fact that you tremendously delight in the translation of logically ordered characters in a binded lexicon.” When you can simply say, “I know that you enjoy reading!”

Dean Rieck posed the question, “Do you sound smarter when you use big words?”

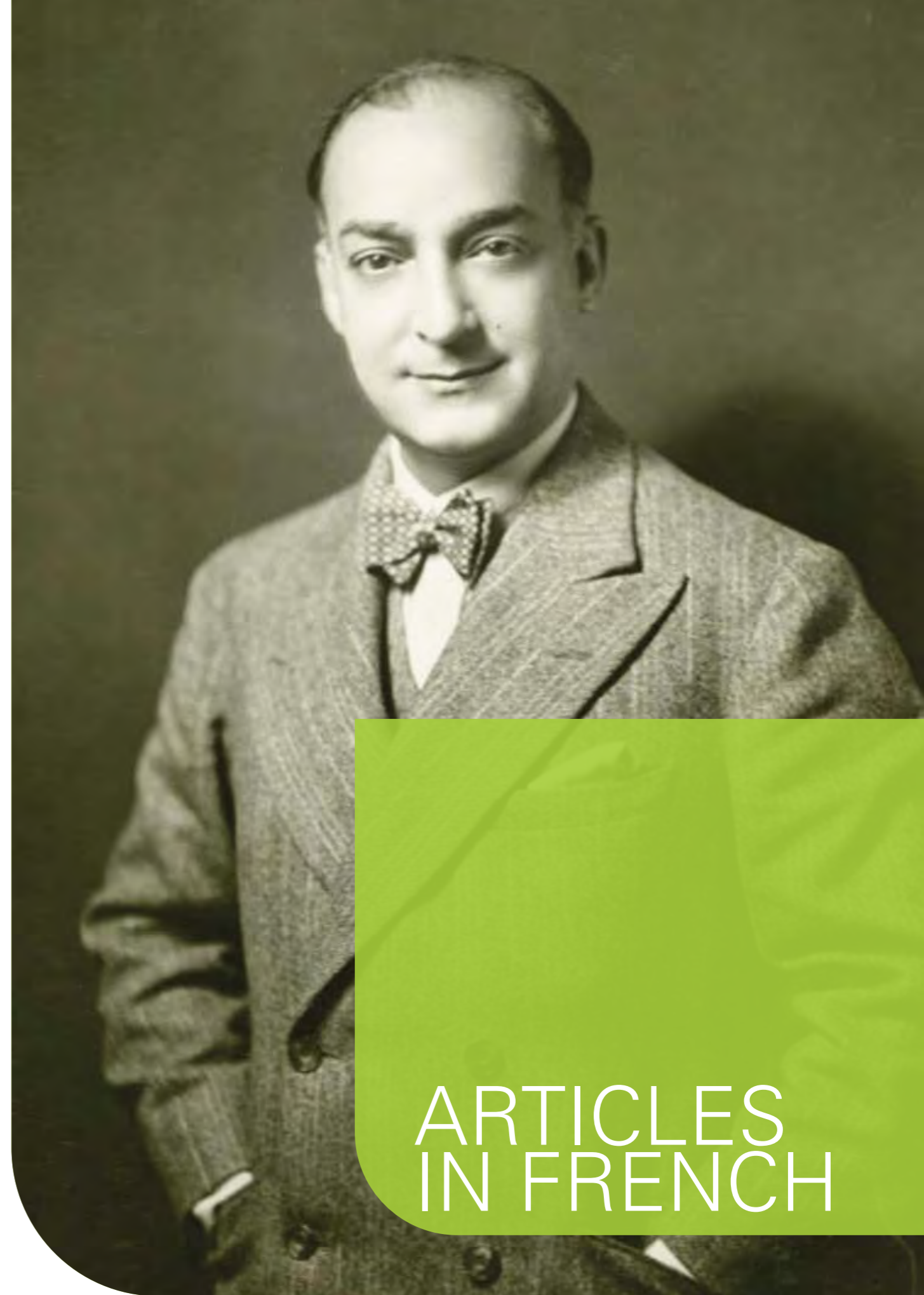
According to a study published in *Applied Cognitive Psychology*, the answer is “no.”

Rieck continues, “In fact, complex writing makes you sound small-minded. Just consider the title of the study, *Consequences of Erudite Vernacular Utilized Irrespective of Necessity: Problems With Using long Words Needlessly*. Wouldn’t it be better to title this study something like *The Effect of Using Big Words When You Don’t Need Them*. To sound smart, you must *stop* trying to sound smart. Brilliant writing is simple writing, a relevant idea delivered clearly and directly.”

Duke University has the following to say on the use of big, worthless words, “Scholars sometimes needlessly inflate their writing in length and complexity in an effort to ‘sound academic’ or convey intelligence. In truth, it takes a deeper understanding to explain a complex topic simply and succinctly. The best scholars have to ability to communicate complicated results to intelligent readers outside their field. Long, complex writing does not imply superiority.”

Remember when you write simply, you write honestly, and you achieve your ultimate goal: Getting your message across.

This concept was put best by George Orwell, who says, “Good Prose should be transparent—like a window pane. The great enemy of clear language is insincerity. When there is a gap between one’s real and one’s declared aims, one turns instinctively to *long words* and exhausted idioms, like a cuttlefish squirting out ink.”



ARTICLES  
IN FRENCH

POÈMES

- ISSAM ASSAF

Quand le velouté du papier décanter nos attentes  
 Quand les mains mouillent les fonts baptismaux du verbe  
 Quand les syllabes jaseuses ôtent le masque du vers  
 Quand l'Image submerge les confins de la page  
 Quand les labiales délient les ailes des voyelles  
 Quand l'écran intérieur libère le rythme lascif  
 Quand la vénusté du rare épouse le musqué  
 Quand les pas dédicacent le recueil du sable  
 Le Silence redore son écrin d'acajou  
 Et telle une vague rumeur dans les mains d'un orfèvre  
 Il cisèle une musique pour retour du divin  
 Il adoucit ses ailes et chambre bien son vin

Le Poème alors bourgeoise et capucine ses lèvres.



En papier gondolé les murs de ton enclos  
 Ils s'élèvent bien haut au bleu des illusions  
 Pour soutenir le Mot vivant de sons feutrés  
 En papier gondolé les rames du radeau.

Pourquoi ce laid bémol à tes notes ailées ?  
 Ton gant très tôt jeté au visage du Ciel  
 Réveille des versets teintés de kyrielles  
 D'images cramoisies mais de rage mêlées

Ton cerf-volant s'étire et vole au gré du vent  
 Tu veux bien embarquer quand passent les nuages  
 Tu veux être cadeau dans les bras d'un Roi-mage  
 Mais pédales perdues s'encrassent très souvent.



Un parfum de lune  
 Les traverse ravi  
 Quand elles épousent leur rondeur  
 Au passage des cygnes  
 Sur les lacs alanguis  
 Les Dunes...

Elles apprivoisent surtout les cils  
 Essaument leur passion cachée  
 Dans l'émiettement des lèvres dociles  
 Dans les lits cramoisies des ravins de la chair  
 Au front de leurs aubes toujours claires  
 Dont elles ne ratent aucune  
 Les Dunes...

Sont-elles déjà aux abords des mères intérieures  
 Nos Icônes graciles ?



■ Issam Assaf  
 valisaf@inco.com.lb  
 (d'un recueil à paraître,  
 Rumeurs d'orfèvre)

LA REVUE PHENICIENNE

**Du Haut Des Cedres Du Liban  
 60 Siecles Nous Contemplant**

- Professor GEORGES LABAKI President  
 de L'Ecole Nationale d'Administration un  
 des derniers Humanistes

**Un des derniers Humanistes**

*La Revue Phénicienne* a été fondée par Charles Corm en 1920 à une époque où de grands bouleversements affectaient la géographie et la situation politique du Moyen-Orient.

En effet, le Mandat Français venait tout juste d'être déclaré sur le Liban et la Syrie au milieu d'une grande controverse avec le mouvement national arabe qui réclamait la fondation d'un Royaume arabe sous l'égide de Fayçal d'Arabie.

Partisan acharné de l'indépendance libanaise Charles Corm devient le chef de file d'un courant qui se propose de rappeler aux Libanais leur glorieuse histoire. Malgré sa courte longévité (un an à peine), *La Revue Phénicienne* – va permettre à ce mouvement national de s'exprimer.

Le titre de *La Revue Phénicienne* préfigurait tout un programme. Corm possède des talents d'un homme de lettres, d'un poète, d'un polémiste, d'un journaliste et d'un homme d'affaire chevronné qui importé les premières voitures au Liban à l'aube du XX siècle.

Dans *La Revue Phénicienne*, il fait revivre le glorieux passé du Liban en renouant avec le passé phénicien du Liban, met en relief la contribution du Liban à la civilisation universelle et suscita un grand mouvement littéraire de grande ampleur en arabe et en français. Said Akl figure parmi ses émules qui se lancèrent sur cette voie du Libanisme phénicien.

**Le thème phénicie**

Le problème national tourmentait les poètes de cette génération. Il s'agissait de fixer les assises de l'identité libanaise. En effet, lors de la déclaration du Grand-Liban en 1920, l'opinion libanaise s'était divisée en deux tendances contrastées, voire opposées. L'une mettant l'accent sur l'union arabe et sur la nation syrienne, invoquait à son appui la langue, l'histoire et le patrimoine communs des peuples de la région et prônait une méfiance vis-à-vis de la France comme puissance mandataire. L'autre, en revanche, affirmait le particularisme du Liban comme un pays pluriconfessionnel et comme un lieu de rencontre de l'Orient et de l'Occident, sur lequel il s'est ouvert depuis des siècles. Les tenants de cette seconde tendance se tournaient vers le passé pour y trouver un principe d'union et d'identité nationale. Ils revendiquaient leur appartenance à la Phénicie ancienne, dont pouvaient se réclamer également chrétiens et musulmans. Charles Corm écrit à ce propos ces vers admirables qui doivent unir tous les libanais :

*Si je rappelle aux miens nos aïeux Phéniciens  
 C'est qu'alors nous n'étions au fronton de l'Histoire,  
 Avant de devenir musulmans ou chrétiens,  
 Qu'un même peuple uni dans une même gloire,  
 Et qu'en évoluant, nous devrions, au moins,  
 Par le fait d'une foi d'autant plus méritoire,  
 Nous aimer comme aux temps où nous étions païens*



Charles Corm avait affirmé son talent de poète dans un recueil qui eut à sa parution un grand retentissement, et auquel il donna le titre La Montagne inspirée (1934). Il le divise en trois cycles, dont les dates de composition sont assez éloignées. Maints libanais ont considéré La Montagne Inspirée comme leur épopée nationale. Corm décrit à longueur de pages dans La Revue Phénicienne l'apport des Phéniciens au monde. Pour cela, il avait acquis tout ce qui a été publié à son époque sur les Phéniciens.

### La contribution libanaise à la civilisation universelle

La contribution libanaise à la civilisation universelle est démontrée à travers la narration de l'histoire des grandes institutions libanaises comme l'Ecole de Droit de Beyrouth ou des certains grands hommes. Ainsi, les Phéniciens ont donné l'alphabet à toute la terre. En outre, ils ont porté la civilisation au monde sans aucune restreinte. Leur empire était celui de la parole et non celui des armes.

*Langue des phéniciens, ma langue libanaise,  
Dont la lettre est sans voix sous les caveaux plombés,  
Langue de l'âge d'or, toi qui fus la genèse  
De tous les alphabets ;*

*Toi qui des flancs d'un dieu déchiré de blessures,  
Ainsi qu'Eve d'Adam, et que Vénus des flots,  
Du sang frais d'Adonis as tiré l'écriture,  
Et le culte des mots ;*

*Toi qui pris du soleil qui traversait nos cèdres,  
Et jetais sur le sol les signaux de l'azur,  
Cette fleur dont Racine un jour devait dans Phèdre,  
Nous donner le fruit mûr ;*

*Langue de mon pays, ô première figure  
De proue, à l'horizon de l'univers ancien,  
Toi qui gonflais d'orgueil la voile et l'aventure  
Des aïeux phéniciens ;*

*Toi qui semas l'Idée aux quatre coins du monde,  
Comme on répand les blés dans la stupeur des champs,  
Et comme Dieu prodigue, au sein des nuits profondes,  
Ses plus purs diamants ;*

*Langue par qui l'étoile, à jamais « phénicienne »,  
Fut enseignée jadis à mes premières sœurs,  
Avant que dans ta pourpre et ton sang, ne se teigne  
Le fer de l'opresseur ;*

*Langue des phéniciens, ma langue libanaise,  
Dont la lettre est sans voix sous les caveaux plombés,  
Langue de l'âge d'or, toi qui fus la genèse  
De tous les alphabets ;*

*Toi qui des flancs d'un dieu déchiré de blessures,  
Ainsi qu'Eve d'Adam, et que Vénus des flots,  
Du sang frais d'Adonis as tiré l'écriture,  
Et le culte des mots ;*



*Toi qui pris du soleil qui traversait nos cèdres,  
Et jetais sur le sol les signaux de l'azur,  
Cette fleur dont Racine un jour devait dans Phèdre,  
Nous donner le fruit mûr ;*

*Langue de mon pays, ô première figure  
De proue, à l'horizon de l'univers ancien,  
Toi qui gonflais d'orgueil la voile et l'aventure  
Des aïeux phéniciens ;*

*Toi qui semas l'Idée aux quatre coins du monde,  
Comme on répand les blés dans la stupeur des champs,  
Et comme Dieu prodigue, au sein des nuits profondes,  
Ses plus purs diamants ;*

*Mais cette langue est disparue à jamais. L'écrivain est devenu orphelin car il n'a plus de langue :*

*Je te cherche en vain le long de nos rivages,  
Dans le golfe où la nymphe a baigné Cupidon,  
Sur les stèles d'Amrith, et dans les sarcophages  
De Tyr et de Sidon ;*

*Mais nul n'entendra plus ton rythme et tes vocables  
Tes syllabes, ton souffle et ton accent du miel,  
Depuis que les héros qui vivaient dans tes fables  
Sont remontés au ciel ;*

*Nul ne peut plus entendre, ô langue des ancêtres,  
Les départs des marins d'Arad et de Byblos,  
Ni les chants des rameurs, ni les hymnes des prêtres,  
D'Eleuthère à Bélos ;*

*L'écrivain se lamente sur ce glorieux passé perdu dont personne ne se rappelle plus.*

*Nul ne sait plus que c'est notre horoscope  
Qui luisait au berceau de l'antique univers ;  
Qu'Agénor, notre roi, fut le père d'Europe  
Qu'enleva Jupiter*

*Nul ne sait que son fils, Cadmus, fut cet éphèbe  
Qui partit sans retour auprès les fugitifs ;  
Qu'il prit la Béotie et fit construire Thèbes,  
D'où Pindare est natif ;*

*Qu'un oiseau phénicien, qui fut un dieu d'Egypte,  
Le Phénix, qui couvait ses œufs dans le soleil,  
Dont la crête écarlate illuminait les cryptes  
D'un brasier de vermeil,*

*Et qui se consommait lui-même de ses flammes,  
Renaissait de sa cendre et triomphant du sort,  
A signifié la Vie éternelle de l'âme,  
Au défi de la mort ;*

*Nul ne sait qu'Amastar, reine de Sidonie,*

*Prêtresse d'Oukourtoum, mère d'Echmounazar,  
Instaurait autrefois en Mésopotamie  
Les mystères d'Istar;*

*D'Istar, notre Astaroth, dont s'écartent les lèvres,  
Dont la langue est visible, et semble humide encor  
Des douces voluptés qui fondent de leurs fièvres  
L'ivoire de son corps ;*

*Comment d'un rituel venu de Phénicie,  
Ninive et Babylone ont fait leurs tables d'or ;  
Comment devant nos dieux, s'incline et officie  
Nabuchodonosor ;*

*...Par un roi de chez nous, qui conquiert l'Assyrie,  
Et pour plaire à sa reine, en ce désert perdu,  
Construit sur l'Euphrate, ainsi qu'en leur patrie,  
Ces jardins suspendus ;*

*Qu'un marché phénicien, sur le cap d'Argolide,  
Jeta les premiers dés de la chance des Grecs,  
Dont les purs Parthénon prirent leurs jets splendides  
Aux lignes de Balbeck ;*

### Le déclenchement d'un vaste mouvement littéraire en français et en arabe

La Revue Phénicienne qui réunit un grand nombre de plumes va donner le ton à un mouvement littéraire de grande ampleur. Parmi les futurs poètes qui se font publier dans la Revue Phénicienne citons: Charles Corm, Elie Tyane, Michel Chiha, Hector Klat et bien d'autres...

Les Editions de La Revue Phénicienne prévoient un programme très ambitieux. En effet, la quatrième page de couverture des œuvres éditées en 1934, projetaient une vingtaine d'ouvrages en langue française, et la traduction en français d'œuvres littéraires libanaises écrites en arabe. Cependant, même si ce programme ne put être réalisé, il en résulta un grand mouvement littéraire profondément patriotique et humain qui féconda les lettres arabes elles-mêmes. Plusieurs de ces écrivains firent leurs premières armes sur les pages de La Revue Phénicienne.

Parmi les genres littéraires traités figurent des poèmes, des thèmes tirés de l'histoire de la littérature française, de la critique littéraire et des contes ou Charles Corm raconte les misères de la montagne durant la première guerre mondiale.

### La présence française au Liban

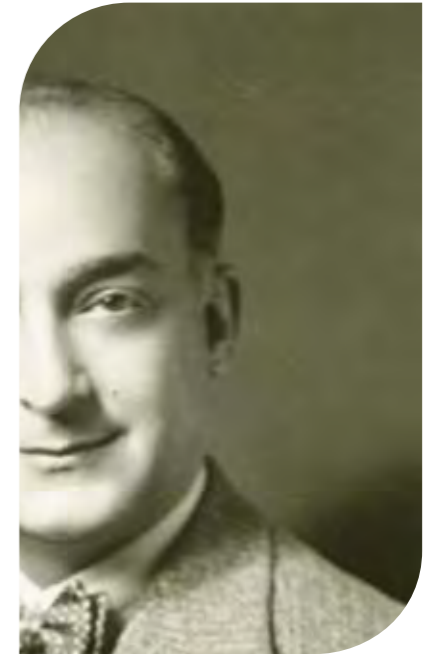
La Revue Phénicienne se penche sur les relations qui ont uni dans le passé la France et le Liban. La Revue Phénicienne évoque les Relations littéraires, commerciales et humaines qui unissent le Lys et le Cèdre.

Charles Corm salue la France qui a rendu au Liban les territoires dont il a été amputé durant l'occupation ottomane.

Cependant l'enthousiasme et la confiance ne tardèrent pas à céder la place au doute et au désespoir qui trouvent leur origine dans une amère déception. La France n'avait pas tenu ses promesses, et après douze ans de mandat, le Liban n'avait pas accédé à l'indépendance. Le dit de l'agonie, deuxième cycle du recueil, traduit l'amertume et exprime la désillusion contre laquelle le poète allait cultiver dans le troisième cycle l'image du passé élu comme un refuge.

### Conclusion

La publication de La Revue Phénicienne tombe à un moment où le Liban vivait un tournant historique radical. En effet, plus quatre siècles d'occupation Ottomane venait de prendre fin. Une nouvelle ère commençait pour le Liban sous l'égide de la France. Corm voulait être partie prenante de cette évolution radicale. Son patriotisme ne connaissait pas de limites. L'impact de la Revue Phénicienne sur l'art au Liban. Charles joua un rôle davantage plus grand que celui d'un responsable fut-il un président de la république. Il forgea une âme au pays des cèdres bâti sur la culture, l'humanisme, l'ouverture au Monde. L'acceptation de l'autre, le pardon et la réconciliation. Somme toute une nation est une histoire d'amour entre un peuple et une terre. Charles Corm nous a rappelé à travers La Revue Phénicienne que du haut des cèdres du Liban soixante siècles nous contemple.



Le Liban d' avant guerre est pour nous tous , jeunes libanais, poème dans le souvenir de nos parents. Ne pourrait-il pas être chanté aussi dans nos coeurs et dans le coeur des enfants? A des jeunes sans mémoire, ne faut-il pas assurer la transmission des valeurs et d'une identité nationale qui nourrissent un vouloir-vivre collectif? Ne faut-il pas apprendre aux jeunes libanais que leurs racines, aussi profondes que celles de nos cedres, doivent être irriguées d'universalité pour être garantes de paix, d'ouverture et de bonheur?

Qui d'entre nous ne fut pas témoin de l'atrocité de cette guerre, des larmes des enfants, du désarroi des jeunes, de l'amertume des vieux, des sanglots des mères éprouvées, du sang des martyrs qui continue d'arroser notre terre afin de lui rendre sa verdure.

Les bases de la renaissance du Liban, comme de tout pays confronté à la même tragédie: la paix ne peut être que le fruit du pardon et de la réconciliation.

Aujourd'hui, face à cette terrible et dangereuse vague d'immigration de nos jeunes qui secoue tout le Liban , ne devrions-nous pas faire parvenir le cri du père Labaky lancé dans ses deux livres *KFARSAMA L'ENFANT DU LIBAN?* Ce qui , dans ces deux poèmes, domine la souffrance, ce qui éclate à chaque page de cet hymne à la joie à travers la douleur, c'est l'allégresse, l'esprit d'enfance, et surtout la certitude de l'aurore.

Les Racines Profondes du Peuple Libanais: Tout peuple est le produit de son histoire. Toute chose concernant le présent est imprégnée du passé d'un peuple entier ; il s'agit d'une communauté de souvenirs.

- a- Le village Libanais, terreau de l'enracinement.
- b- La personnalité du villageois.
- c- Les formes de sociabilité.

### Conclusion

Nous avons essayé tout au long de cette étude de faire remarquer que le thème de l'enracinement, loin d'être acte d'introversion ou d'individualisme, tout au contraire, il revêt une dimension cosmique qui débouche sur l'Humain. Des décombres de la vie resurgit grâce à l'amour, au pardon et à l'amitié.

Les numéros parus viennent d'être réédités par les Editions de Dar al-Nahar.

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