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## Message From The President

It is always a pleasure to address you, dear friends of Notre Dame University – Louaize, through this electronic communication tool, and to share with you a part of the progress taking place at NDU.

New academic curricula have been either amended or introduced, for our degree programs as of 2008-2009. Such work is the outcome of a long-term review and update along the academic development scheme taking place at our University. This academic development endeavor also covered revisiting our general education requirements program. It resulted in making this program respond to the liberal arts educational philosophy and enlarging the pool of choices within different areas of knowledge at the undergraduate level. Nevertheless, this program takes into consideration the formation of the student as a whole human being ready to grasp knowledge in its all-round aspects.



Another new academic step forward: this is the first year NDU introduces minors as part of its academic programs. Now every Faculty offers a number of minors for students of other majors interested in a further study parallel or complementary to their major.

Moreover, it is worthwhile mentioning along these lines that this year NDU took the initiative of launching a Doctorate program in Education in collaboration with Saint Louis University in the U.S.A. The purpose of this academic endeavor is to provide the opportunity for interested students to pursue the doctorate degree in Administrative Education based on the American system of higher education.

The new Faculty of Nursing and Health Sciences was also launched this academic year aiming at establishing programs

by developing curricula to foster life-long learning process and promote leaders in the health care system.

At the same time, student enrolment at NDU has been increasing every year to signal the continuous success and raise the commitment of our University towards society. This year, this increase incredibly reached almost 13%.

On another front, NDU has managed to establish closer ties with its alumni and friends within Lebanon and overseas. This issue highlights the election of two of our alumni to the posts of president and vice president of the Washington DC Chapter of the University's American Friends, and soon we will witness the foundation of a new chapter in New York

With the abovementioned and many other developments, NDU keeps striving for excellence on its long road of continuing growth and development.

Fr. Walid Moussa, S.T.D.

President

Notre Dame University - Louaize

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## Fr Walid Oxford Summit Leaders

Marking the 21st anniversary of the foundation of Notre Dame University-Louaize, when Father Walid Moussa, the NDU President, took part in the Oxford Summit of Leaders he was presented with the highly esteemed international Queen Victoria Award at the 42nd Socrates Award ceremony, held in Oxford Town Hall, which honours individuals successful in business and in education for “virtue, bravery and integrity”.

The Oxford Summit of Leaders, which is held by the European Business Assembly and is “committed to developing working relations between industry leaders from all over the world”, plays a pivotal role in today’s networking society, especially between Eastern and Western Europe. The International Socrates Award Ceremony, following the Conference, honours successful business individuals and leading institutes of education. Over the past few years the Oxford Summit has welcomed more than seven hundred participants, this one including over one hundred from all over Europe and some coming from as far afield as Nigeria and Kazakhstan.



Father Walid Moussa receiving the Award of the Queen Victoria Medal from Dr. Will Goodher, President of the Club of the Rectors of Europe at the EBA, in the presence of EBA President Dr. John Netting.

Among them were rectors and vice-rectors, businessmen and scientists.

The Conference closed with the Club of Rectors holding its traditional meeting underlining the importance of sharing

educational ideas and including the induction of new members into the club.

In his speech of acceptance of the Queen Victoria Medal, Father Walid Moussa expressed thanks for the opportunity to share with the audience the notable and illustrious experience of Notre Dame University, where it was believed that the academic services it provided would be more effective everywhere with its following features and case studies.

First, NDU was an Anglophone bridge with the West, as it was the first private university in Lebanon and the Middle East adopting the American liberal arts system of higher education. While maintaining its Lebanese spiritual heritage, it strove to build future leaders who had acquired the dialectical skills of debating a thesis and its antithesis to reach a convincing dynamic and realistic synthesis.

Second, it presented a case of interdisciplinary academic experience. It had a distinctive understanding that any field of specialisation could not enrich itself and be comprehensive without unfolding the different layers of knowledge in order to be able to analyse the same subject, and look into the topic, from different perspectives. Father Moussa asked his listeners to imagine analysing a book of literature from a statistical point of view or going through computer science applications through a cultural and artistic understanding. This was what they were trying to do at NDU.

Third, there was a celebration of diversity, with its wide range of student and faculty backgrounds. Over sixty percent of the students came from French-speaking high schools and twenty-five percent from English-speaking ones, while the remainder came from multilingual backgrounds. After three to four years, more than three-quarters of NDU students graduated with trilingual capabilities, and the remainder ended up reading and writing a fourth European or Asian language. Students were of thirty-eight nationalities, the faculty members were of fourteen nationalities, and more than six languages were taught on campus simultaneously. Referring to the affirmation contained in the UNESCO convention concerning cultural diversity, Father Walid Moussa insisted that this understanding was an aspect of the leadership that NDU was endeavouring to promote.

He further insisted that the present time demanded an open dialogue to consider on the one hand the risks of identity-based isolation and on the other those of the

standardisation associated with globalisation. Such a dialogue would guarantee respect for all cultural identities within a democratic framework, an atmosphere favourable for their creative capacities, and real possibilities for these cultures of development. This was another aspect of the leadership qualities that NDU attempted to promote. Multiculturalism was more important than ever, particularly in Lebanon, and it maintained NDU as a model of excellence in Lebanon's pluralistic and democratic society.

The NDU President pointed to his continued insistence at international conferences on the need everywhere in the world for a leadership built on moral and ethical values together with high academic and scholarly standards, the two being complementary. He concluded that every effort to celebrate the values of diversity, multiculturalism and globalisation supported directly or indirectly Lebanon's cause of democracy, freedom and global, cultural and human commitment. He then thanked the European Business Assembly for organising the present gathering, as well as its sister institutions for their aims and activity.

## WEERC - National Campaign on "Water Awareness within the Municipalities District after the Completion of Chabrouh Dam"

WEERC - National Campaign on "Water Awareness within the Municipalities District after the completion of Chabrouh Dam"

The Ministry of Energy and Water, the Water, Energy and Environment Research Center at Notre Dame University (WEERC-NDU) in collaboration with the UNESCO Regional Office in Beirut organized a National Campaign on "Water Awareness within the Municipalities District after the completion of Chabrouh Dam" at the municipality of Zouk Mekayel on the 28th February 2008. The campaign is under the patronage of the Union of Municipalities of Kesrouan Ftouh.

The objective of this campaign is to enhance the Water awareness (Potable, Irrigation and Industry) within the Municipalities after the completion of Chabrouh Dam / Faraya

The speakers were:

Mr. Souhail Mattar, General Director of Public Relation at NDU, representative of Reverend Father Walid Moussa  
Mr. George Awad, Programme Officer, Communication & Information Sector, UNESCO Regional office – Beirut

Dr. Fadi Comair, General Director of Hydraulic and Electric Resources - Ministry of Energy and Water  
Mr. Nohad Nawfal, President of the Union of Municipalities of Kesrouan - Ftouh

- Dr. Musa Nimah, Professor at AUB
- Mr. André Atallah, Professor of Hydraulic Structures

The main subject of discussion was about the "Integrated use of Water among potable, irrigation and industrial within the municipalities after the completion of Chabrouh Dam".



In his address, Dr. Comair stressed the need to establish the "water culture" in Lebanon in order to ensure fair distribution of water in all the Lebanese regions, while preserving the environment and the aqua cultures and preventing water pollution. He informed us about the 10-year plan designed by the General Directorate of Electric and Hydraulic Resources and that will involve 30 dams securing around 800m<sup>3</sup> of water, which will cover the need for water for a period extending to 2030.

Mr. Souhail Matar, spoke on behalf of Fr. Moussa, the University President, and highlighted the importance of the Chabrouh dam, and threatened about the harm caused by water pollution. He encouraged the concerned parties in all the Lebanese regions to enhance and reduce water consumption as it is done in Zouk Mikael.



## WEERC - Workshop on “the Development of Fishing in Chabrouh Dam”

The Ministry of Energy and Water (MEW) in collaboration with the Water, Energy and Environment Research Center at Notre Dame University (WEERC-NDU), the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) have organized a workshop on “the Development of Fishing in Chabrouh Dam” on Thursday 8th May 2008 at the WEERC premises.



Water and Director of WEERC representative of H.E. Mr. Mohammad Al Safadi, Minister of Energy and Water

- Eng. Andre Atallah, Professor of Hydraulic Structures
- Mr. Ibrahim Hawi, Head of Rural Development and Natural Resources in Bekaa, Ministry of Agriculture
- Dr. Imad Patrick Saoud, Aquaculture and Aquatic Science, Dept. of Biology, American University of Beirut

Dr. Adel Cortas presided the event and the following subjects were discussed:

- Climate and Hydrological condition of Chabrouh Dam
- Fresh Water Aquaculture
- Feasibility and Environment Impact of a fishing development project in Chabrouh dam

### Conclusions and recommendations:

The problems that might arise in Chabrouh dam are:

- Plant growth.
- Mosquito infestation.
- Sedimentation.
- Municipal pollution.
- Stratification.



This event was under the auspices of the Minister of Energy and Water H.E Mr. Mohammad Al Safadi. The objective of this event was to Manage Chabrouh Dam for recreational fishing.

Future forecast: tourism planning in Chabrouh Dam area, ecosystem and reservation along with Chabrouh dam

The speakers were:

- Mr. Souhail Mattar, General Director of Public Relation at NDU, representative of Reverend Father Walid Moussa
- Dr. Adel Cortas, Former Minister of Agriculture
- Dr. Chadi Mohanna, Director of the Rural Development and Natural Resources, Representative of H.E Mr. Talal Al Sahili, Minister of Agriculture.
- Dr. Fadi Comair, General Director of Hydraulic and Electric Resources, Ministry of Energy and





- Anaerobasis

Suggestions proposed:

- Stock with at least three fish species, they should be tolerant of cold in winter and less cold in summer. One fish species should be an herbivore to control plant, one should be a mosquito eating fish and one should be a predator to control the population of the other two.

## A Presentation by Dr.Hani Tohme

**The Faculty of Engineering (FE)**, in collaboration with **The Office of Research and Development (ORD)**, and the **Water, Energy, and Environment Research Center (WEERC)** held a presentation by Dr. Hani Tohme, Civil Engineer:

on **Friday, July 18, 2008.**

Place: **Auditorium (Bou Khater bldg), NDU**

The topic was: **How to be Independent and Stay Happily Married**

The presentation compared the relationship between a Water Utility and Government to a marriage. However, the success of this marriage is based on the Water Utility's ability to be independent and able to overcome disasters with minimal government interference. The approach the City of Beaumont used to recover from Hurricane Rita is used to demonstrate the effectiveness of this theory.

### Employees

- Secure food supplies for at least five days.
- Secure a catering service for employees for longer periods.
- Make sure all employees have identification cards.
- Make sleeping arrangements for employees (cots, beds, ...) in locations with generators.
- Make a list of all volunteers and their contact information in case of emergency.
- Establish emergency related policies, i.e. overtime pay.
- Track the hours worked for every employee.
- Secure medical care for employees and a source for medication.
- Secure communication between employees and their families.

### Waste Water Treatment Plant

- Shut down the plant during the event.
- Immediately after the event, resume operations to maintain biomass.
- Determine plan for reseedling if needed.
- Secure auxiliary power.
- Continue all standard testing required by regulatory agencies (TCEQ and EPA).
- Inform energy provider ("Entergy, Reliant") of the importance of restoring power to the plant in a timely manner.

### Water Treatment Plant

- Secure chemicals supply and storage for plant.
- Transfer operations to auxiliary power prior to severe conditions of the event.

- Secure back-up generators for the auxiliary power.
- Secure equipment at the plant to remove heavy debris after the event.
- Inform energy provider (“Entergy, Reliant”) of the importance of restoring power to the plant in a timely manner.
- Continue all standard testing required by regulatory agencies (TCEQ and EPA).
- Note all violations and notify the regulatory agencies (TCEQ and EPA) and public as required by the rules.

### Collection and Distribution Systems

- Fill up and seal all elevated storage tanks.
- Prepare boil water notices and contact regulatory agencies (TCEQ and EPA) prior to the event.
- Immediately after the event, inspect all exposed piping.
- Immediately after the event, inventory and prioritize the water leaks.

### Sanitary Sewer Lift Stations



- Prepare and prioritize a list of lift stations with pump sizes, electrical specifications, generator and bypass pumping needs.
- Secure generators for all large lift stations (buy, rent or contract).
- Provide electrical quick connects to all lift stations.
- Secure generators on wheels to serve smaller lift stations.
- Secure a contract for bypass pumping for critical lift stations.
- Inform energy provider (“Entergy, Reliant”) of the locations of the critical lift stations prior to the storm or event.

### Contractors

- Secure electricians on site immediately after the event.
- Secure motor repair and VFD repair crews on site immediately after the event.
- Secure generator repair crews (electric and motors) on site immediately after the event.
- Get contractors lined up to assist with repairs, bypass pumping, dress-up, ... as may be needed.

### Miscellaneous

- Protect entities (City, State or Federal) equipment by relocating it to secure grounds.
- Secure important documents and files to protect it from flood, rain and wind.
- Back up all computers and remove information from the area.
- Secure a fuel supply that will be needed after the event.
- Constantly update and improve the Emergency Management Plan.
- Secure equipment to be used to provide access to critical sites.
- Check safety equipment regularly and keep warehouse stocked with supplies.
- Secure satellite phones and laptops with air cards.

### Pre-disaster Miscellaneous

- Determine special needs population.
- Establish main assembly point(s) for evacuees.
- Designate drivers for evacuation buses.
- Set up a phone bank for citizen calls.
- Create a damage assessment team.
- Establish pre-disaster contracts for debris removal.

### Relationships

- ❖ Initiate communications with local municipalities, county and state government.
- ❖ Contact regulatory agencies (TCEQ and EPA) and request assistance where needed.
- ❖ Join TXWARN (Texas Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network).
- ❖ Get involved with the County’s emergency management plan (assign representatives to the County’s EOC).
- ❖ Establish lines of communication with FEMA prior to the event.

- ❖ Create or activate a City EOC and coordinate daily activities to insure good communication.
- ❖ Establish National Incident Management System (NIMS) training, Incident Command System (I.C.S.) training, and Emergency Operations Command (EOC) training with simulation.

About Dr. Hani Tohme: **Dr. Hani Tohme** is the Director of the Water Utilities for the City of Beaumont, Texas and President of Golden Triangle Consulting Engineers. In 2006, he earned his Doctorate in Civil Engineering from Lamar University, Texas and is currently an Adjunct Professor in this University. Dr. Tohme is a Professional Engineer PE, registered in the State of Texas. He is also member of several Scientific and Professional Societies. Dr. Hani Tohme is the recipient of many awards and has several publications in the area of construction management and concrete design. Recently, he managed the emergency response and recovery system for the City of Beaumont after Hurricane Rita.

Expert instruction over five days, 24-29 April, was given by four IMISCOE scholars: Dr Jan Rath and Liza Nell from the Institute for Migration and Ethnic Studies in the Netherlands; August Gächter from the Centre for Social Innovation in Austria; and Professor Ahmet İçduygu from the Migration Research Programme at Koç University in Turkey. Important input on the practice of researching in Lebanon and surrounding countries was given by the organisers, LERC Associate Director Guita Hourani and NDU Associate Professor Eugene Sensenig-Dabbous. Administrative support was provided by Miss Basma Abdel-Khalek, Research Assistant with LERC. Participants came from Lebanon, the USA, the UK, Germany, and Egypt, pooling the skills and experience of some of the most promising professors and young researchers. They came from prestigious universities from Lebanon to America and joined with professionals working in political and NGO policy-making.

## Intensive Training for Internationals at LERC

Held jointly by the International Migration, Integration and Social Cohesion (IMISCOE) Network of Excellence and the Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) at Notre Dame University (NDU), the programme addressed the difficulties of research in the field of international migration and integration, with a particular focus on the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.



Instruction focused on the methodology of migration research. With the presence of researchers educated in different parts of the world, there was emphasis on discrepancies between critical modes of thought in different regions. In particular, the course was conducted with a view to integrating the study of migration in MENA into the global scholarship, with the latter's critical standards and methodological schools that guide its work. Parallel with this aim was a recognition that the practices and expectations of this "global" academy are in many instances shaped by Western traditions of scholarship. It was important therefore to address the specific challenges posed by research in the MENA region, and to learn how to circumnavigate shortcomings in the available data, and to deal with limitations on data collection, as well as doing research in conflict environments.





This event gave participants the opportunity not only to benefit from the knowledge of the instructors, but also to share their resources through seminars, discussion groups, and a methodology master-class. Social events were included in the structure of the programme, and lively dialogue continued in and out of the auditorium over the full six days. Both IMISCOE and LERC are founded on commitments to foster cooperation and communication within a field that is itself defined by global human networks.

Recognising migration as an existential human reality, the group visited a Caritas centre on Sunday 27 April. Participants were given an insight into the work of the NGO with both refugees and migrant workers. Results of grass-roots research conducted by Caritas in Lebanon were presented, and migrant individuals currently under their care volunteered to share their personal experiences in smaller groups.

Participants received certificates of accomplishment from IMISCOE and LERC which were presented by Fr. Walid Moussa President of NDU in the presence of Dr. Assaad Eid, NDU Vice President for Research and Development, Ms. Liza Nell representing IMISCOE, and Ms. Hourani and Dr. Sensenig-Dabbous representing LERC. More importantly, however, participants took away with them a greater knowledge and deeper understanding of the study of international migration, having acquired tools that will shape future research on the movement of peoples to, from and through the Middle East and North Africa. Dr. Rath stated that this type of training had not been done before by IMISCOE and that the institution was counting on learning from this experience for future similar initiatives.

**Reported by Alexander Henley**

LERC Visiting Research Assistant

## Cypriot Ambassador Calls on LERC

On April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2008, while on an official visit to NDU, the Cypriot Chargé d'Affaires, Dr. Kyriacos Kouros, met with the Vice President for Research and Development, Dr. Assaad Eid, and called upon Ms. Guita Hourani, the Associate Director of LERC. Historically, Cyprus has always enjoyed a special relationship with Lebanon. Cyprus has served as a safe haven for Lebanese fleeing the wars in Lebanon, including the July War of 2006. Many Lebanese have also acquired Cypriot citizenship, making them dual citizens of the two neighboring countries.



Dr. Kouros and Ms. Hourani discussed future cooperation to study the status of Lebanese and Cypriot dual citizens under the European Union citizenship law, and that of the Lebanese community in Cyprus in general, including the long-standing Maronite Cypriot community, as well as the socio-economic network of the Lebanese emigrants in Cyprus.

## Nigerian Ambassador Pays Courtesy Call

His Excellency Hameed A. Opeloyeru, Ambassador of Nigeria, paid a visit to the Lebanese Emigration Research Center on March 6<sup>th</sup> 2008, when he met with LERC's Associate Director Ms. Guita Hourani and Vice President of Research and Development Dr. Assaad Eid. His Excellency was then taken on a tour of the Lebanese Migration University Museum at NDU and was delighted to see the Nigerian collection displayed alongside those from Brazil and Mexico as well as the newly donated Colombian collection. His Excellency was then introduced to the LERC staff and shown a demonstration of the Lebanese Emigration Archives and Database (LEAD) system that the Center is currently building up. The Ambassador was very much impressed by LERC's vision, publications and achievements. He expressed genuine interest in developing Lebanese-Nigerian social, cultural and commercial ties, and with regard to the large Lebanese community in Nigeria in creating a general awareness about Nigeria amongst all Lebanese. The possibility of creating a Memorandum of Understanding between LERC and some Nigerian universities as well as the potential exchange of academics was also discussed.



## LERC Introduces its Research Infrastructure to Latin American Ambassadors

By Elie Nabhan

May 8<sup>th</sup> 2008: Notre Dame University and The Lebanese Emigration Research Center welcomed five Latin American Ambassadors to the NDU auditorium for a series of presentations. The event was a five-year milestone for LERC, its achievements and vision, within the overall context of NDU.

The Ambassadors who attended were Ambassador of Colombia Georgine El-Chaer Mallat; Ambassador of Mexico Jorge Álvarez, Ambassador of Paraguay Alejandro Hamed Franco, Ambassador of Uruguay Jorge Luis Jure Arnoletti, and the Ambassador of Venezuela Zoed Duajji Karam. Ambassadors of Cuba, Chile, Argentina and Brazil were unable to attend due to the insecurity that again engulfed Lebanon. Those who attended on behalf of NDU were NDU President Fr. Walid Moussa; NDU Vice President for Research and Development Dr. Assaad Eid; Director General Public Relations and Information Mr. Suhail Matar; the Dean, Faculty of Humanities, Dr. Carol Goff-Kfoury; Director of NDU Libraries Ms. Leslie Alter Hage; Director of International Affairs Dr. Michel Nehme; Associate Director of LERC Ms. Guita Hourani; LERC Latin America Liaison Officer Mr. Roberto Khatlab, LERC visiting researchers Mr. Rudyard Kazan, Ms. Basma AbdelKhalek, Mr. Alexander Henley and Mr. Wolf-Hagen von Angern; and LERC assistants Ms. Ghada Khoury, Ms. Liliane Haddad and Mr. Elie



Nabhan, the latter acting as the Master of Ceremonies.

Following a welcoming note by Associate Director Hourani, Dr. Assaad Eid said LERC had been actively involved in carrying out empirical research, in developing effective links with local and international organizations and in providing professional training for interested researchers. The Center was now involved in providing a unique repository for research studies



on the Lebanese diaspora to attract more scholars and researchers from all continents and cultures.

Reverend President Walid Moussa then paid tribute to the efforts of LERC, as well as to the former Presidents and Vice-Presidents of NDU, for their vision in establishing LERC and their commitment to addressing the issues related to the Lebanese diaspora in a more academic manner. President Moussa then told his distinguished audience of the decision of NDU to allocate a piece of its prime land to build the Lebanese Migration University Museum at NDU. He called on the Ambassadors and their countries to join hands with NDU to build this edifice, which would be crucial in recreating the history of Lebanese emigration as well as being a destination that would showcase their respective countries and cultures.

With a legitimate sense of pride, LERC then moved on to a series of presentations, the first being by Ms. Hourani who described the Lebanese Emigration Archive and Database (LEAD), while Ms. Haddad showed LEAD as one of the LERC research infrastructures with samples of MA and PhD theses on Lebanese migration from around the world. It was explained that LERC also had the most extensive electronic and digital collection on Lebanese migration, and a very diverse resource library. LERC's nucleus museum includes

small collections from Brazil, Nigeria, Mexico, and Lebanon. In all of LERC's collections one could find every kind of printed and archive material, music CDs, cassettes, records and other types of audio recordings, motion pictures such as films, movies, videos, documentaries, and DVDs and the like.

Ms. Hage described the important role of NDU library in providing support for, and complementing in many ways, the LERC resource library. She described the language diversity of LERC collection. She also mentioned that NDU has one of the very few libraries in Lebanon that are open to the public.

Dr. Kfoury highlighted NDU's Summer Arabic Language Program, which is a four-week program that engages students in the culture of contemporary Lebanon. Participants will learn formal and colloquial Arabic at the preliminary, preparatory, intermediate, and advanced levels through classes, individual tutorials and daily practice with Lebanese conversation partners.

Mr. Khatlab then proposed the Academic Information and Documentation Center for Latin America (IDCAL) which will, among other things, be a center for the study of the languages and literature of the Spanish-speaking and Portuguese-speaking civilizations and pedagogically complement LERC and the Lebanese Migration University Museum.

Commenting on the presentations, Ambassador Mallat of Colombia said that Lebanese emigration was source of pride for Lebanon as well as for all the countries that have welcomed it. She then said that LERC, through its global approach, its meetings and its publications, had opened the doors to a human and scientific possibility of meeting and interacting in a way to win back Lebanese emigrants whose relations with the mother country should never have been cut. The Ambassador was pleased to know that LERC had appointed a Liaison Officer for Latin America, Mr. Roberto Khatlab, to facilitate and deepen cooperation between the LERC and NDU on one hand and the Latin American countries and communities on the other.

Ambassador Franco explained how the integration of emigrants from the Middle East in Paraguay was facilitated by social similarities and education in public schools and how this had helped the Lebanese to gain social recognition in diverse



fields. His Excellency then recognized LERC as a farsighted institution concerning the relationship with the immigrants and their descendants in the Latin American Countries.

Ambassador Álvarez of Mexico went on to mention the tremendous efforts of NDU and LERC in migration research and documentation. Migration, he said, was at the very core of nation building whether in Lebanon or in Mexico. Mexican migrants were changing the fabric and participating in the nation-building of the USA in a way similar to that of the participation of the Lebanese in Mexico. He then stated that for the bi-centennial of Mexico in 2010, Mexico



would pay close attention to the particular efforts of the Lebanese participation in the Mexican revolution, an effort of tremendous value. He stated that IDCAL documentation center in cooperation with LERC would be of vital importance to Latin American countries.

In a final remark, Ms. Hourani stressed that the land donated for the Lebanese Migration University Museum was a sign of commitment by NDU to the cause of Lebanese emigrants. She concluded by saying that each wing would bring to life each country's contribution, with material that showed migration and the migratory experience, and envisioned that IDCAL could evolve into an organization representing the Latin American states. The meeting ended with a visit to the nucleus migration museum and a pledge by attending ambassadors to support LERC, IDCAL and the museum.

## A Panel Discussion Report

By Najji Oueijan

Upon the request of Prof. Assad Eid, VPSRD, to commemorate the EU Year of Cross-cultural and Inter-Cultural Dialogues, and to encourage research activities among NDU faculty members and students, a series of panel discussions entitled, "Common Platforms for Bridging World Cultures" were planned for Spring and Fall 2008. The first panel discussion was held on Friday, May 30, 2008.

Faculty members and students (graduate and undergraduate) from the several Faculties and research centers at NDU were represented in the first panel discussion which took place at NDU Friends' Hall. Twenty minute presentations were made over 3 sessions. They all tried to provide answers to the following question: *How and where do cultures meet (Integrate, Compete, and/or Conflict) in the fields of sciences, arts, humanities, business, and the professional fields?* Prof. Najji Oueijan, Chair of the Organizing committee which included also Dr. Eugene Sensenig, Dr. Ramez Maalouf, and Dr. Hassan Hamadi, Chaired the Introductory session, in which Prof. Asaad Eid, VPSRD, addressed the audience with emphasis on the significance of the event especially that next year's topic for the International Association of Universities have adopted this theme for their forthcoming conference at NDU. Prof. Ameen Rihani, VPAA and Keynote Speaker, gave a seminal presentation addressing the issue of multiculturalism and its significance amidst current affairs. The introductory session was followed by three ones in which 12 panelists from 5 faculties deliberated and main issue of the panel discussion (Kindly find Attached the Program).

The activity was a successful one especially that 6 students were given the chance to present in public their research. The discussion were both stimulating and enriching and the attendance was better than expected.



## Conference on the Current Trends in the Theory and Applications of Computer Science (CTTACS 2008)

Prof. Ray J. Solomonoff  
at NDU for CTTACS 2008

First Refereed Conference on Computer Science at NDU with the presence of an outstanding scholar, Prof. Ray J. Solomonoff

Despite all the turmoil and political tension in the country, the Faculty of Natural and Applied Sciences (FNAS) at NDU had its own view of what ought to be done these days. Believing in the words of Dijkstra, a Dutch computer scientist (1930-2002), that "it is not the task of a University to offer what society asks for, but to give what society needs", the FNAS had its First Conference on the Current Trends in the Theory and Applications of Computer Science (CTTACS 2008) on February 28-29, 2008. The call for papers of CTTACS sought submissions in all areas of computer science. A total of 37



papers were submitted from 8 countries and the Program Committee selected 24 of these papers for presentation at the conference and inclusion in the conference proceedings. Each submission was evaluated by at least two program committee members.

A very important part of CTTACS 2008 was the participation of the father of Algorithmic Information Theory, the very distinguished American scientist Ray J. Solomonoff, who traveled specifically from the US to deliver a keynote presentation on the first day of CTTACS and give a two-week short course on his theory and its relation to machine learning in the two weeks following the conference. A second prominent keynote speaker was scheduled for the second day of the conference, Professor Faruk Abi Khzam, from the American University of Beirut, who gave a keynote on the

zeros of all the sections of a given function.

We mention here that the scholarly activities of Solomonoff at NDU began on February 26, 2008, when he visited the Shouf Campus. During that visit, Solomonoff spoke at length about his experience as a person and scientist. Later on during that day, he gave a 90-minute presentation about his work, for which the audience consisted of university professors and high school teachers from the Shouf area.

Who is Ray Solomonoff?

Born 1926 in Cleveland, Ohio, this son of Russian immigrants is the founder of algorithmic probability theory and universal theory of inductive inference. He invented the concept of Algorithmic Probability around 1960. He was first to encounter the concept of Kolmogorov complexity, and first to prove the celebrated invariance theorem. The notion of the complexity of a string as the length of the shortest program that generates it was first suggested by Solomonoff in 1964, then discovered independently by both Andrei Kolmogorov in 1965 and Gregory Chaitin in 1966.

It is interesting to learn that the work of Solomonoff was for a while unknown in the US and it was not until Kolmogorov in Russia started to refer to Solomonoff's work that the latter became known in the US. In developing their ideas, Solomonoff and Kolmogorov had two different objectives in mind: while Solomonoff invented the notion of algorithmic probability for the purpose of doing prediction, Kolmogorov invented the notion of Kolmogorov complexity for the purpose of better understanding randomness, that is to say from an algorithmic perspective. It is also worth mentioning that both Solomonoff's and Kolmogorov's work would not have been possible without the notion of a universal Turing machine, which is the work of Alan Turing (1912-1954), an English mathematician often considered as the father of modern computer science.

What is algorithmic probability?

First, let us rethink the process of theory formation in science. In general, scientists record their observations about a given phenomenon and, through these observations, attempt to develop a theory (hypothesis or probability distribution) that explains those observations.

Of course, this task is difficult as a scientist does not have access to the entire history of the phenomenon under consideration. Based on just a finite set of observations, s/he is expected to develop a theory that understands the past history of the phenomenon and, by the same token, be able to predict its future outcome. Now, imagine that someone would claim to have the distribution that explains any set of observations irrespective of their original true distribution. If this is true, then all observations about all phenomena can be explained. This is exactly what Solomonoff's theory is about: a universal probability distribution that can be used to replace any other unknown probability distribution with a guaranteed expected error that is a small constant independent of the original distribution. Unfortunately, the work of Solomonoff has a major drawback: it is incomputable. Still, the theory of Solomonoff has been considered a gold mine of all kinds of principles that offer applicable approximations of the universal





thoroughly enjoyed by graduates who were glad to have an NDU representative visit them and make them feel that their *alma mater* had not forgotten them.

Both occasions began with a speech of welcome by one of the alumni, in the case of Dubai by Robert Ohannesian (BS '05) and in that of Abu Dhabi by Bassem el-Ghaoui (BA '00), followed by an address by Mr. Simon Abu Jaoude, who indicated the importance of alumni for their old University. Documentaries were then shown about NDU and activities organised by the Office in 2007 for alumni in Lebanon. Finally there was an e-speech from NDU President Father Walid Moussa particularly addressed to alumni in the UAE, in which he informed them about how NDU was steadily moving forward in its academic and non-academic endeavours. Conversation and exchanges of greetings followed, providing an opportunity for those present to reconnect or to discover other fellow-alumni in UAE and so renew ties with their University.



Some expressed concern about the differences of work level and organisation between the alumni of NDU and those of AUB/LAU. However, they were reassured that they could realise their own particular achievements as against those having a 100-year tradition behind them, thanks to their youth and special qualities. They were urged to have faith and to exercise patience as, given the present record and trajectory and their commitment and loyalty, NDU alumni could legitimately come to be considered the best.

DU-UAE alumnus Robert Ohannesian (BS '95), the lead volunteer organizing the event, remarked that making the gathering come about had been a real challenge but the result showed that the effort had been well worthwhile.

distribution. Examples here include the minimum description length principle and the minimum message length principle. To recap, Solomonoff has made significant contributions to the fields of algorithmic probability theory, universal theory of inductive inference, and machine learning. If you want to learn more about this remarkable scientist, please visit the following web page:

<http://www.idsia.ch/~juergen/ray.html>.

Fouad B. Chedid, Ph.D.  
Professor and Chairman  
Sciences Division  
Notre Dame University,  
Shouf Campus

For this special occasion, the introductory speakers were in order FNAS Dean Dr. Youssef el-Hage, V.-P. for Academic Affairs, Dr. Ameen Rihani, the Superior General of the Maronite Mariamite Order Abbot Simaan bou Abdo and Dr. Fouad Chedid.

## Alumni Affairs

Mr. Simon Abou Jaoude, Director of the NDU Alumni Affairs Office, recently visited alumni of the University residing in the United Arab Emirates. As part of the Office's strategy to reach NDU alumni wherever they may be found, he brought together graduates at the Lebanese Consulate at Dubai on Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2008, and at Crowne Plaza, Abu Dhabi, on Monday, March 10<sup>th</sup>. The theme of the gatherings, both held in the evening, was *Be Proud of It, Be Part of It*. While the number of Alumni at Dubai was considerably greater than the number at Abu Dhabi, both reunions were successful and productive,



Insight and information had been gained about the needs and expectations of NDU alumni in the UAE, for those working abroad had different needs to those in Lebanon. They were more work-oriented and productivity-driven, while yet having a deep longing for their family and friends in Lebanon, including their NDU professors whom they warmly greeted.

Mr. Abou Jaoude had a meeting with the Consul of Lebanon in Dubai, Mrs. Donna Turk. She was most welcoming and generous with her time despite her busy schedule and hard work promoting Lebanon as a leading nation in the Arab World. She promised to include a visit to NDU in her upcoming program in Lebanon. The Alumni Office Director also met some employers (CEO/HR/Managing Directors) of NDU graduates, who expressed their satisfaction with their performance and pointed out their caliber and potentials. They were ready to coordinate with the NDU Placement Office to recruit more from the University.

NDU graduates just embarking on their professional career or at a crossroads were asked whether it had been worth leaving home to work abroad; they talked mostly about the quality exposure they obtained from the many projects in a job market that was huge. They also expressed their willingness to contribute time and effort to developing the NDU presence in UAE by setting up a committee with goals and a plan of action. They were also ready to help younger fellow-alumni to settle in the UAE, find a better job and expand their social network. Their generosity and dedication to NDU, and the indication of the special place it held in their hearts, were most moving. They wanted NDU to arrange more alumni meetings and contacts, especially during the early stages, to encourage and support them in their mission.

Thanks to the enthusiasm of the alumni and the support of the NDU President, this visit will certainly bear fruit in the near and long-term future. It is clearly most important to establish firm bonds with this the largest segment of NDU alumni.

**Information kindly provided by Mr. Simon Abou Jaoude, Director Alumni Affairs Office.**

**On 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2008, the Alumni Affairs Office** sent Members an email accompanying the Alumni E-newsletter – Special Issue, which contained the following:

Good News! A number of NDU Alumni are volunteering much of their time and effort to work on establishing **the Dubai group and others in Abu Dhabi**. The UAE Alumni were pioneers in establishing an NDU Alumni group. I am pleased to announce that work has begun in both groups. For more information, feel free to contact the Alumni Affairs Office.

The **NDU Alumni Website** is in its final stages. The launching date will be posted on the NDU website.

If an alumnus does not receive news from NDU Alumni Affairs Office, kindly encourage him or her to contact us via e-mail: [alumni.affairs@ndu.edu.lb](mailto:alumni.affairs@ndu.edu.lb). WE will make sure to answer back personally. Alumni are asked to kindly keep their e-mail addresses up-to-date with the Office.

Stay safe! Truly NDU, Simon Abou Jaoude, Director, Alumni Affairs Office.

## Turath Day

This event took place on Monday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, and lasted all day. Its purpose was the promotion of the villages of Lebanon, as in order to go forward and assert itself a people must never lose sight of its roots and identity. Twenty student clubs took part, the Accounting Club for example choosing to represent Douma, famous for its *debs* grape treacle and for its *rahel el-haloum* Turkish delight, while the Architecture Club chose Jeita with its famous cave. The Astronomy Club chose Kherbet Anafar in the Beqaa, the Camping Club prepared a forum of Abra in the South and the Debate Club took on





the far northern village of Kobeyat renowned for its Tannour bread. The Discovery Club had a stand decorated with flowers as it had chosen to represent Bikfaya with its famous Flower Festival. The Economics Club took on Qartaba, the Entertainment Club Besharri home of Gibran Khalil Gibran, and the First Aid Club Baalbek with its prestigious ruins. The HTC chose Saida (Sidon), preparing delicious fresh fish and sweetmeats, and Naharashabab Club Majd el-Meoush in the Shouf. The Nutrition and Health Club chose Zebdine, known for its summer festival, and the Sartarabad chose Anjar with its large Armenian community. The Scouts Club represented Beit Shebab, whose reputation for its pottery was emphasised by a pottery class given by Graziella Daghfal. Baskinta with its orchards, Aamshit, Zahleh, and Faraya with its snow were presented by the Shooting Club, the Skyline Club, the Social Club and the Skiing Society respectively.

There were many guests participating such as singer Nicolas el-Osta, the Majd Dance Group of Baalbek and the presidents of various municipalities. The clubs did research and prepared documentaries on the villages of their choice to be posted on the LCDs around Main Campus.

## Job Fair

Current and former NDU students visited the campus in NDU Zouk Mosbeh on April 22 and April 23 for the annual Job Fair organized by the Placement Office.

Despite the heat wave, students came to the Fair hoping to find a job in or outside Lebanon. More than 29 international, regional and local companies covering the different business sectors including banks, insurance, food industry, phone industry, engineering firms, ICT and media participated in the Fair and more than 90 job openings were available for recruitment.



To mark the opening of the event, Public Relations Director Mr. Suheil Matar confirmed that “despite the difficult circumstances the country is going through, we will stand in the face of political corruption and assassination.” “Some have left the country looking for work outside, but some are still here studying, working, or looking for a job because they believe that Lebanon will endure however hard the days”, he added.

“The Fair aims at creating direct contacts between students and firms. This year job offers are far beyond expectations especially in the fields of engineering (civil, mechanical and electrical), computer science, interior and graphic design, computer graphics and web development, business and accounting, HR and logistics,” said Mrs. Christine Atallah, the Job Fair coordinator.

The President of NDU, Fr. Walid Moussa considered that “the Job Fair is a proof of our determination to help our graduates in finding jobs thanks to the participating companies. We rely on the companies and on our students who have great dreams



and whom we consider as our children and the fruit of our efforts. We are proud of them because they have earned the necessary competencies that will enable them to work and succeed; they have high moral values and above all the love of their country.”

The Superior General of the Maronite Order of the Holy Virgin Mary, Abbot Semaan Abou Abdo, congratulated the University for “carrying on its role and mission by courageously upholding education, culture and work and by facing the dangers of unemployment.”

The sponsor of the event, Dr Joseph Torbey, President of the Maronite League, stressed that “the Job Fair is a yearly opportunity where every university offers the job market the possibility of satisfying the demand for graduates in all majors. The success of a university is related to its ability to satisfy the demands of the work market and to maintain the level of excellence its students enjoy.” He also incited graduates to enroll in the public sector since this is not only their right but their duty also.

At the end of the opening ceremony, the ribbon was cut and everybody was able to visit the stands of participating companies.

## 25th Anniversary Choir at U.S. Embassy Memorial Ceremony

A committee of Lebanese and American employees of the Embassy planned a ceremony which included music by the Notre Dame University Choir under the direction of Father Khalil Rahme, a U.S. Marine Corps Honor Guard, and the planting of a cedar tree near the memorial. The Embassy also gave a pin to guests and a special medal to the survivors and the families of those who perished.

Father Khalil Rahme and members of NDU choir excelled in providing the music appropriate to the occasion. Some of the survivors and families of those who perished were touched to the point of tears by the words and melody.

Father Walid Moussa, President of NDU, and Professor Michel Nehme attended the ceremony that marked the 25th anniversary of the April 18, 1983, bombing of the U.S. Embassy in Beirut. Acting Chargé d’Affaires Michele J. Sison presided the event, held at the U.S. Embassy in Awkar. She welcomed survivors who continue to work with the Embassy, former employees and family members of the victims who came to the event and said “I am truly humbled by your dedication, and I know that all of the American staff here join me in feeling proud to be working with you.”

Also speaking at the ceremony was Assistant Secretary of State

for Near East Affairs, C. David Welch, who was the Lebanon desk officer at the Department of State when the bombing occurred. He recalled his horror and sadness when he received the call about the terrorist bombing and said, “Together, American and Lebanese staff members did the work that needed to be done. They pulled their colleagues from the destruction. They tended to the wounded.”



The U.S. Embassy American and Lebanese staff members and guests mourned the loss of colleagues and friends while remembering that each of them had worked for the strong and enduring relationship between Lebanon and the United States.

The commemoration ceremony took place to the granite memorial erected on the Embassy grounds to honor all those who have died while serving the United States in Lebanon. The memorial lists the names of the fifty-two Lebanese and Americans who died on April 18, 1983, of the nine who died when the Embassy annex was bombed in 1984, and of the 241 U.S. servicemen who were killed when the U.S. Marine Corps Barracks was bombed October 23, 1983, as well as the names of those who were killed in other attacks. Above the names is the simple inscription: “They Came in Peace”. The memorial stands as an enduring reminder of the sacrifices made by many who believed in the strength of Lebanon’s relationship with the United States.

At Chargé Sison’s request, participants observed a moment of silence in honor of those who died working for a secure, sovereign, democratic, united, and prosperous Lebanon.

At the end of the ceremony Michele J. Sison expressed to President Father Moussa her interest in preparing for a visit to NDU campus for the pleasure of meeting administrators, faculty members and students.



## Doors Wide Open

Sound and detailed planning by the Admissions Office and the SAO ensured the outstanding success of the Open Doors event, held this year on April 18<sup>th</sup>. To begin with, the Security did an excellent job controlling the traffic, which was heavy. The schools, with their administrators and students were received in a very personal manner and were provided with refreshment. This was despite the fact that the number of students received exceeded 2,700, needing to be divided into sixty groups, for a number of schools arrived that had not previously confirmed attendance.

The ushers were truly up to the mark and the SAO Director dealt with the problems that arose speedily and efficiently. The lab. presentations went off very well and the student clubs did excellently in providing a dynamic atmosphere and giving the impression of a University that was very much alive. NDU students showed their pride in being part of their *alma mater*, and as a result of all this attention was drawn to NDU in all the press. More than fourteen schools affirmed that the NDU Open Doors was the most successful they had visited, and their responsible officials were particularly pleased with the way they had no difficulty in assembling their pupils for them to leave only under their control, in an organised and disciplined manner, instead of having to let them wander off on their own.

NDU showed that its doors were open to all without any reservation when to the general pleasure for the first time it received 120 veiled students coming from the Al-Kawthar school. This was the firm answer of NDU and Al-Kawthar to all those outside Lebanon who insist on representing it as a land of warring sects.

Dr. Viviane Naimy, Director and Admissions and of the Office of Tests, Measurements and Evaluation, expressed her gratitude to her assistants and supporters, including Mr. Farid Haykal, Mrs. Karine Saade, Mrs. Pascal Khalil, Mrs. Mirna Sfeir, Mrs. Christine Gabriel, Mr. Mario Kozaily and Mrs. Aline Jabbour for their devotion to the students, the NDU community and the University itself.

## NGO Workshop

By Dr. Michel Nehme

### **NDU Office of Partnership and Exchange and the Council of Catholic Patriarchs and Bishops in Lebanon organized and conducted NGOs Workshops**

Introduction.

Over the past few years, civil society and NGOs have become active in influencing the shape and direction of development globally, regionally and locally. In response to requests from key NGOs and civil society groups in Lebanon, the Office of Partnership and Exchange at NDU organized the following



programs in collaboration with the Council of Catholic Patriarchs and Bishops in Lebanon:

1. Workshop on Fund Raising for NGO management, which was conducted on May 10, 2008, and
2. Workshop for Proposal Writing by administrators of NGOs, which was conducted on May 11, 2008.

Major development agencies locally, regionally and globally are now convinced that the engagement of citizens in development improves the likelihood of successful implementation and sustainability of programs and policies, especially those designed to reduce poverty and promote equitable development. However, while there is lack of clarity about terms and concepts such as civic engagement, governance, participation, ownership, and accountability. There is also a gap between theoretical understanding and actual appreciation of tools and methods needed to promote civic engagement for development. These workshops that we conduct provide modules aimed to fill this gap.



Participants were educated on the donor-recipient relations that are changing towards new kinds of networking and partnership arrangements when it comes to Civil Society and NGOs. One key area for NGOs today is that of finding new ways of obtaining the resources needed to implement the vision and mission of the organization in question. Bilateral and multi-lateral donors are asking for transparency and accountability and a more professional approach. The public as well as private corporations often question what NGOs are doing, but are more often willing to support actions and show solidarity – is asked. This workshop will help NGOs to plan and prepare a fund-raising strategy, to design fundable projects and to better understand the conditions for NGO Finance and “Gift Ceremony”.

Modules in brief:

Proposal Writing and Design.

Case Studies on Creative Non-profit Fundraising in the Middle East.

Funding Source Research: Corporate/Private, Public, Local and International.

Project Development incl. Dissemination Plan and Communication.

Participants: 28 administrators of projects, financial managers, NGO-activists and representatives from civil society organizations attended the two workshops.

## Commencement Ceremony

Notre Dame University celebrated the graduation of 900 students from all its faculties in the three branches Zouk Mosbeh, Deir el Qamar, and Barsa. The ceremony was held in the outer courtyard at the main university campus in Zouk Mosbeh, in the presence of Minister Khaled Kabbani representing Lebanese President General Michel Suleiman, Deputy Youssef Khalil representing Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri, former minister Joseph Sarkis representing Prime Minister Fouad El Sanioura, in addition to a number of political, religious, and social figures and the parents of graduated students.

In his address, NDU President Fr. Walid Moussa said: “this year has been difficult and the harsh circumstances in Lebanon reflected on our university, particularly on those students



who are graduating today, but we were able to face all the challenges and continue our academic year. Despite the economic crisis weighing on parents as well as on staff and faculty members, we will overcome this problem in a spirit of cooperation, collaboration and transparency”.



He added: "we are proud that our University is a reflection of Lebanon's plurality and diversity, in all its confessions and parties. Upon this reality, I would like to salute students for the discipline, openness and closeness they showed in dealing with each other".

He also addressed the graduates saying: "Today the degree you are receiving is just a passport that will wide open the doors to your future career".

He finally said that despite the terrible situation the country was going through, we have thrived to transform our university into a center of dialogue: seminars, conferences, exhibitions, books discussion forums, etc. We believe that cultural activities are primordial to build a comprehensive culture. In our curriculum, we made sure to combine modern technologies and spiritual values, NDU offered courses in all religions; we are confronting all kinds of corruption caused by unbelief, despair and perdition that is spread by some media and encouraged by some new sects and trends.

The guest speaker, Lebanese singer Majida EL Roumy described the graduated students as the country's hope for lasting sovereignty, and congratulated them on their achievement. She also received the university's medal from Fr. Moussa who then distributed the degrees to the graduates.

## US Embassy and NDU Workshops on Comedy and Acting

The USA Embassy in Beirut in collaboration with Notre Dame University conducted two workshops to demonstrate the diversity of the United States in the entertainment field (comedy and acting) and to improve the skills of aspiring Lebanese in these two fields. The event took place on Friday August 8, 2008 in Issam Fares Hall and the Friends Room.



Over 50 attendants participated under the supervision of two famous American actors and comedians namely Ahmad Ahmad and Maz Jobrani.

All participants were pleased and some of them have expressed the need for more of such outreach events and workshops especially that representatives of different universities will add new horizons to the existing experience at NDU.

## American Friends of NDU- Washington dc Chapter- Elections

On October 23, 2008, Jennifer Matta (BBA 2000), who graduated with a BA degree in Business Management, and Christine Ghafari Haddad (BBA 1992), who graduated with BA degree in Business Marketing, were elected as President and Vice President respectively to the Board of the American Friends of NDU – Washington DC Chapter.

Jennifer Matta is currently managing Public Relations and Marketing campaigns for many government, non-profit, and corporate clients, including the United States Coast Guard and U.S. Department of Homeland Security at PCI Communications in Washington DC Metro Area. Prior to joining PCI, Jennifer held Communications and international Relations positions at The World Bank and The United Nations



in Washington DC and New York City, where she launched corporate communications products, prepared briefing materials for strategy and relationship building, organized local press conferences and international teleconferences, handled the media, supervised the broadcast technical team, planned events and participated in high-level annual meetings, and developed databases of media, embassies, internal experts, civil societies, and parliamentarians. Jennifer received four United Nations and World Bank awards in 2005-2006. Jennifer is residing in the United States since 2002.





Christine Ghafari Haddad is a house engineer who takes care of her husband and their triplets Andre, Yara and Gabriella. In 2001, she and her husband Dr Nadim Haddad chose to move back to the US where her husband joined The Georgetown University Hospital in Washington DC as the director of the Gastroenterology fellowship program. Her work experience started at Fattal Holding as a dental representative for The Oral-B products for almost three years. In

1996-2001 she joined The Conservatoire National Superior De Musique where she studied voice technique for classical singing.

In 1999, she and a friend started a company, Jinny Medical, where it imported The Wilson-Cook Endoscopic Accessories and promoted the products to gastroenterologists and hospital all over Lebanon.

Christine was also a member of The Notre Dame De Louize choir, 1993-1998.

## AFNDU- Friends Raising

The Washington, D.C. Chapter of the American Friends of NDU is currently recruiting new members. AFNDU's objectives are:

- I. To Establish a strong cultural link in order to:
  - a. Bind together graduates, friends, former students, and former faculty and staff of NDU residing in the United States
  - b. Share, cherish and promote the educational values and goals of NDU and to support in intellectually, professionally and otherwise
  - c. Sustain and develop the interest of and understanding by the friends and alumni in

the US of NDU's objectives, challenges, and achievements

2. To build relationships with the American/Lebanese communities in order to:
  - a. Introduce NDU and its role
  - b. Strengthen the bond between NDU friends and the University at home and allow the new Lebanese-American generations to better understand their heritage
  - c. Offer children of American-Lebanese and friends of NDU-Lebanon in the US a chance to visit the NDU campus for one summer or one semester to learn Arabic and appreciate the history and culture of Lebanon



Miss Haley Khalil, Office coordinator

3. To establish exchange programs with American Universities and other institutions of higher education. The purpose is to:
  - a. Assist NDU-Lebanon in every way possible in offering the best education at the university level for the rising generations of Lebanon itself, and of the Lebanese Diaspora
  - b. Discuss possible cooperation in terms of exchange programs, affiliations and joint ventures
  - c. Cooperate with research centers and departments of Middle Eastern Studies in their research projects on the development of the Middle East at their social, economic, political and cultural levels.
4. To seek the cooperation of public libraries, university libraries and university press offices for exchanges of publications with NDU
5. To create direct relations with American Publishers

especially for textbook orders and library references

6. To provide financial assistance with the aim to:
  - a. Support the scholarship and student aid fund
  - b. Develop the educational facilities at the University
  - c. Initiate new programs at the undergraduate and/or graduate levels

If you live in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area and are interested in joining our association, please contact Haley Kalil at [dc-office@ndu.edu.lb](mailto:dc-office@ndu.edu.lb) for further information.



## Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence: Early Reflections

By George Abdelnour, Ph.D.

Barely a month into a U.S.-sponsored Fulbright fellowship to Lebanon, my experience has exceeded all expectations. Take my students, for example. A lively bunch, they wear their professional ambitions proudly on their sleeves, pursuing career paths as diverse as Graphic Design and English Literature (this being Lebanon, Business-related fields and Engineering are prominently represented as well.) Although not the first to note this, what is most impressive about my NDU students, and Lebanese students in general, is their ability to speak different languages and negotiate across a host of cultures. This in itself is not surprising. Given Lebanon's history of cross-migration, with a well-recognized diaspora abroad, many of my students have visited relatives in North America and in some instances were born and raised there, lending an air of cosmopolitanism to NDU that is both unique and particularly welcoming to a son of Lebanese emigrants such as me. As someone in the business of promoting the study of literature across language and culture, I couldn't ask for more.

Then there is NDU and its multiple opportunities for someone such as myself. Overlooking the Mediterranean on one side and flanked by the Kesrewan mountains on the other, NDU is located smack in the middle of the Christian Mountain in multi-confessional Lebanon. Without doubt, this is an ideal place to teach and write, though it's a miracle I can sit still in my office for very long. Once, while discussing with my students the merits of the "Toulmin model" as a mode of argumentation, I caught myself gazing out the window at the distant mountain tops as they disappeared into the clouds, ruminating on the multitudes who had settled there over time, before I was awkwardly reminded of the students sitting attentively before me. That has been the risk, and the beauty, of

my experience teaching at Notre Dame thus far.

I believe giving credit where credit is due, and so I have to put in a good word for the Fulbright program for facilitating my visit to Lebanon and association with NDU. As a way for showing its good-will to the world and fostering cross-cultural understanding, the Fulbright supports American scholars to go abroad and, in many instances, foreign scholars and students who wish to study in the United States. Such support is vital and affords faculty such as myself the rare chance to put our responsibilities on hold while teaching and conducting research abroad. "What?" one of my NDU students queried the first time I explained the Fulbright program to her, "Do you mean to tell me the U.S. government is paying you to teach *us here*?" It's not that simple, I tried to explain, but in retrospect perhaps it is. The U.S. doesn't have a counterpart to the British Council or Alliance Francaise to promote its culture and image abroad, relying instead on a host of taxpayer-funded programs such as the Fulbright to show that it cares, deeply, about the world. At its best, America is a nation deeply committed to national service as the key to social progress, and in the Fulbright that deeply-held belief is actualized on a global scale. This is a call to service that I am more than happy to heed while at NDU.

## IAA Press Release

from International Advertising Association

World Service Center, 275 Madison Avenue, NY 10175, USA

**The following are extracts from a press release issued by the IAA.**

## IAA InterAd XII Global Advertising Competition

### Announces Regional Winners

New York, March 5, 2008 – The International Advertising Association (IAA), its client Unilever and sponsor Global Advertising Strategies are pleased to announce the IAA InterAd XII regional winners that finished 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> within their regions.

#### Middle East/Africa

Los Maestros – The American University in Dubai, UAE – Regional winner

Snipers – The American University in Cairo, Egypt – tie 2<sup>nd</sup> place

Bubbles – Notre Dame University, Lebanon – tie 2<sup>nd</sup> place

(Underlining ours. Other regions omitted – Ed.,

**NDU Spirit**)

IAA InterAd XII challenged students worldwide to develop comprehensive campaign recommendations for promoting Unilever's AXE brand of male grooming products with ethnic multi-cultural markets.

“Unquestionably, this year's IAA InterAd XII project has been a dynamic experience. Our regional judges have been pleased with the quality of the entries. While only one team from each region can be selected to advance, we believe that all the IAA InterAd participants should be very proud of their submission”, said IAA Executive Director Michael Lee.

Plaques are awarded to the winning schools and all participating students receive certificates.

The International Advertising Association (IAA), headquarters in New York, was founded in 1938 to champion responsible marketing. The IAA, with its 56 chapters in 76 countries, is a one-of-a-kind global partnership whose members comprise advertisers, media, advertising and public relations agencies, media companies, and academics. The IAA is a platform for industry issues and is dedicated to protecting and advancing freedom of commercial speech, responsible advertising, consumer choice, and the education of marketing professionals. For more information please visit [www.iaaglobal.org](http://www.iaaglobal.org).

## IAU at NDU

**Notre Dame University – Louaize in Lebanon hosts the International Association of Universities (IAU) International conference “The Role of Higher Education in Fostering the Culture of Dialogue and Understanding” on November 3-6, 2009.**

### ndu chronicle

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