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editorial

Fr. Walid Moussa
President
Notre Dame University - Louaize

As the academic year 2012-2013 draws to a close at NDU-Louaize, graduating students will soon embark on the exciting journey in their vocational life.

As responsible administrators of higher education institutions, we always ask the hard question of whether we have provided those graduates, men of the future, with the proper package by which they can sail smoothly into the future.

We, at NDU, take pride that our University is steadily pursuing its distinctive and challenging Mission to provide students with quality education destined to enhance not only the vocational skills needed, but also the values that are attributed to those skills, within a liberal learning and professional education environment.

As you will read in this issue, NDU has continued to expand in different directions. With regards to internationalization, the most distinctive achievements include the notable advances we have made in the accreditation process with the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC), and the resounding successes of our various scholarly activities, celebrations, events, and international scientific conferences.

On the academic front, we are preparing to initiate new programs and degrees in Fall 2013. The Faculty of Political Science, Public Administration and Diplomacy (FPSPAD), now the Faculty of Law and Political Science (FLPS), has opened its doors to students interested in pursuing a Bachelor of Law (LL.B.). Other new degree programs (pending final approval) include Master of Science in Financial Risk Management (FBAE); Master of Science in Actuarial Sciences (FNAS); and Bachelor of Science in Business Nutrition and Bachelor of Science in Health Communication (FNHS).

Furthermore, extensive preparations are underway to construct, among other projects, a new library and new research facilities, a specialized research medical center and a hospital, and new playing fields and amenities to augment our sport facilities. In addition, major developments will soon begin across our Regional Campuses: Barsa, Koura, and Deir el-Kamar, Shouf.

Today, higher education faces many challenges the world over, particularly in Lebanon. Opinions vary on how best to address these challenges. For me, we must maintain deep faith and remain committed to our Mission if we are to succeed in overcoming any obstacle strewn along our path.

feature

NEASC Team Visit to NDU

The Commission on Institutions of Higher Education (CIHE) of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) team visited Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) from April 14-17, 2013, as part of its accreditation decision-making process.

Rev. Fr. Dennis Holtchneider, President of DePaul University, Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A., chaired the team. The team comprised the following members:

- Ms. Rebecca H. Brodigan, Vice-President for Institutional Planning and Assessment at Bowdoin College, Main, U.S.A.;
- Mr. Neil G. Buckley, former Executive Vice-President at Emmanuel College, Boston, U.S.A.;
- Dr. J. Joseph Burns, Associate Vice Provost, Boston College, U.S.A.;
- Dr. David A. Fedo, former Executive Director for International Education, Leadership and Innovation, Singapore;
- Mr. Robert E. Fitzpatrick, Professor and Emerging Technologies Librarian at Plymouth State University, U.S.A.;
- Dr. Jill N. Reich, Professor of Psychology at Bates College, Main, U.S.A.; and
- Dr. Elizabeth H. Tobin, Vice-President for Academic Affairs at Illinois College, Jacksonville, Illinois, U.S.A.

The intricate three-day itinerary consisted of visits to all three NDU campuses, as well as a series of scheduled meetings with University administrators, faculty, staff, and student representatives.



Group portrait: visiting NEASC team members with key members of staff at NDU



outreach

D.C. Office Update



Fr. Moussa with AFNDU members [far right: Ms. H. Kalil]

Greetings from Washington, D.C.! This year witnessed new beginnings and a revitalized American Friends of NDU (AFNDU) Chapter based out of Washington, D.C. Please join me in welcoming the new officers: NDU Alumni Chadi Dirani (President); NDU Alumni Jennifer Matta (Vice-President); longtime ANFDU member Suad Wanna Nakamura (Secretary); and longtime member of ANFDU Emile Haddad (Treasurer).

The new board kicked off 2013 on a positive note, with an AFDNU-hosted dinner event held at the Lebanese Taverna of Bethesda, Maryland, featuring guest of honor NDU President Fr. Walid Moussa.

The AFNDU friends, NDU alumni, and others were invited to join the dinner, where President of AFNDU Chadi Dirani spoke about AFNDU's Mission and Goals for 2013, and Fr. Moussa spoke about the importance of having an active group in the United States of America. The attendees shared their ideas for activating the community, amongst other topics discussed.

Next up is the 2013 NAM Convention followed by a Networking Happy Hour in September 2013 to welcome the community back from the summer break and to begin planning a fundraising dinner event for the ANFDU!

Contact Haley Kalil at afndudc@gmail.com to learn more about AFNDU or about joining the Chapter.

NAM Convention Update

From July 3 – 7, 2013, NDU participated in the annual National Apostolate of Maronites (NAM) convention in Tampa, Florida.

NAM is the official lay apostolate of the Maronite Church of the United States and the only lay apostolate of its kind in the Maronite World. Established in 1964, NAM has held a national convention every year since. NAM started in order to help unify and organize the Maronite faithful in order to petition Rome for a Maronite Bishop. Since 1966, NAM has served the then Diocese of St. Maron and now serves both our Maronite Eparchies and our Eparchial bishops.

The convention is a mixture of clergy and laity, young and old, Lebanese and American-born, and people of several other ethnic backgrounds who have become a part of the Maronite Church. The conventions have become family gatherings as well as vacation opportunities for many. The schedule is a full mix of prayer services, workshops and seminars, business meetings for both clergy and laity, and, of course, many evenings of fun and dancing to both American and Lebanese music.

This year, NDU sent President Moussa and Haley Kalil, D.C. Office Coordinator, to NAM in order to create awareness for NDU and the American Friends of NDU (AFNDU) in D.C. and around the United States. In addition, President of the D.C. Chapter of AFNDU, Chadi Dirani, was present at the convention.

AFNDU's presence at the convention included an exhibit table, where brochures and school literature was on display and available for interested parties to pick up. Haley Kalil was also on hand at the exhibit table to answer questions and make connections with Lebanese in the United States. President Moussa spoke on



Audience at NAM convention

behalf of NDU at the NAM Directors meeting on Saturday, July 6, and announced new scholarship opportunities for students to study at NDU for a semester.

The convention was a great success, with many connections made and NDU's presence recognized by all in attendance. We look forward to continued success at next year's convention in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania!

Siena International Conference on Sustainable Development Solutions for the Mediterranean Region

In the context of the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network, the University of Siena, Italy, which hosts the regional network center for the Mediterranean (MED-SDSN), organized a conference from July 3-5, 2013, titled "Sustainable Development Solutions for the Mediterranean Region."

The three-day event brought together researchers, scholars, and academics as well as practitioners from more than 21 countries in the Mediterranean region



Far right: Dr. A. Eid at the University of Siena

and Europe. The panels and round-table discussion sessions aimed at developing a regional network formed of universities, research centers, and businesses interested in identifying and promoting solutions initiatives in the Mediterranean Basin.

NDU was invited to join the network. The University President delegated Dr. Assaad Eid, Vice-President for Sponsored Research and Development (VPSRD), to represent NDU at this conference.

This initiative will provide NDU with the following opportunities:

- To participate actively in the debate on sustainable development, including the framing of the Sustainable Development Goals through a long-term and global project under the auspices of the United Nations;
- To network with other institutions interested in issues, concerning Mediterranean and global sustainability in order to develop joint research projects and teaching activities;
- To share good practices in teaching on sustainability issues; and
- To promote new collaborations in the field of sustainable development solutions and to conduct high quality scientific research. To this end, a program is being developed to facilitate short-term study exchanges among the partners of the network.

As an institution of higher education interested in joining this network, NDU will soon enjoy full membership in this endeavor; thus, the University will become actively involved in all future activities and initiatives.



Notre Dame University - Louaize Literature Students in Greece



Garden of Heroes-Messolonghi

Prof. Najji Oueijan accompanied four of his Literature students, Ms. Stephanie Baroud, Ms. Rita Bou Khalil, Ms. Myriam Iliovits, and Ms. Lara El-Mekawi to the 8th International Student Conference organized by the Research Byron Center in Messolonghi, Greece, 27-31 May, 2013. The theme of the conference was "Byron's Years of Fame." Ms. Baroud made a presentation entitled, "Lord Byron and Greek Mythology," Ms. Bou Khalil talked about "Byron and Beauty: His Eastern Female Characters," Ms. Iliovits presented a paper titled "Eastern Superstitions in Byron's The Giaour," and Ms. El-Makawi's paper was "Lord Byron's Eastern Byronic Hero." Ms. Lara El-Mekawi's critical-research paper was rated first by well-known Byron scholars in the conference, which was attended by students from



Lara el-Mekawi and Stephanie Baroud in Greek costume.

America, Canada, and European countries. All four students were exemplary in exposing the high educational standards of Notre Dame University. This is evident in the commendation letters sent by Prof. Peter Graham, Prof. Peter Myrian, and Prof. Stephen Minta, all well-known Byron scholars and organizers of the academic program of the conference (See Below). Prof. Oueijan has always insisted on such involvement of NDU students in international activities to promote NDU image and reputation in the world and to encourage students to become more involved in research and genuine scholarship (Kindly see parts of the students' reports). Prof. Peter Graham, "Again, for a wonderful group of new Byronists and young friends! As I've said other times, your generosity and goodness as teacher shines



Prof. Najji Oueijan presenting his paper.



Lara el-Mekawi presenting her paper.

through your students. Poli agapi spiti sas." Prof. Stephen Minta, "Your students are a remarkable tribute to you and to their university, and to Lebanon. Very bright, very sociable, intellectually poised, and they contributed a very great deal to the success of the conference. Do give them all my best wishes and say that I am happy to keep in touch with them, should they ever need help or advice." Prof. Peter Myrian, "Thank you Najji! I want you to know that I was impressed by the quality level of your students, very mature and dedicated. I thoroughly enjoyed them and I hope they continue their studies with the same intensity. Lara and Steffi were very good for their level of knowledge as were Myriam and Rita."

NDU Graduate Honored at the University of Tennessee



From left: Paul D. Nielson, former AIAA President, presenting Charles T. Haddad, an NDU graduate, with the "Abe M. Zarem Award for Distinguished Achievement in Astronautics." Photo Credits: Mark A. Nelson (January 8, 2013, Grapevine, Texas, U.S.A.).

Charles T. Haddad, a graduate of Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU), was honored at the 51st Aerospace Sciences Meeting, which was held from January 7-10, 2013, in Grapevine, Texas, U.S.A. Haddad received the "Abe M. Zarem Award for Distinguished Achievement in Astronautics." Paul D. Nielson, former President of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA), presented Haddad with the Zarem Medallion at the general banquet ceremony, which took place on Tuesday, January 8, 2013. With over 2,300 participants, the ASM'13 remains the most heavily attended conference of the AIAA.

The Zarem Award in the field of astronautics is selected from the collection of graduate student papers originating from seven AIAA Regions. These include the Northeast, Southeast, Central, Southcentral, Midwest, Western, and International Regions. In order to qualify, Haddad had to first compete and rank in the Masters Division of the 63rd AIAA Southeastern Regional Student Conference, which took place at Cape Canaveral, FL, April 2-3, 2012. Stephen J. Brock, Student Programs Manager, said, "The



judges found your paper 'On the Sidewall Boundary Layer of Transverse Waves in Simulated Liquid Rocket Engines' to be of outstanding quality." Comments made by the five judges who reviewed this paper echoed similar sentiments, regarding the originality of this work and its scholarly value. The paper in question has since undergone an independent review process, which led to its acceptance for publication "as is" in the flagship journal of the AIAA.

Dr. Joseph Majdalani, Professor and Arnold Chair of Excellence in Advanced Propulsion at the University of Tennessee, co-authored Haddad's award-winning paper. Their work introduces a groundbreaking framework for modeling transverse waves in liquid rocket engines. When combined with the preceding publications of Haddad and Majdalani, the newly devised corrections give rise to a more complete model for describing oscillatory motions in cylindrically-shaped rocket chambers. It may also be viewed as an important step-forward in understanding acoustic instability, a phenomenon that has repeatedly plagued large combustors. The work pursued by Haddad was partly funded by the National Science Foundation and is part of his M.S. thesis in Aerospace Engineering at the University of Tennessee.

Haddad completed his M.S. degree in Aerospace Engineering in December, 2011, with a 4.0 GPA. He also holds a B.E. degree in Mechanical Engineering from NDU, Lebanon, where he graduated with the Highest Distinction, as Valedictorian of the College of Engineering, in Spring 2010. In 2009, he founded the Student District Operating Board (SDOB) of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) for the Middle East- Africa Region. Haddad also served as the ASME Chair of District J. and the first Middle East-North American Student Professional Development Conference. The remarkable success of this conference led to his election as President of the ASME SDOB worldwide. After receiving the J. B. Dicks Fellowship in Fall 2010, Haddad joined Dr. Majdalani's group at the University of Tennessee. In the scope of 16 months, he completed a major research project and published two journal and four conference papers. Schlumberger recruited him in 2012 as part of its Tech and Field program.

In conjunction with the best paper award in astronautics, the AIAA Foundation bestows the Abe M. Zarem Educator Award in order to recognize faculty members who display a remarkable degree of effectiveness in their mentorship and

guidance efforts toward advising graduate students. This year's award went to Prof. J. Majdalani, Haddad's supervisor as well as the H. H. Arnold Chair of Excellence at the University of Tennessee. In the past three years, Dr. Majdalani has advised five graduate students who became recipients of six best paper awards.

Four of the award winners are former graduates of NDU, and Dr. Michel Hayek, Dean and former Department Chairperson of Mechanical Engineering, supervised all four. The winning papers originating from NDU students include:

1. Haddad, Charles T. and Majdalani, Joseph, "On the Sidewall Boundary Layer of Transverse Waves in Simulated Liquid Rocket Engines," 63rd AIAA Southeastern Regional Student Conference, Paper Awarded SECOND PLACE in the MASTERS Division, Cape Canaveral, FL, April 2-3, 2012. (Winner of the Abe M Zarem Award for Distinguished Achievement in Astronautics.)
2. Akiki, Georges and Majdalani, Joseph, "New Framework for Modeling the Bidirectional Vortex Engine with Arbitrary Injection," 62nd AIAA Southeastern Regional Student Conference, Paper Awarded FIRST PLACE in the MASTERS Division, Tuscaloosa, AL, April 4-5, 2011.
3. Zgheib, Nadim and Majdalani, Joseph, "Asymptotic Solutions for Longitudinal Waves in Solid Rocket Motors," 61st AIAA Southeastern Regional Student Conference, Paper Awarded SECOND PLACE in the MASTERS Division, Destin, FL, April 8-9, 2010.
4. Akiki, Michel and Majdalani, Joseph, "Compressible Integral Formulation of the Two-Dimensional Porous Channel Flow," 61st AIAA Southeastern Regional Student Conference, Paper Awarded THIRD PLACE in the MASTERS Division, Destin, FL, April 8-9, 2010.

In addition to these awards, Michel Akiki received the Lloyd Crawford Fellowship, the "Outstanding Graduate Research Assistant of the Year Award," the "Resident Assistant Service Award," and the "President of Student Government Association Service Award;" both Haddad and Georges Akiki have received the J. B. Dicks Fellowships.

Joseph Majdalani,
University of Tennessee, Tullahoma, TN 37388-9700, USA.
Michel Hayek,
Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU), Zouk-Mosbeh, Lebanon.

LERC News

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

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



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

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

Dr. Guita Hourani

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

The Japan Center for Middle Eastern Studies (JaCMES) invited Dr. Guita Hourani, Director of the Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU), to give a lecture on December 12, 2012, at a workshop titled "The Proposed Electoral Law for 2013 and Out-Of-Country Voting: Marginalization of the Lebanese Diaspora Engagement."



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

The workshop was held at the Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa (ILCAA) at the Tokyo University of Foreign Studies (TUFS), Japan.

Dr. Hourani began her lecture by providing her audience with an overview of the efforts to grant Lebanese citizens living abroad the right to participate in parliamentary elections in Lebanon through out-of-country voting. She analyzed the positions of the various political parties and parliamentary blocks, concerning the most recent Electoral Law proposal and its articles governing the participation of Lebanese expatriates in the 2013 election as well as the potential effect of out-of-country voting on the current political state in the country.



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

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

Dr. Guita Hourani

LERC Honors Dr. Moise Khayrallah



From left: Mrs. Liliane Haddad, Dr. Guita Hourani, Dr. Maha Mouchantaf, the mother of Dr. Moise Khayrallah, Dr. Moise Khayrallah, Fr. Walid Moussa, Dr. Asaad Eid, Mr. Roger Khayrallah, and Dr. Edward Alam

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

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

Fr. Moussa presented Dr. Khayrallah with an “Achievement Award” in recognition of his success in North Carolina. Fr. Moussa said that Lebanese expatriates are a source of pride to Lebanon and that every single citizen in Lebanon considers as an honor the success stories of every Lebanese expatriate.

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

Maritta Sislian

LERC Honors Dr. Akram Khater at NDU

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

Dr. Guita Hourani, Director of the LERC, welcomed to the Center Dr. Khater and his family, Dr. Assaad Eid, NDU Vice-President for Sponsored Research and Development, Dr. Amine Rihani, NDU Vice-President for Academic Affairs, and Faculty Deans and Directors. Dr. Eid read a short biography on Dr. Khater to initiate the recognition ceremony.

Dr. Khater was born in 1960 in Lebanon. He is currently

an Associate Professor of History, Founder and Director of the Khayrallah Program for Lebanese-American Studies, and Director of Middle East Studies Program at the North Carolina State University in the U.S.A., in cooperation with Dr. Moise Khayrallah, and cofounder of the **Mashriq-Mahar Journal of Middle East Migration Studies**. He is a published author with several published books under his belt. His book *Inventing Home: Emigration, Gender and the Making of a Lebanese Middle Class* is a world reference for Lebanese emigration studies. His most recent work is a documentary titled *Cedars in the Pines*, which focuses on the history of the Lebanese community in North Carolina. He has recently been asked to join a specialist multiethnic committee to serve the Federal Census Bureau in the U.S.A. as well as to serve as an expert on the Arab population in the U.S.

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



From left: Dr. Assaad Eid, Dr. Akram Khater & Dr. Amin Rihani

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

the Center what it is today: A renowned Center in academic circles.

Dr. Rihani congratulated the LERC for being able to bring together scholars and experts working on Lebanese emigration such as Dr. Khater and for being an invaluable reference in this field. He said that the LERC was established as the first center in the world to study Lebanese emigration from a scientific perspective and not from an emotional one. He added that throughout the 10 years since its founding, the relations the LERC has forged both locally and internationally attest to its success.

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

Maritta Sislian

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

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

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

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

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

Maritta Sislian



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

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



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

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

America's most deadliest and destructive hurricane - Katrina. His church responded to the thousands of survivors by opening a church-based ministry called Baby Central to support those who had lost their homes, separated from their relatives, and suffered from both physical and mental distress. Baby Central provided much-needed supplies for the babies of displaced mothers.

Dr. Hamd began his lecture by providing a brief overview of the dire situation the MDWs are facing in Lebanon. He explained that his study understands how Lebanese churches treat the plight of the MDWs as an indicator of the Lebanese churches' self-understanding of the *missio Dei* (**mission of God**). He has conducted 25 in-depth, open interviews with migrant domestic workers in Lebanon and 50 blended surveys of Lebanese key clergy members of various denominations to analyze the perceptions and attitudes toward migrant domestic workers in Lebanon. Using grounded theory approach, he reveals how key clergy are complicit in propping up structural injustices against vulnerable African and Asian migrant workers in Lebanon, rather than confronting societal sin in the name of Jesus.

This study is of vital interest and importance, because it is the first time that this topic is addressed from a theological lens and not through the lens of social science. The results of this study show that religious figures are reluctant to bear responsibility in this regard and instead shift the blame onto the government. Dr. Hamd also stressed that Lebanon should advance its Labor Law and especially the **kafala system (sponsorship system)** toward the MDWs for it to be a country worthy of joining the list of states that respect human rights.

Maritta Sislian

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

Dr. Raouf Rifai, a well-known Lebanese-born painter, donated one of his paintings to the Lebanon Migration Nucleus Museum at the Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC). The ceremony was held on Thursday, May 16, 2013, in the presence of Dr. Guita Hourani, Di-

rector of the LERC, Dr. Jean Pierre Asmar, Dean of the Faculty of Architecture, Art and Design, Khaled Abou Hol, a Lebanese artist, and members of the LERC team.

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



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

East and West.

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

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

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

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

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

Maritta Sislian

Mr. Tarek Boustani Visits the LERC



Mr. Tarek Boustani

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

Mr. Boustani visited the LERC on Tuesday, May 21, 2013, where he was appointed the LERC's Liaison Officer in West Africa. He has promised to send his grandfather's personal collection given that his grandfather was the first member of the Boustani family to emigrate to Africa. Mr. Boustani also donated to the LERC two Arabic books titled **Le baron**.



Mrs. Lilianne Haddad introduced Mr. Boustani through a presentation to the Center's mission and archival database. He was later given a tour of the Lebanon Migration Nucleus Museum.

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

Maritta Sislian

LERC Honors Outgoing Mexican Ambassador Fuentes with Achievement Award



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

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

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

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

Dr. Hourani welcomed the audience and expressed her appreciation of Ambassador Fuentes's efforts and his significant contributions to Lebanon, during his inspiring tenure. Dr. Hourani also thanked him for deepening relations between the LERC and the several hundred thousand Mexicans of Lebanese descent.

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

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

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

For his part, Fr. Moussa commended the efforts of Ambassador Fuentes in helping to establish the Lebanon Migration Nucleus Museum at NDU. Fr. Moussa said, "Ambassador Fuentes has shown a great degree of interest in our academic affairs, and has always been one of our strongest supporters; therefore, NDU, as an academic institution, is proud to honor him here today."

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

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

He hailed the role of Lebanese-Mexicans living and working in Mexico and stressed that their efforts and constructive integration in Mexican society helped build the Mexican economy. He also indicated that the Lebanese contribute 12 percent of his country's GDP. He continued by saying that "one of the most important indicators of the Lebanese success in Mexico is the presence of six ministers of Lebanese descent currently serving in the Mexican cabinet."

The Ambassador closed his speech by putting forward a few recommendations to help the Center. He said future studies should shed light on the new generation of Lebanese in Mexico, because they care about Lebanon much more than their parents and grandparents, and are aware of the situation due to increase in the use of social media.

He promised to continue supporting the LERC in its endeavors and presented an invaluable gift to the Museum: a digital copy of the immigrant's magazine **EI-Gherbal**.

Youssef El-Helou

conferences conventions

The ACTEA 2012 International Conference

Following the success of the Advances in Computational Tools for Engineering Applications (ACTEA) Conference in 2009, the Faculty of Engineering at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) organized the Second International Conference on the ACTEA in 2012.



Dr. E. Nassar, conference chair

The IEEE Region 8, which covers Europe, the Middle East, and Africa technically co-sponsored the conference. The aim of the ACTEA 2012 was to advance the state of knowledge in engineering computational tools by bringing together researchers and industry, and to provide a common platform for researchers and engineers involved in computational tools to share research results and pioneering views about recent trends and developments.

The well-attended conference was held from December 12- 15, 2012, at the NDU Main Campus. From among the 130 submitted abstracts, 71 papers in the technical program were selected and presented in 18 parallel technical sessions. Three distinguished keynote speakers delivered presentations on the latest developments in computational tools, covering the various areas of



engineering research. Conference participants represented 20 different countries and more than 50 universities and research centers worldwide. In total, 120 participants registered for the conference with many attendees arriving from abroad.

The opening ceremony included speeches delivered by Dr. Elias Nassar, General Chair, Fr. Walid Moussa, President, and Dr. Sobhi Abou Chahine, representing His Excellency the Minister of Education and Higher Education Prof. Hassan Diab.

An excellent social program provided attendees with a unique opportunity to visit some of Lebanon's most outstanding natural and historical sites, including the Jeita Grotto, the city of Byblos, Our Lady of Lebanon (Lebanon's Marian shrine and pilgrimage site), and Downtown Beirut. The conference dinner took place on December, 13. During the dinner, the conference organizing committee and attendees held a cake-cutting ceremony to celebrate NDU's Silver Jubilee.



Group photo at the dinner

The first keynote speaker was Prof. Mohamad Sawan, Canada Research Chair in Smart Medical Devices at the Ecole Polytechnique, Montreal. He addressed the latest research developments in medical devices that can be used to study brain activity, to recover sight to blind patients, and to assist physically challenged individuals in their movement.

The second keynote speaker, Prof. Corrado Schenon, Faculty of Engineering at the University of Genoa, Italy, presented current research in the area of environmental energy and techniques used to reduce noise pollution.

Finally, Dr. Mohamed el-Hadidy, General Manager of CST Middle East, a leading company in the area of simulation tools, presented the latest tools used for modeling and simulation radio wave propagation for wireless communications.

Based on reviewer recommendations and the comments of the session chair, the two papers that received the "Best Paper Awards" were:

A Compact Quad-band Metamaterial-based Antenna for Wireless Applications

Ferhad Kasem (American University of Beirut, Lebanon); Mohammed Al-Husseini (American University of Beirut, Lebanon); Ali Ramadan (American University of Beirut, Lebanon); Abdullah Haskou (American University of Beirut (AUB), Lebanon); Karim Youssef Kabalan (American University of Beirut, Lebanon); Ali el-Hajj (American University of Beirut, Lebanon)

A Novel Approach to Eye Movement Analysis Using a High Speed Camera

Krystian Radlak (Silesian University of Technology, Poland); Bogdan Smolka (Silesian University of Technology, Poland)

The IEEE Lebanon Section, the IEEE Computer Society, the IEEE Power/Circuits and Systems Society, the IEEE Antennas and Propagation Society technically co-sponsored the conference. Byblos Bank and Mideast Power Systems provided financial support.

The proceedings of the conference are available through the IEEE Online Digital Library: IEEEXplore

For more information on the conference organizing committees and program, as well as a photo gallery, kindly visit www.ndu.edu.lb/actea12.

Dr. Elias M. Nassar

Bridging with Civil Society for a Better Environment

The Water, Energy and Environment Research Center (WEERC) at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) held a conference at Abu Khater Hall (Main Campus) on Monday, January 14, 2013, titled "Bridging with Civil Society for a Better Environment."

The conference was held under the patronage and in the presence of H.E. Mr. Nazem el-Khoury, Lebanese Minister of Environment, Dr. George Tohmé, Director of the Board of the National Council for Scientific Research, and Fr. Walid Moussa, President of NDU.

The conference hosted approximately 30 civic, scientific, humanitarian, and political associations as well as more than 50 experts in sustainable development, representing international organizations. These experts



Opening session

included former Minister Dr. Adel Kortas, representing the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and Ms. Reem Nejdawi, representing the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA).

Through a targeted initiative taken by the Minister of Environment (MOE), the Forum Francophone des Affaires (Francophone Business Forum), and Mediterranean Network of Basin Organizations (MENBO), the conference aimed at restarting talks to launch the Sustainable Development Atlas for Lebanon.

Six sessions on various topics were held. The topics prompted rich discussions and innovative ideas. The experts who partook in the conference put forward several recommendations, which included:

- 1- Inviting all public and private institutions, including civil society organizations, to coordinate with the MOE and draft a comprehensive environmental strategy.
- 2- Activating the work of the Higher Council for Environment, ensuring that all ministries concerned are represented, and appointing the MEO as general secretariat.
- 3- Requesting that a protocol be passed, which stipulates the mandatory exchange of information among the various official administrations, public institutions, and associations on issues relating to:



From left: Mr. S. Mattar, Fr. W. Moussa, Min. N. El Khoury, Dr. S. Skaff and Dr. F. Comair

- 4- Promulgating legislation, which permits citizens to participate in water management institutions and granting citizens access to work progress in water basins.
- 5- Putting into effect a National Information Center within the MEW. This center would serve as a foundation for sustainable development, which all parties concerned seek, as well as fill the information gap, and improve access to information in accordance with the recommendations of U.N. Agenda 21.



- 6- Establishing a nationwide communication network that links the various environmental associations and recommending the establishment of an environmental center at NDU
- 7- Reactivating the proceedings of Rio 20+ in order to build an inclusive green economy in the context of sustainable development.
- 8- Supporting the creation of a Higher Council for Natural Reserves; thereby, empowering Reserve Administration Bodies to efficiently and continually develop their centers.
- 9- Creating bodies specialized in fighting environmental crimes, which will be liable to prosecution.
- 10- Conducting in situ and in vitro research to treat diseases that could affect forests.
- 11- Launching a campaign for sustainable renewable energy and alternative energy policies in order to reduce green gas emissions, which are harmful to the environment in addition to supporting the creation of an anaerobic digestion solid waste treatment plant, and the use of geothermal energy.
- 12- Introducing new environmental courses in the university curricula.



Dr. Assaad Khoury, Head of the Department of Preventive Medicine at the Ministry of Public Health in Lebanon

morbidity. Globally, NCDs account for 60 percent of all deaths, and in the Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR), NCDs account for more than 50 percent of annual deaths and 60 percent of the disease burden. The four main NCDs, contributing to mortality in most countries of the EMR, are: cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes, and chronic respiratory diseases.

The burden of NCDs is expected to worsen significantly in the near future, threatening not only the survival and well-being of people but also socioeconomic development, which may directly affect Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). NCDs mainly result from four preventable behavioral risk factors: tobacco use, unhealthy diet, lack of physical activity, and abuse of alcohol.

The conference aimed at:

- 1) Highlighting evidence related to the impact of NCDs on health and socioeconomic development.
- 2) Drawing attention to multisectoral actions aimed at reducing the level of exposure of individuals and communities to the most common modifiable risk factors.
- 3) Strengthening the capacity of individuals to make healthier lifestyle choices.
- 4) Outlining available and effective instruments, strategies, and policies to address the epidemic of NCDs.
- 5) Promoting networking and collaborative research on NCDs.

The conference targeted health practitioners, students,



NCDs-Guest speakers and attendants at the conference



Dr. Mona Nasrallah and Dr. Nagi el-Saghir, guest speakers at the conference

and professors in health-related fields.

The conference hosted many prominent academicians, physicians, and other professionals in the healthcare sector affiliated with both governmental and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Lebanon.

The topics presented on Day 1 were organized into three sessions, starting with the current magnitude and impact of NCDs, followed by associated risk factors, and modern approaches for the control and management of NCDs.

Day 2 topics were organized into two sessions with an overarching theme: Addressing NCDs and associated risk factors. Pertinent existing policies, previous/current strategies, initiatives, interventions, and priorities for actions were highlighted.

Conference attendees/participants agreed that all presentations were interesting, informative, and practical.

FNHS Holds Annual Conference on NCDs at NDU NCDs: Risk Factors, Prevention, and Control—Translating Evidence into Practice

Under the patronage of the Ministry of Public Health, the Faculty of Nursing & Health Sciences (FNHS) at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) held between May 14-15, 2013, its annual conference titled "Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs): Risk Factors, Prevention, and Control—Translating Evidence into Practice" at Abou Khater Auditorium, NDU Main Campus, Zouk Mosbeh. NCDs are currently the main cause of mortality and

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



Dr. Robert Fisk

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

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



The panel discussion focused on three broad philosophical questions, regarding the concept of freedom in which Dr. Fisk was given 10 minutes to answer each question. Dr. Fisk, who is also fluent in Arabic, was asked to discuss “freedom” as seen through the eyes of a westerner and in his capacity as a foreign correspondent, working in the Middle East.

Prof. Alam posed the first question, “In your book, *The Great War For Civilization: The Conquest of the Middle East*, you mentioned, ‘I think in the end we have to accept that our tragedy lies always in our past, that we have to live with our ancestors’ folly and suffer for it, just as they, in their turn, suffered, and as we, through our vanity and arrogance, ensure the pain and suffering of our own children. How to correct history, that’s the thing...’ In your judgment, what is your relation between correcting history and escaping it, and what’s the journalist’s role according to this?”

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

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

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

Dr. Fisk responded that the problem in the U.S.A. was the absence of the use of freedom. He stated that journalists in America have become the mouthpiece of the government. They do not challenge authority. He said,



Dr. Robert Fisk (center) with NDU students

“In America, you can talk about everything except the Middle East, and in the end even though there is a lot of freedom in America most of it is not used.”

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

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

Ameen Rhayem, Hiba Eid, And Natalie Touma
Pictures: Wadih Estephan

Regenerative Medicine The future of Personalized Medicine



Dr. Michael Leek

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

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

VSELS are found circulating in large numbers in the human blood, and studies have shown that as we age or become sick, the number of these cells tends to decrease. This biological process led Oristem to launch a new service to extract and bank these cells for willing individuals in order to preserve the cells capacity to heal and differentiate. Stem cells are considered the future of personalized medicine for their well-known potential

to differentiate into different type of cells. Scientists, therefore, will no longer consider the creation of new organs or treating cancer an issue. The collection procedure is very simple and painless, it consists of a simple blood sample taken from the arm. In all, an 80-ml blood sample is taken and sent to the U.K. for processing and banking for 20 years. Anyone aged 12 and above can now preserve their stem cells.

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

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

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

FNAS-Faculty Lecture Series Committee



seminars lectures workshops

4th Beirut Water Week Technological Tools and Financing Mechanisms for IWRM Complementing Hydro-diplomacy Climate Change Adaptation Efforts



Palestinian Minister of water, S. Attili

Following up on the success of the three previous and similarly themed Mediterranean multi-events, Notre Dame University–Louaize (NDU), Lebanon, organized the fourth edition of the “Beirut Water Week,” which took place at NDU from February 20-22, 2013. Throughout previous years, NDU has spearheaded efforts to provide a dynamic platform for dialogue among a wide diversity of perspectives in order to create as many innovative water solutions as possible.

Supporting organizers of the 4th Beirut Water Week were: the Water, Energy and Environment Research Center (WEERC) at NDU, the Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean (GWP-Med), the Mediterranean Compo-

nent of the EU Water Initiative (MED-EUWI), and the International and Mediterranean Network Basin Organizations (INBO-MENBO).

The event gathered more than 100 key participants, representing State bodies; international organizations; NGOs; universities, research centers; and Mediterranean projects and initiatives relevant to water resources management in the Middle East and the Mediterranean Basin.

The emphasis of the 4th Beirut Water Week was on implementing new technological tools for water management and water governance aimed at advancing critical regional development agendas. The agenda featured plenary and breakout sessions, which focused on a set of six crucial water themes relevant to Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM). These were:



Group photo of organizers and participants

- (i) Technological Tools in Water Planning and Management.
- (ii) Water, Energy, and Food: The Challenges of the 21st Century.
- (iii) Adaptation to Climate Change: New Water Mass, Water Transfer, Control, and Risk Analysis.
- (iv) Hydro-diplomacy, Transboundary Basin, and Aquifer Management.
- (v) Financing Water Infrastructure: Role of the Public-Private Partnership.
- (vi) Role of Basin Agencies, NGOs, and Universities in Improving Water Management Awareness and Education.

Participants highlighted innovative technologies, successful case studies, and emerging challenges, regarding Sustainable and Integrated Water Management, Transboundary Water Management and Conflict Resolution. Water scarcity was identified as a major predicament currently affecting the entire Middle East and Mediterranean Basin. Water scarcity is exacerbated by the increasing water demands by all sectors and the diminishing water availability. It was also acknowledged that climate change and/or its variability would put additional stress on the currently scarce resources. The existing water crisis is amplified by poor governance frameworks and increased competition for water—water for energy, water for food, and water for the environment.

In the light of these considerations, participants put forth many recommendations, some of which include:

- (i) The sustainable management of water, which can be achieved by considering future projections, namely: urban expansion; population growth; sustainable development of food and energy; and climate variability and change.
- (ii) The sustainability of water resources can be achieved via the introduction of methods and enforcement tools for the optimal allocation of resources and by using cross-sectoral approaches for water management.
- (iii) The Lebanese proposal to create a Network of Basin Organizations for the Middle East and North Africa (MENANBO), as a platform to facilitate the exchange of expertise and capacity-building among countries in the Middle East and the Mediterranean Basin.
- (iv) The development of new ethics for future decision-making processes related to all water projects.
- (v) The need to create an institutional and/or accreditation framework for the Beirut Water Week. That is why a Steering Committee — composed of international water experts and water executives — has been formed to serve as a platform to enhance the cooperation among countries in the Middle East and the Mediterranean Basin, and to promote the

visibility of the Beirut Water Weeks in the international agenda.

- (vi) The role of creating databases, and the need for sound scientific knowledge to serve as a basis for water planning and management.
- (vii) The implementation of effective water governance, with emphasis on the development of appropriate and sound legislative and institutional frameworks, are key for the sustainable management of water resources and should be based on an IWRM approach.

Second Year Celebration Event of the IDB at NDU Merging the Arts & Sciences to raise awareness on the importance of cultural landscapes



From left: Fr. W. Moussa, Dr. J. Kreidi, Dr. E. Sattout and Dr. G. Eid

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

The aim of this initiative was to cultivate participatory practices, bringing together students and lecturers to



work in union on a special theme through the sharing of knowledge centered on the importance of protecting biological diversity in the context of the existing close relationship between ecological and social systems. The interactions between both these systems form what we term "Cultural Landscapes." Cultural Landscapes embrace a diversity of manifestations of the interaction between humankind and our natural environment, as defined by the UNESCO World Heritage Convention.

One approach, aimed at widening students' vision and strengthening their problem-solving and critical thinking skills, was through a poster competition that encouraged them to adopt interdisciplinary and multi-disciplinary approaches. Another concept was to use artistic expressions through design and photography competitions to invite students to learn more about the importance of cultural landscapes and the role we play in shaping our natural and built environments. The competitions were launched in November, 2012, in close partnership with the Faculty of Architecture, Art & Design (FAAD) and the Faculty of Engineering (FE). Orientation sessions for those participating in the poster competitions were held from January to April, 2013.



Cultural landscapes exhibition

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

- "Cultural Landscapes" by Dr. Leon Telvzian (Lebanese University);
- "World Heritage Convention and Cultural Landscapes" by Dr. Pierre-Marie Tricaud (ICOMOS International Expert, France);

- "Wadi Qannoubine World Heritage Site" by Mrs. Samar Karam (Department of Antiquities-Ministry of Culture);
- "Geopark As A Tool For Sustainable Management" by Mrs. Soumaya Ayadi-Maasri (African Geopark Network in Lebanon); and
- "The Contested Cultural Landscape of a Lebanese Border Town: Marja'ayoun" by Dr. Christine Mady.

For more information, please visit the following websites:

<http://www.ndu.edu.lb/IDB13/Index.htm>
<http://www.cbd.int/idb/2013/celebrations/lb/>

Winners

Category I: Existing and Potential World Heritage Sites

- 1st Prize: **Ms. Haneen Khadaj, Ms. Marianne Khalaf, and Ms. Marianne Kortbani**
 2nd Prize: **Mr. Joseph Hajal and Mr. Naji Sadaka**
 3rd Prize: **Mr. Lateef Abboud and Mr. Georges Mounayar**

Category II: Impact of Construction Sector and Restoration Practices

- 1st Prize: **Ms. Theresa Chidiac and Mr. Elie Hobeika**
 2nd Prize: **Mr. George Hamoush and Mr. Michel Hamoush**
 3rd Prize: **Mr. Julien Merheb, Mr. Leba Zrou, Mr. Jonhny Saber, and Mr. Tony Sarkis**

Design Competition

- 1st Prize: **Ms. Suzane Aboul Hesn**
 2nd Prize: **Ms. Carla Hage**
 3rd Prize: **Ms. Gina Saleh**

Photography Competition

- 1st Prize: **Mr. Tony Faysal**
 2nd Prize: **Mr. Majed Michael**
 3rd Prize: **Ms. Jinane Abi Khalil**

Dr. Elsa SATTOUT
 (event organizer and concept designer)

campus life

NDU Celebrates 26th Founders' Day

Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) paused to commemorate its rich heritage and promising future on Friday, May 10, 2013. The series of events slated for the 2013 Founders' Day were a resounding success.

Fr. Walid Moussa, NDU President, inaugurated the Opening Ceremony at Issam Faris Hall, NDU Main Campus, in the presence of NDU administrators and local celebrity Mr. Billy Karam, the Guinness Book of World Records holder for the largest collection of model cars. Other celebrities such as Mr. Tony Baroud, Bruna Tohmé, Rachele Asmar, Elie Abi Saleh, and Sandrine Jabra later took turns at hosting the all-night event.



From left: Mr B. Karam and Fr. W. Moussa

Following Fr. Moussa's annual Founders' Day address, he joined Administrators in cutting the celebratory cake. The festivities kicked-off with the students of the Music Department delivering an inspiring musical performance.

NDU students partied until dawn with the framework of dancing, singing, and engaging in a variety of entertaining activities.

Fr. Ziad Antoun, Director of Administration at NDU, performed a special Mass the following morning.



View of the participation at the day-long activities



Dr. Philip A. Salem Guest Speaker at NDU Commencement 2013



Dr. P. Salem



General view of Commencement 2013

Dr. Philip Salem, physician, researcher, educator, and a medical statesman, was the guest speaker at the 2012-2013 Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) Commencement Ceremony.

Also present were members of Parliament and ministers; diplomatic and religious figures; the Order's Board; the Board of Trustees; deans; faculty; staff; parents; and friends.

Following the Lebanese National anthem, Abbot Fr. Boutros Tarabay, Superior General of the Maronite Order of the Holy Virgin Mary, offered a prayer to Our Lady of Louaize.

Mr. Hadi Sareddeen, Valedictorian of Class 2013, who graduated with a Bachelor in Computer and Communication Engineering, then took the floor. Sareddeen delivered the Valedictory Address and received the General Khalil Kanaan Prize for Academic Excellence.

For his part, NDU President, Fr. Walid Moussa, delivered an address in which he highlighted NDU's staunch efforts to launch the new Faculty of Law and Political Sciences (FLPS) and its efforts to introduce new degree programs with the collaboration of the Ministry of Education & Higher Education in Lebanon.

Fr. Moussa also noted the "newly-inaugurated building of the Faculty of Architecture, Art and Design (FAAD), the new Theatre Hall with a capacity of 700 seats as well as the new Astronomical Observatory, which is considered the largest and most advanced observatory

in Lebanon and the Middle East." He added, "We have also continued in our endeavor to obtain accreditation from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC)."

Mr. Souheil Matar, Vice-President for Cultural Affairs and Public Relations, introduced Dr. Salem by saying, "Three great men have elevated the name of Lebanon in history: Gibran Khalil Gibran, Michael Dabaghi, and Charles Malek. Allow me to add Dr. Philip Malek."

As a token of appreciation, Fr. Moussa awarded Dr. Salem an Honorary Doctorate.

In his address, Dr. Salem invited "students to live their dreams, which are greater than money, fame, and power... I learned from my experience in medicine that nothing in life is impossible, and there is always light at the end of the tunnel. Venturing from the impossible to the possible requires plenty of courage, perseverance, and training... Success alone is insufficient to achieve glory; you should attain charity and humility.

"Our generation failed to make this country worthy of them. I invite you, therefore, to work toward creating a new Lebanon that is worthy of its history and deserving of its glory. Forty years of pain were not enough to liberate us from our shells; we have been killing this country for forty years, yet it refuses to perish. How much hatred have we sowed in our country, yet it holds no resentment toward us..."

Salem concluded by inviting the graduating students to "go into the world and work, but do not forget who you are, where you came from, who your parents are, and which your country is. Always remember that this land is the only land that forgives you and always misses you. So love it firmly just as it firmly loves you."

At the end of the ceremony, Minister Hassan Diab, on behalf of the President of the Republic of Lebanon General Michel Sleiman, decorated Dr. Salem with the Officer Medal of the National Order of the Cedar for his outstanding service to his country and to the world.

Translated by: Christine Rayess Atallah

Shouf Campus Graduating Class of 2013 Celebrating Your Next Step

Fr. Walid Moussa, President of Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU), and Mr. Simon Abou Jaoude, Director of the NDU Alumni Affairs Office, visited the Shouf Campus (SC) on May 31, 2013, at 12:00 noon to meet with the Graduating Class of 2013 in an event themed: "Celebrating Your Next Step."

Fr. Francois Akl, Director of the SC, spoke to the graduating students, expressing his pride in each one of them. He urged them to forge real objectives in life; objectives

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

Fr. Moussa then took the floor and addressed the eager students. He reminded them that the best feature about studying at NDU rested in the fact that NDU enjoys strong links with a diverse network of friends/professionals, which can benefit the career of each graduating student. He assured them that because of the family ties that bind students together, even those who come from different departments and have different majors will still benefit from have remarkable connections. Fr. Moussa urged students to remain loyal to their Alma Mater, and to visit it, not only in thoughts and in memories but also physically.

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

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

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

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



NDU press



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