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editorial

Dr. ASSAAD W. EID
Assistant to the President
Planning and Development

In the Face of Challenge!

The academic year 2014-2015 will be busy, and without doubt, a challenging one, as the political instability in Lebanon and the region will have its impact on Lebanon and the Lebanese higher education institutions in particular. Mindful of the widespread economic uncertainty, NDU-Louaize cannot afford to sit idle, and this very challenging situation will only motivate us more to strive to meet our strategic goals and objectives.

Besides the continuing focus on educational quality, which has been sharpened in the past couple of years, several other priority concerns deserve equal attention and need more effort. After 'eligibility' and 'candidacy,' the continuation of the preparation process for accreditation will be underway and will be pursued more actively. A new strategic plan (2014-2019) has been formulated and will soon be reviewed and approved. New goals and objectives have been identified, all within the framework of the strategic initiatives and the University's mission and vision statements. At the same time, innovative institutional projects are not lacking as the President's Commencement Address in this issue attests.

There remains important to work on and another effort to open up solid and real opportunities in promoting the different spiritual and social values echoed within the heritage of the Maronite Order of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Accordingly, there will be more integration of these values and principles across the curricula and co-curricula to embrace a culture of love and philanthropy, and to provide opportunities for social service. Diversity and civic responsibility will be further enforced and given more attention and focus. The objective is to challenge students to be ethical leaders and to prepare them for lives in the global community. Such strategy entails more 'outreach' initiatives and requires more insightful planning. It is our hope that the remarkable progress that NDU has made in the past twenty seven years will provide a new momentum for yet more important developments in these areas and others in the years to come.

feature

NDU 24th Commencement



Commencement Ceremony



Reverend **BOUTROS TARABAY**
Superior General of the
Maronite Order of the Holy Virgin

Class 2014: Hope for Change

Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) held on July 31, 2014, its 24th Commencement Ceremony at its Main Campus under the auspices of guest of honor and keynote speaker His Beatitude Maronite Patriarch Cardinal Mar Bechara Boutros al-Rahi, Patriarch of Antioch and all the East. Also present were ministers and deputies; diplomatic, military, and religious figures; the Board of the Maronite Order of the Holy Virgin Mary (OMM); the Board of Trustees (BOT); Deans; Faculty; staff; students; parents; and friends.

Following the Lebanese National anthem, Abbot Fr. Boutros Tarabay, Superior General of the OMM, offered a prayer to Our Lady of Louaize.

Mr. Suheil Matar, Vice-President for Cultural Affairs and Public Relations, delivered the welcome address, encouraging the graduating students to make Lebanon the country of their dreams by becoming the leaders of tomorrow. Ms. Melissa Abs, the Valedictorian of Class of 2014, then took the floor, delivered the Valedictory Address, and received the General Khalil Kanaan Prize for Academic Excellence.

For his part, NDU President Fr. Walid Moussa, delivered the Commencement Address in which he said, "...Through the years, we have achieved what other larger and older institutions of higher education have failed to achieve. We have done so by relying on our time-horned principles of excellence and quality assurance on the path toward accreditation. Together, we will achieve multiple successes in the near future. Today, we are on the verge of a major expansion across the board, including the construction of new Faculty buildings and laboratories on the Main Campus and the Barsa and Deir el-Kamar campuses, as well as the construction of a state-of-the-art hospital. I am a firm believer that a university president is only as strong and effective as those who surround him; those who work hard and make sacrifices to ensure that NDU remains a radiating center of higher education in Lebanon. As for our students, may you continue to be a great source of pride, because you are this country's hope for change. Thank you all."

In his address, which mostly focused on the vile wave of persecution and murder of Christians in the Middle East, Israel's ongoing military onslaught on



Mr. SOUHAIL MATAR
VP for Public Affairs and Communications



President Fr. MOUSSA

Gaza, and the pressing national concerns, Patriarch Rahi said, "This year, a total of thirteen thousand students graduated from Lebanese universities. These students need to work, and it is our duty to find them jobs to prevent them from leaving the country... We should face the current political, economic, and social challenges by standing firm against adversity, for we know the causes, and we know that solutions are possible if goodwill exists."

Degrees were conferred on the graduates of Class of 2014 at the end of the ceremony, and Fr. Moussa presented Patriarch Rahi with a beautiful stone sculpture of the Virgin Mary and Child, which was sculpted by Roudy Rahme.

Translated by: Christine Rayess Atallah



Patriarch Cardinal
Mar BECHARA BOUTROS AL-RAHI

outreach

AFNDU, Happy Summer Hour

The American Friends of NDU (AFNDU), Washington D.C. Chapter, hosted on June 19, 2014, a Summer Happy Hour at the Donovan House, a popular restaurant in town. About 30 friends, both old and new, were invited to come together for an early summer gathering, complete with good food and a spirit of fellowship. In attendance were members of the AFNDU Board, including President Chadi Dirani and Vice-President Jennifer Matta, and friends from California, Canada, and of course, D.C. Guests chatted about NDU, summer travel plans to Lebanon, and more. A hot topic of discussion was AFNDU's plans to host a concert later on this year.



NDU Friends at the Donovan House,
Washington D.C.

LERC Honors Three Individuals Contributing to the Building of Japan-Lebanon Relations

The Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) under the patronage of the Japanese Embassy in Lebanon, and in the presence of H.E. the Ambassador of Japan to Lebanon Mr. Seiichi Otsuka, honored in June 2014 Professor Hidemitsu Kuroki from the Research Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa at the Tokyo University of Foreign Affairs, Professor Mary Rose Abdul Jalil-Ishiguro, and Ms. Madeleine Jalil-Umewaka.

Ms. Margot Nasir Abdul Jalil, aunt of the Jalil sisters, and their cousin, Ms. Jacqueline Maamari, accepted the award on their behalf. Both women married Japanese men during the Lebanese war and moved to live in Japan where they became active in the fields of migration, education, public relations, and cultural rights. This honor was in recognition of their efforts in consolidating Japan-Lebanon relations and in establishing academic and cultural exchanges.

Jasmin Lilian Diab, LERC



Dr. ANTOINE FARHAT (VPAA),
Ms. MARGOT ABDUL JALIL,
and Ambassador SEIICHI OTSUKA

Officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Organizations Visit the LERC

Officials from the General Directorate of Emigrants at the Lebanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants, the Kenyan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, and representatives of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), Austria, visited on Monday, April 7, 2014, the Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU).

Jasmin Lilian Diab, LERC



Dr. HOURANI and Dr. TAAN



The delegation visiting the Lebanon and Migration Museum at LERC/NDU along with LERC staff and director

Dunia Fayad Taan Gives the LERC Scholarship Grant for Research

The Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) at Notre-Dame University-Louaize (NDU) recently launched Dr. Dunia Fayad Taan's program on the Lebanese Diaspora in West Africa in the presence of Dr. Taan and her family; Dr. Mohammed Fayad; Dr. Ghazi Asmar, Assistant Vice-President for Research and graduate studies; Dr. Edward Alam, Director of the Council for Research in Values and Philosophy (CRVP); Dr. Guita Hourani, Director of the LERC; and staff members.

Building Stronger Partnerships

The Placement Office, a unit under the Office of Public Affairs and Communications at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU), held from May 20 to 21, 2014, its annual Job Fair on the Main Campus. The Job Fair 2014 took place under the patronage of the Minister of Labor H.E. Mr. Sejaan Azzi. Also present were NDU President Fr. Walid Moussa; NDU Vice-Presidents; NDU Shouf Campus (SC) Director Fr. Francois Akl ; NDU North Lebanon Campus (NLC) Director Fr. Samir Ghsoub; NDU Faculty Deans; NDU faculty members, staff, students, alumni; and representatives from various companies and organizations as well as media representatives.

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

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



(From left) NDU Shouf Campus Director Fr. AKL, President Fr. WALID MOUSSA, Minister of Labor H.E. Mr. SEJAAN AZZI, Placement Officer Ms. LAYAL NEHME MATAR, VP for Public Affairs and Communications Mr. SUHEIL MATAR, NDU North Campus Director Fr. GHSOUB



Job recruitment stands



Minister of Labor H.E. Mr. SEJAAN AZZI



scholarly activities

Current Challenges and Future Insights

Under the patronage of H.E. Minister of Energy and Water Mr. Arthur Nazarian, the Water Energy and Environment Research Center (WEERC) at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU), organized between May 22 and 23, 2014, the "5th Beirut Water Week" conference titled, "Water, Energy, Food and Ecosystems Nexus in the Mediterranean Region: Current Challenges and Future Insights."

Following the Lebanese national anthem, Minister Nazarian took the floor and enumerated the achievements of the ministry, including the elaboration of the 2010 National Water Sector Strategy, a strategy the Council of Ministers approved in 2012.

After welcoming participants, NDU President Fr. Walid Moussa said, "With all your experience and responsibility, we are looking forward to a clear vision, which would serve as a source of inspiration for decision-makers. We, people living in the Mediterranean region and all parts of the world, are relying on your efforts."

For his part, the Vice-President for Cultural Affairs and Public Relations at NDU Mr. Suheil Matar considered the water situation a hot topic, "particularly in this year of drought ... We all agree that eighty percent of annual rainfall in Lebanon is wasted; the responsibility does not only fall squarely on the shoulders of those in power but also on decision-makers, researchers, and professionals, and here lies the responsibility of universities."

WEERC Director Dr. Fadi Comair stated the objectives of the conference based on the directions of the United Nations World Water Day through "defining the critical issues in order to pave the way for the Seventh World Water Forum, which will be held in Korea; these issues have been selected for the Beirut Water Week as follows:

- water, energy, food and ecosystem;
- the relationship at the national and international levels;
- unconventional water resources within the context of integrated water resources;



President Fr. MOUSSA and Mr. NAZARIAN, Minister of Energy and Water

- innovative scientific and technological tools; and

- methodologies in collaboration with Insubria Center on International Security (ICIS) at the University of Insubria (Italy), and the University Center for Development Cooperation in agriculture and environment."

Other interventions included Mrs. Shahda Ksia, President of the Center of Water Studies and Arab Water Security in the Arab League; Mrs. Roula Majdalani, Director of Sustainable Development and Productivity Division and Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia ESCWA; Professor Michael Scoullou, Chairman of Global Water Partnership - Mediterranean (GWP-Med); and H.E. Minister of Water in Palestine, Dr. Shaddad Attili.

At the close of the inaugural session, Fr. Moussa, Minister Nazarian, and Dr. Comair conferred honorary shields to Mr. Mohamad Fawaz, Former Director General of Hydraulic and Electric Equipment, and Mr. Antoine Salameh, Former Head of Service of Studies in Litani River Authority and GIGOME Consultant.

FLUX FAAD, End-of-Year Exhibition

The Faculty of Architecture, Art and Design (FAAD) at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) organized on Friday, June 27, 2014, its 14th annual End-of-Year Exhibition titled, *EYE 14-FLUX*, which puts on display students' senior projects in the disciplines of Architecture, Interior Design, Graphic Design, Multimedia, Fashion Design, Photography, and Musicology. The theme for this year's event was *FLUX*, which symbolizes senior students leaving academic life and joining the labor force to pursue a career in their chosen discipline.

Each End-of-Year Exhibition offers a distinctive program, depending on the number of graduate students and the diversity of projects exhibited. Given that the FAAD is a growing Faculty and the majors it offers are increasing, this year's exhibition was brimming with rich diversity. Months before the event, FAAD Dean Dr. Jean-Pierre el-Asmar appointed a committee composed of selected faculty members from each major in the FAAD with Mrs. Marlyse Chamoun Hamati as its Chairperson.

The media played a key role making this event a resounding success. Mrs. Chamoun was invited to appear on local Lebanese stations, such as *Future TV* and *MTV's* live morning talk shows to promote the event. Mrs. Chamoun used the opportunity to inform millions of viewers of the benefits of studying at NDU,

one of the leading and most modern universities in the country.

The program of events for *EYE 14-FLUX* was divided into two parts and held in two separate locations: Issam Fares Conference Hall and the new FAAD building, Ground Floor.

PART I: Opening Ceremony at Issam Fares Conference Hall. Speakers were Ms. Joceline Issa; Mrs. Chamoun; Dr. El-Asmar; Mr. Suheil Matar, Vice-President for Public Relations and Cultural Affairs; Dr. Antoine Farhat, Vice-President for Academic Affairs; and Mr. Jack Liger Belair, French-Lebanese Architect (Guest Speaker).

Afterward, Musicology students performed classic opera songs and 10 Fashion Design students exhibited 60 outfits in an impressive Fashion Show, followed by Musicology students taking the stage to perform on Flamenco Guitar before Multimedia students screened their sound and visual projects. Part I of the event ended with Musicology students performing a host of pop and international songs.

PART II: Exhibition inauguration, ribbon-cutting ceremony at the new FAAD building, Ground Floor, in the presence of Mr. Belair; Fr. Bechara Khoury, Vice-President for Finance; Dr. Farhat; Mr. Matar; Dr. El-Asmar; Dr. Lola Beyrouthi, Chairperson Musicology Department; Mr. John Kortbawi, Chairperson



(From left) Mrs. KSIA, Dr. COMAIR, Mr. FAWAZ, Mr. NAZARIAN, President Fr. MOUSSA



Mr. JACK LIGER BELAIR

Design Department; Dr. Nicolas Gabriel, Chairperson Architecture Department; Mrs. Chamoun; and all faculty members.

Guests were treated to a walk-around cocktail amid a backdrop of live music performed by the Musicology Department band and students. Photography Department students had their senior project shoots displayed on banners. The photography students also shot models showing off outfits designed by senior Fashion Design students who also put on display their senior projects designs.

Senior Architecture students put on display their projects, which received great feedback from visitors while senior Graphic Design students operated their two stations: One at the entrance of the Faculty where Multimedia senior projects were screened, and the second where print projects were exhibited on banners and tables. Senior Interior Design students were eager to discuss and explain their projects to visitors.

Marlyse Chamoun HAMATI
Chairperson of the FAAD End-of-Year Exhibition EYE 14 - FLUX

Celebrating NDU's Identity!

Under the auspices of His Beatitude Patriarch Mar Bechara Boutros al-Rahi, Patriarch of Antioch and all the East, represented by H.E. Bishop Michel Aoun, Bishop of the Maronite Archdiocese of Byblos, the Marian Studies Center (MSC) at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) inaugurated on May 27, 2014, the first Marian Middle Eastern Conference at Issam Fares Hall.

Present at the event were: the Apostolic Nuncio to Lebanon Gabriel Caccia; the Patriarchal Vicar of the Maronite Diocese of Sarba Bishop Boulos Rouhana; the Syriac Catholic Patriarchal Vicar Bishop Mar Yuhanna Jihad Battah; the Head of the Mariamite Maronite Order Abbot Boutros Tarabay, represented by the General Assistant Father Joseph Abou Aoun; His Eminence Sheikh Abdel Halim Sharara; Sheikh Hani Fahs; as well as a host of priests, monks, nuns, and sheikhs.

NDU President Fr. Walid Moussa delivered a speech in which he shed light on the importance of the role of the Virgin Mary in the Identity and Mission of the Order. He stated that the ascension toward the Virgin Mary occurs through the Order, which bears Her name; "It is the medal we placed the day we laid the cornerstone of this University, which led us to what we are today in terms of progress, growth, and educational and ethical service". Fr. Moussa also hoped to "spread Mary's spirit – Mary who is the symbol of giving, sacrifice, and faith – in the hearts of our students, without exception".

For his part, MSC Director Fr. Abdo Antoun identified the objectives of the Congress, which included introducing Mary to all segments of society and making the other express their opinion based on knowledge and spirituality. Fr. Antoun also gave a historical overview of the Marian congresses held worldwide.



FLUX highlights



MSC Director
Fr. ABDO ANTOUN



Opening ceremony



Street in Beirut Named after Said Akl

Beirut Municipality on July 4, 2014, in collaboration with Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) celebrated naming a street in one of its neighborhoods after Lebanese poet and writer Said Akl, to mark his 103rd birthday. The ceremony at the Sioufi Garden in Ashrafieh unveiled the newly named street and the memorial plaque that read, "Said Akl Street, a century of giving, creativity, and honest nationalism."

A host of literary, political, and religious figures, as well as NDU community members attended the event. NDU President Fr. Walid Moussa, NDU Vice-President for Cultural Affairs and Public Relations Mr. Suheil Matar, Minister of Culture Mr. Raymond Oreiji, and Head of Beirut Municipality Dr. Bilal Hamad were among the speakers.

Media figures, Bassam Barrak and Lina Doghan, recited excerpts from Akl's poems.

Akl, who was unable to attend the ceremony, hoped, in a recorded message, to see Lebanon retain its glory.



SAID AKL, Lebanese poet and writer

For his part, Ambassador Fletcher said that by planting trees "students leave messages to their future grandchildren; these messages reflect their faith in Lebanon and in its beautiful nature, and solidifies their attachment to their homeland no matter how tough the challenges are."

NDU President Fr. Walid Moussa thanked the ambassador for honoring the invitation; he also commended the students' efforts in supporting NDU and Lebanon, and their efforts in working with civil societies and NGOs. He said that this is how "... we build Lebanon. Let each of us shoulder responsibility and act."

Following Fr. Moussa's speech, all participants, including the ambassador, the FNAS Dean, students, and instructors, planted the laurel trees.

Hearts of Joy Plan

Through the Community Service Office (CSO) at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) and in collaboration with the Non-governmental Organization (NGO) SESOBEL, a social service for the welfare of Lebanese children, NDU students visited on June 16, 2014, the Sports Zone in Dbayeh to play, sing, and bond with disabled children. By spreading unconditional love and joy, the CSO volunteers continue to make us proud.

NDU Going from Green to Greener

Under the patronage of the British Ambassador to Lebanon Mr. Tom Fletcher, the Faculty of Natural and Applied Sciences (FNAS) at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) organized an Environmental Day on May 29, 2014, which included the planting of laurel trees in the outer courtyard of the University.

The Dean of the FNAS Dr. George Eid considered this step a blessing since it contributes to "re-building a greener Lebanon."

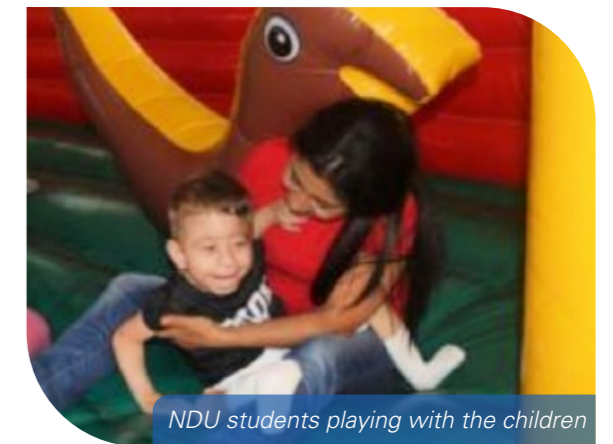
Mr. Pierre Haddad, the President of Save Energy Plant Trees (SEPT), a Non-governmental Organization (NGO), who donated the trees, thanked the ambassador for his presence. Haddad also shed light on the social objectives of the association through its environmental works.



(From left) President Fr. MOUSSA and Ex-Minister of Culture Mr. GABY LAYOUN



H.E. Mr. Tom Fletcher (center) and President Fr. MOUSSA (far right), planting a laurel tree



NDU students playing with the children



Inspire, Connect, Deepen, and Broaden

The Community Service Office (CSO) at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) in collaboration with the Human Rights Club (HRC) launched on June 4, 2014, its 3rd NGO Social Fair, under the patronage and presence of H.E the Minister of Social Affairs Rachid Derbas and in the presence of H.E Minister of Culture Raymond Arayji. The Fair, which brought together 40 NGOs, ran under the slogan: *"Inspire, Connect, Deepen, and Broaden."*

Based on its slogan, the aim of this annual event was to educate and encourage students to cultivate empathy, commitment, awareness, and initiative.

NDU President Fr. Walid Moussa stressed the fact that NDU is not only an academic institution but also an institution that "must teach its students to prioritize the human being, because the human being is ultimately the core of any society... And that is how we start building better societies."

Students, who to date have performed 1,000 hours of community service for this academic year, were honored at the end of the opening ceremony.



Opening ceremony

FNAS New Facilities

The Department of Sciences at the Faculty of Natural and Applied Sciences (FNAS), Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU), recently announced the operation of its new lab facilities designed to support academic demands and research activities. These are:

- Animal House: Comprises three animal rooms, environmentally controlled for light/dark cycle, temperature and humidity, in addition to a common working area dedicated for basic surgical and experimental procedures.

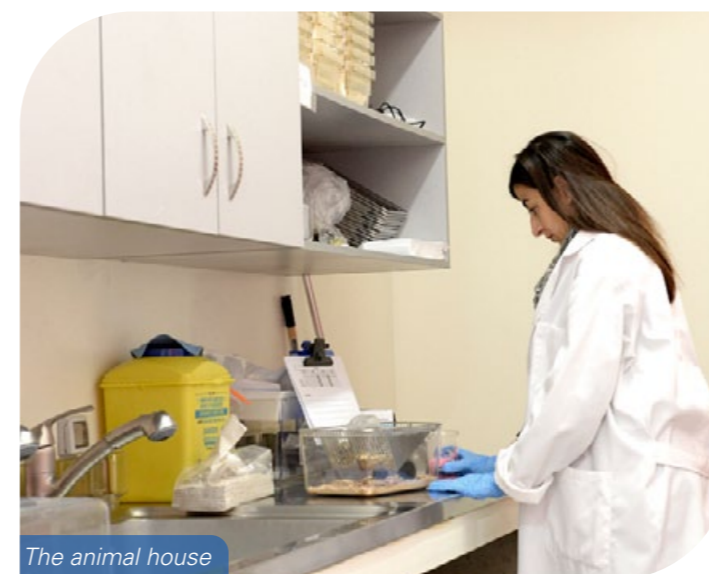
The unit is currently housing C57BL/6 mice, which are being used in a study conducted by two graduate students working towards their MS Biology thesis.

- Green House: Composed of two growing spaces, storage area, propagation table, and a small laboratory. The unit is equipped with automatic irrigation and ventilation systems. Acclimatization and humidity control will be installed at a later stage in order for the greenhouse to be fully operational. Currently, students of General Biology and Plant Physiology are conducting experiments related to seed germination and plant propagation by leaf and stem cuttings.

- Geology Classroom: Houses an array of minerals and fossils, in addition to geological maps, which serve geology courses.

- Analytical Chemistry Unit: A well-equipped unit with the following apparatus, which serve different programs of study (chemistry, biology, and health sciences):

- Atomic Absorption "AA;"
- Gas Chromatography Agilent and Thermo "GC;"
- Gas Chromatography - Mass Spectrometry "GC-MS;"
- High Performance Liquid Chromatography "HPLC;"
- Rancimat;
- Zeta Analyzer;
- Capillary Electrophoresis "CE;"
- Microwave digestion; and
- Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy "FTIR."



The animal house



The green house



“VALEURS, CROYANCES ET PRATIQUES RELIGIEUSES AUPRÈS DE LA JEUNESSE CHRÉTIENNE AU LIBAN”

Rev. Fr. Hanna Tayyar, General Assistant of the Maronite Order of the Holy Virgin, signed on May 13, 2014, at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) his book titled, “Valeurs, croyances et pratiques religieuses

auprès de la jeunesse chrétienne au Liban (Religious Values, Beliefs, and Practices of the Christian Youth in Lebanon.)” Present were a host of political, military, and religious figures, and members of the University community.

Following the Lebanese national anthem, the Superior General of the Maronite Order of the Holy Virgin Abbot Boutros Tarabay commended the work of Fr. Tayyar, saying, “The personal work of Fr. Hanna shows unparalleled ability and determination; his outstanding study should normally be realized by a group of researchers in a center for social studies and not just one man.”

Fr. Tayyar thanked all those who contributed to the publication of his book and to the success of the event. In conclusion, Fr. Tayyar was conferred with an Honorary Shield in the name of NDU.



The Superior General of the Maronite Order of the Holy Virgin Abbot BOUTROS TARABAY



Fr. HANNA TAYYAR signing

A Role Model Visits NDU

The Student Affairs Office (SAO) at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) invited a disabled Lebanese youth, Michael Haddad, to meet with students in an event titled, “Breaking Barriers.” Haddad recently challenged his disability and climbed the famous Lebanese seafront natural wonder, the Raouche Rock (Pigeon’s Rock).

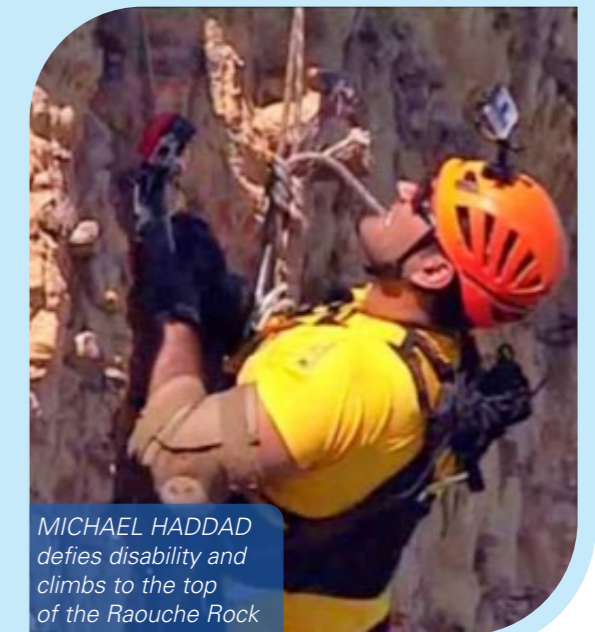
The meeting commenced with a welcome speech by Mr. Majed Bou-Hadir, (Community Service Officer) who described Haddad as exemplary in determination, will, and love for life. Mr. Suheil Matar, Vice-President for Cultural Affairs and Public Relations at NDU, called upon the students to “undertake challenges just as Michael did.”

For his part, the Dean of Student Affairs Dr. Ziad Fahed described Haddad as “a role model for many people living with paralysis. Michael’s here to tell our future generation that they can move mountains ... and they can transform Lebanon from somewhere dark, where many want it to be by draining its energy and frustrating its youth ... today Michael challenged that formula by touching the hearts and minds of the people.”

Haddad spoke about his experience, the route he took to get to the peak despite the many difficulties and obstacles he encountered along the way. He said, “The most difficult thing in life is challenging yourself, but with faith and a strong will, nothing is impossible!”



MICHAEL HADDAD



MICHAEL HADDAD defies disability and climbs to the top of the Raouche Rock



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