

Trip to USA February 1st-17th, 2006

Washington, DC

This trip was long but very fruitful. Visit to the NDU Office – DC: Meeting with the Coordinator of the Office, Ms. Haley Kalil. Fr. W. Moussa, President, determined the plan of action of the Office for the Spring Semester 2006. The plan focuses on the following points:

1. Maintaining services to AFNDU through the three chapters in DC, Detroit and Connecticut.
2. Responding to NDU-Lebanon requests, contacts, appointments, ticket reservations, etc.
3. Continuing to extend the contact list (electronically and for regular mail).
4. Conducting an electronic research to sort out Lebanese-American University professors for LERC archives and research purposes.
5. Finding ways for facilitating the sorting out and shipping to Beirut of book donations received from universities.
6. Initiating contacts with other universities, institutions of research, and government offices in order to introduce NDU and set appointments for up-coming visits made by the President or Vice Presidents.

Meeting with Ambassador Cynthia P. Schneider: Dr. Schneider was the US Ambassador to the Netherlands, and is now a Distinguished Professor of Diplomacy at Georgetown University. She is recommended to become a member of the Board of Trustees of NDU. Moreover, she is a Board member of the Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington DC; the Council of American Ambassadors; the Institute of Cultural Diplomacy, Berlin; and the Institute for the Study of Europe, Columbia University.

Dr. Schneider raised funds to support projects in life sciences and cultural diplomacy, from the Pfizer Grant, Rockefeller Foundation Grant, and Georgetown University Reflective Engagement Grant. She is fluent in French and knows Dutch, Italian and some German. Discussions covered relations between different cultures, particularly East and West, and specifically the United States and the Arab World. Dr. Schneider expressed her wish to visit the NDU campus in Lebanon during her visit to Beirut, Feb. 14-16. Arrangements were made for Dr. Schneider to be welcomed at the Zouk Campus.

Both parties will maintain contacts for further discus-

sions and cooperation.



Members of Washington, DC Chapter Fr. walid and Dr. Rihani

A full schedule of plenary sessions took place. The following are samples of the presentations that focused on the common theme of Recruitment and Continuing Formation of Faculty:

Recruitment, Goals and Expectations

Recruitment: Rev. J. Bryan Hehir, former Head of Harvard Divinity School, stated that "we live at the edge of the Church and we are asked to be in the heart of the community."

Religion and public life: Morality, discipline, laws, rules and regulations, globalization, pluralism, moral philosophy, social justice.

Inviting people to vision, to a way of seeing things and to a way of thinking.

Inviting people to tradition with structure and content. Tradition involves time and space. Tradition needs on-going development.

Inviting people to constitution. How do we define who we are? How do we determine our role?

Great teaching cannot happen without a shadow dream built on intellect and faith.

Naming, bearing, and dealing justly. This is what we are asked to do.

Faculty Rights and Responsibilities:

Faculty Professionalism and the Catholic Mission

By Neil Hamilton, Professor of Law and Director of the Center for Ethical Leadership in the Professions, University of Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Professionalism means

1. Each professor agrees to live up to the ethics of duty – the minimum standards of competence and ethical conduct set by the university and peers within the discipline (including attending to his or her institution's stated mission);

2. Each professor should strive, throughout his/her career, to realize the ethics of aspiration – the ideals and core values of the academic profession and the professor's institution, including internalizing the highest standards for professional skills;

3. Each professor agrees to act as a fiduciary for whom his or her self-interest is out-weighted by devotion to serving both the students through teaching and the advancement of knowledge through scholarship;

4. Each professor should, throughout his/her career, grow in personal conscience in carrying out the duties of the profession including the capacity for both self-scrutiny and moral dialogue with colleagues, students, administrators and the board.

Recruitment and continuing formation of faculty

By Carol A. Mooney, President, St. Mary's College (IN)

What makes a university Catholic?

1. A Christian inspiration

2. A continuing contribution of the human faith in our heritage

3. A commitment to the Faith

4. A moral contribution

Recruitment Strategy:

1. Recruiting for a specific mission should mean achieving personal growth within the framework of that mission.

2. Reviewing the mission should allow others to share one's ideas and opinions.

3. The mentors are the ones to articulate the mission of the University.

4. Faith-based workshops should discuss Catholicism and ecumenical values. These workshops could be designed and conducted for faculty members, students, staff and administrators.

Meeting with AFNDU, Washington DC:

The agenda of the meeting included observations by Fr. Moussa, Dr. A Rihani, and Mr. Ramzi Rihani, President of AFNDU-DC.

Fr. Moussa summarized his vision and plan of action for his new term as President of the University. The headings of his plan included the following: hiring professionals for the top administrative level in order to ensure curriculum development and faculty development as pre-requisites for starting the accreditation process. He also emphasized the question of supporting relationships with universities in America and with Lebanese-American communities. At this particular meeting Fr. Moussa launched his new motto: **Friend-raising before Fund-raising.**

Friend-raising before Fund-raising.

Dr. Rihani highlighted the role of NDU at a time when increased attention is given in the US to the Middle East and particularly to Lebanon.

Mr. Ramzi Rihani confirmed the coming event on May 5, 06. The piano concert is planned to attract about 400 people before whom the video of NDU will be projected, and university publications will be distributed. A dinner reception will follow the event. It will be another opportunity to promote the mission of NDU and the programs offered on campus.

While in Washington, DC, Fr. Moussa received from Mr. Sarmad Rihani, President of the Order of Engineers in the District of Columbia, a letter announc-

ing his commitment for a personal scholarship to be offered every year for a distinguished Junior or Senior student in Civil Engineering. This scholarship covers between \$2500 and \$3000 of the student's tuition.

Detroit

Meeting with AFNDU - Detroit Chapter, Michigan

Dr. Nabil Chalhoub, President of AFNDU, gave a Power Point presentation on the mission statement for AFNDU, Michigan; short-term goals (next 12 months); and long-term goals (Appendix IV). This presentation was followed by observations from Fr. Moussa and Dr. Rihani. Fr. Moussa highlighted the plan for major changes in the academic administration as a substantial way to develop the human resources at NDU, and the plan to have direct contacts with Lebanese-Americans in the US. Fr. Moussa explained to the members his new motto: **Friend-raising before Fund-raising.** NDU needs to establish a positive and active audience in the US. Dr. Rihani focused on the role of NDU to provide the opportunity for the rising generations of Lebanese-Americans to join the University in Lebanon and live the Lebanese experience. Discussions followed with suggestions on how to reinforce the links between NDU and the US at different levels covering communities and universities.

St. Louis, MO

Fr. Moussa and Dr. Rihani paid a visit to the Mayor of St. Louis, Mr. Francis G. Slay, who is of Lebanese descent; they were accompanied by Mr. George Slay and Fr. André Mehanna. Then a visit to Bishop Shaheen took place in the company of Fr. L. Biondi, President of SLU, and Msgr. Fawzi Elia.

In the afternoon, a visit to St. Louis University (SLU) started with a tour around the campus with the President of SLU. The tour was followed by a meeting with the President, the Provost, and Deans of Schools.



Group of administrators from St. Louis University

Meeting with President and Deans of SLU:

President Lawrence Biondi introduced the SLU with its main programs. Fr. Moussa briefed the President and

Deans with NDU history and programs, including the growth and future plans of the University. Questions and answers followed the presentation pertaining to tuition, scholarships, student aids, and grants.

Then each of the present Deans at SLU gave a briefing on his/her Faculty including Schools of Business, Aviation, and Arts and Sciences, and graduate programs. At the end of the meeting, a presentation of the Graduate School was given by the Associate Dean of the School.

President Biondi confirmed that SLU is interested in cooperation with NDU. This is to be followed up by both sides through correspondence until the coming visit of Fr. Biondi to NDU next July.

In the evening, Fr. Moussa and Dr. Rihani attended a Mass at the Eparchy in celebration of St. Maroun's Day.

Los Angeles

The morning session was for new presidents of the universities to brief them about ACE and current issues confronting higher education leaders in the United States and overseas.

Then Fr. Moussa and Dr. Rihani went to Our Lady of Lebanon in Beverly Hills to attend the Mass celebrated by Bishop Shaheen and Bishop Shedid for St. Maroun's Day. After the Mass, Mr. Marcel Ghanem of LBCI was honored and his achievements recognized by a trophy presented by Lebanese-Americans of L.A. This was followed by a banquet at the Wilshire Grand Hotel in L.A., attended by over 700 people of Lebanese origin with the two Bishops, the Mayor of LA, Msgr. Elia, and other dignitaries. The organizers welcomed distinguished guests including Fr. Moussa, NDU President. Mr. Anthony Vincent Zehini, a distinguished American of Lebanese origin, was honored in turn at the banquet ceremony.

The plenary session of the ACE Conference was about public awareness concerning the importance of higher education and solutions for the future. Among the speakers were Dr. Nancy Cantor, President of Syracuse University; Dr. William Kirwan, President of Maryland University; Dr. M. Lee Pelton, President of Willamette University; and Dr. David Ward, President of ACE. It was highlighted that the national campaign is designed to demonstrate how American universities serve the public, with a focus on the major role of the university being "to prepare the people who solve the problems and teach the people who change the world."

Sessions were designed to discuss issues on envisioning the future, reform and change in higher education, leadership and diversity, strategic alliances and partnerships, lessons learned from a lifetime of leadership, etc...

Another plenary session hosted the Honorable Mark Warner, the former Governor of Virginia. His talk focused on the need for wider public and government

awareness on the crucial role of higher education in using a common language between communities, and peoples around the world and across Tom Freedman's "flat world" of today.

Round-table discussions dealt with subjects regarding higher education in the Intelligent Design debate, new communications technology on campus, and rethinking the role of the chief diversity officer.

Supporters of intelligent design believe that living organisms are so complex that they could not be attributed to Darwin's theory of evolution, but must have been designed by a "superior intelligence". This is bringing the theory of creation into high schools and universities. Practically it is a hot debate involving Philosophy, Theology and Science.

In parallel, new technologies are transforming the way institutions do business and educate students. This discussion looks into the best ways to promote the effective use of communications technology solutions.

At the same time, universities today find themselves under pressure to focus on diversity. It is crucial nowadays for the university to commit itself seriously to the level and visibility of diversity on campus.

The final plenary session had Mr. David Brooks, the education columnist of the New York Times, to speak about education and American politics. Mr. Brooks believes that the American society has witnessed tremendous developments over the last three decades at the cultural, economic and structural levels. However, the segmentation of society geographically, financially and intellectually creates basic challenges for higher education in America. He thinks that what Academia calls "the basic knowledge" is but the "superficial" intellectual step to find the proper solutions for today's political and social problems. For that purpose, globalization cannot mean just the export of intellectual products; it should mean the export/import of intellectual and human cultural products from one nation to the other around the globe. We should look to the good not only in our own society but also in the society of other nations.

Boston

Two meetings took place consecutively at Boston College (BC) with Dr. Bert Garza, VP/AA, and Fr. William Leahy, President. At both meetings, discussions focused on possible ways of cooperation between NDU and BC. The areas of interest were student and faculty exchange, research cooperation and Ph.D. programs. It was suggested that, due to the present situation in the Middle East, it may be difficult, at present, to think of a possible safe human resource exchange program. However, the two areas of research cooperation and launching a Ph.D. program at NDU needed further discussion. President Leahy will discuss these two possibilities with Dr. Garza, and a correspondence will follow in order to study the

details of these two possibilities.

The meeting with the potential friends of NDU took place at the residence of Msgr. Joseph Lahoud, of Our Lady of the Cedars of Lebanon in Boston.

Fr. Moussa presented the members with his new vision for NDU focusing on the need for change by introducing to the upper administration professionals with experience in accreditation procedures and so able to cope with international standards of academic achievement.



Members of Boston Chapter, Dr. Rihani and Fr. Walid

Dr. Rihani briefed the members on the meetings that took place with AFNDU in Washington, DC and in Detroit, Michigan.

The members commended NDU for its significant steps forward for developing its relations with universities in the USA and other institutions of higher education. Email addresses were collected from members for them to be sent to the NDU e-Chronicle regularly.

New York

Meeting with Bishop Gregory Mansour in New York:

Fr. W. Moussa exclaimed his plan to build contacts with the church communities of Lebanese-Americans in order to invite them to consider NDU as another option for their children to pursue their undergraduate studies in Lebanon. Also, Fr. Moussa briefed Bishop Mansour on the major steps taken during this trip to the States, emphasizing the motto: **Friend-raising before Fund-raising.**

Dr. Rihani highlighted the idea that with the support of the Church in America, NDU can play a major role in welcoming second- and third-generation Lebanese-Americans for them to discover their roots and understand their heritage while pursuing their studies at the undergraduate level.

Bishop Mansour was very supportive of the role NDU is playing in the United States specifically with the Lebanese-American communities. He expressed his desire to continue this support by all the necessary means, particularly in encouraging young Americans

of Lebanese descent to spend one or two semesters at NDU to study and become familiar with the Lebanese culture and spiritual heritage.

Bishop Mansour accompanied the NDU officials for the meeting with the President of St. Francis College in Brooklyn, New York, Dr. Frank J. Macchiarola, and other administrators in the College including the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Dr. Timothy J. Houlihan. Fr. Moussa introduced NDU as the only Catholic University in the Middle East adopting the American system, and highlighted the expansion of NDU contacts and activities in the US. He focused on the growing role of NDU in the US and the growing interest in NDU as expressed by presidents of Catholic universities as well as leaders of Lebanese Americans.

Dr. Macchiarola made it clear that St. Francis College is interested in starting an exchange program for students and faculty members with NDU. Details are to be discussed further between Dr. Rihani, VP/SRD at NDU, and Dr. T. Houlihan, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at St. Francis.

Gibran: A Lebanese Emigrant and Man of peace

Notre Dame University, Lebanon, celebrated the 123rd Anniversary of the birth of Gibran Kahlil Gibran with an evening of poetry and music dedicated to world peace. The event was organized by the Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) in cooperation with the NDU Choir conducted by Father Khalil Rahme. The evening brought together a number of cultural, social and media figures, who included MP Shamel Mouzaya, the Ambassador of Paraguay in Lebanon Alejandro Hamed Franco, the Second Secretary at the American Embassy in Lebanon Mr. George Faraj, Head of Media and Cultural Affairs at the American Embassy Ms. Juliet Wurr, V.P. of Sponsored Research and Development at NDU Dr. Ameen A. Rihani, and Director of Public Relations Mr. Suheil Matar.



Group
of
Audience



Ms. Guita Hourani and NDU choir

The evening included readings in eight different languages from Gibran's works, as well as performances by the NDU Choir and soloist Grace Moudawwar.

The event opened with a welcome speech by the Associate Director of LERC, Ms. Guita Hourani, in which she declared, "You may have wondered why we have written '102 years' since the birth of Gibran on this evening's invitations although his physical birth was 123 years ago. It was in fact to emphasize Gibran's true birth to the world, the year of 1904, the year he revealed his genius to humanity through the paintings of his first exhibition in Boston. It is also 102 years since he encountered the woman who was to be influential in his writing career. Many of us have been influenced by a person or persons who might have passed briefly or lastingly in our lives, but few of us have been marked by meeting a special person the same way that Gibran was by encountering Mary Haskell, an encounter that is still as mysterious to us as it was to both of them."

She then added, "Tonight, there will be no words of introduction, just silence in the presence of Gibran the Mystic; tonight we only let our spirits float towards our yearning to peace, to beauty, to love, to God."

Conducted by Father Khalil Rahme, the Choir of NDU opened the evening with Speak to Us of Prayer, prose from the Prophet put to music by Father Elie Keserwani. Then the readings from Gibran's works began with The Day of my Birth read by Ms. Jacky Karam, who also read 'Beauty', from The Prophet, in French, and Amanda Kaddissi, a student at NDU, read 'My Friend' from the Madman in Portuguese. As for 'Giving' from The Prophet, it was read in Russian by Gregory Kessle, Syriac instructor at the Moscow

Theological Academy. Finally, Dr. Issam Hourani, professor at NDU, recited 'A Man from Lebanon', from Jesus the Son of Man, in Arabic. The event ended with NDU Choir chanting the second part of Gibran's masterpiece 'Love'.

New Associate Research Joins LERC

Dr. Peter F. Adebayo has recently joined the LERC's pool as Associate Researcher for the academic year 2005-2006. He is a Senior Lecturer in International History and Diaspora Studies at the University of Ilorin, Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria. Dr. Adebayo's Ph.D. dissertation was on the Lebanese in Nigeria: The Lebanese and the Economy of Lagos, 1890-1980. Dr. Adebayo was a 2003 Fulbright Scholar at the New York University's prestigious Multinational Institute Of American Studies (MIAS). Dr. Adebayo has recently won the Advanced Research Fellowship Program Award from the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRI). During his association with LERC, Dr Adebayo will conduct research on Lebanese migrants who have returned from Nigeria to two villages, Miziara in the North and Jouayya in the South. He will concentrate

on family and village transnational networking. He will equally prepare an annotated bibliography on the Lebanese emigration to Nigeria. Furthermore, he will assist LERC in establishing academic relations with the University of Illorin and community relations with the Lebanese-Nigerian diaspora.

Santa Maria University, Brazil, and NDU Cooperation Agreement

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed on 25th January, 2006, by **Rev. Fr. Walid Moussa**, representing the Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) of Notre Dame University, Lebanon, and **Dr. Paulo Jorge Sarkis**, representing the Nucleo de Estudos Libaneses (NEL) of Universidade Federal de Santa Maria, Brazil (UFSM).

The aim of the agreement is to promote studies in the field of Lebanese emigration, with consideration for migration networks, cultural identity, migration and development, migration and trade, migration and citizenship, and migration and human rights. It was agreed that English should be used as the working language. The two Parties have agreed to promote and provide for the exchange of scholars, for cooperation in research and scholarly publication, and for the exchange of information, data and documents. There are clauses covering such questions as funding, equipment, material, office space and the salaries, accommodation and various expenses of visiting scholars. The two Parties are to keep each other informed about forthcoming conferences, seminars and activities of common interest.

There are to be two kinds of visiting scholars. There will be those who wish to develop their own research agendas and there will be those who wish to contribute to the research programme of either or both Parties on a half-time or full-time basis.

It will be seen from the present and earlier issues that, more and more, LERC is playing a major role in a field that is now of vital concern worldwide.

The Sarmad Rihani Scholarship for Civil Engineering Students of NDU

Mr. Sarmad Rihani, President of the Engineering Order in Washington DC, has decided to make available to NDU's Civil Engineering students an annual scholarship that will be awarded to the best performing student in the Department.

Mr. Rihani, in his letter to the President of NDU, Fr. Walid Moussa, expressed his wish that "this perpetual scholarship will be a merit-based award, granted to a Senior or Junior structural engineering student". The award will be in the range of \$2,000-2,500 annually, starting 2006/2007 academic year.

In his letter to President Moussa, Mr. Rihani explains the rationale of his decision by the following:

"Over the past eight years, I have been following the big strides that NDU has taken and I continue to be impressed by its achievements. Today, the university is considered to be the only one of its kind in the entire Middle East that is a Catholic Maronite university following the American educational system. The various cooperation agreements recently executed between NDU and numerous reputable American universities are impressive and a vital ingredient for future growth. This is a catalyst that will raise the academic standards and research capabilities of NDU. As a Lebanese American, I am proud that we have in Lebanon a university of such an educational standard, stature, and reputation".

After discussions with Dr. Shehwan Khoury, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, and upon the approval of Mr. Rihani, it has been decided to offer this scholarship to the Civil Engineering students earning the highest GPA at the end of the Junior year. This scholarship will be paid for his/her tuition fee for the Senior class.

Paranoia, Conspiracy: Culture and art

On December 9, 2005, Professor Sam Coale of Wheaton College, Rhode Island, U.S.A., was hosted by Notre Dame University in the context of a joint cultural effort with the Embassy of the United States of America in Lebanon. Professor Coale presented a lecture titled "Paradigms of Paranoia: The Culture of Conspiracy in Contemporary American Fiction", the title of his most recent publication (2005).

Basing his arguments on the works of four contemporary American authors, Joan Didion, Don DeLillo, Thomas Pynchon and Toni Morrison, Coale analyzed the "ways in which contemporary American writers fictionalize" what he calls "the culture of conspiracy." This resounding word, charged with all the expectations and apprehensions of political, religious, scientific, economic, and a dozen other sources of conspiracy phobias, soon "mellows" into a transformation of cultural and intellectual trends "into fiction and fable." This transformation is at the heart of what is called "the critical theory" where "reality and the self become provisional, contingent, and uncertain. . . This realm of aggravated doubt and corrosive skepticism clashes with a deeper yearning for unity and wholeness." It is this tension, manifest in the deconstructive manipulations of contemporary writers of life and art, that keeps us tied to a loose string, in art and life. And Sam Coale toyed with this string at will.

Boulos A. Sarru', Ph D
Dean of Humanities, NDU

Professor Samuel Coale, from Wheaton college, Rhode Island, lectures at NDU

To speak of conspiracy in the Arab world is not the new theme to fret about; it is a built-in cliché that has been with us since time in memorial. Generations after generations have been weaned on the assumption that there is always a conspiracy of sorts against them aimed at depriving them of their freedom, their sustenance, and their heritage. The alleged source of this conspiracy has always been, and is still with



Professor Samuel Coale at the lecture

varying degrees of interchangeability, the West in its European and American manifestations and their regional metamorphoses whether in Israel or in a defective Arab state.

And we have come to believe the cliché and to live it as part and parcel of our intellectual, social, economic, and national existence. Our regimes have so successfully ingrained the conspiracy theory in our minds that we have become oblivious to the thousand real conspiracies that are woven against us by the same existing regimes. We have become paranoid, chased by the phantoms of intelligence agents who do not pride themselves for any affinity with their eponym. They live with us in the school and university, in our shops, in the streets, on buses, and, with the "dangerous" among us, in bedrooms and bathrooms. The irony of the matter is that the United States of America, allegedly the "greatest devil" and the mastermind of all conspiracies since World War II, is herself waging a "relentless" war against conspiracies schemed against her by the "axis of evil." And under the auspices of this war the "people" are being gradually driven into giving up their nominal securities and rights for the greater cause of ridding themselves of the devil sleazily lurking in their backyards. Interestingly enough, such a paranoia is one of the indigenous characteristics of American thought. American paranoia is manifest linearly from the fear of the Indian with the early settlers, the fear of the devil from the select Puritans to the present (the creation of the Loyalist Enemy, 1774-84, the Shaker Threat 1780-1860), the war of independence and the anagramatization of England into the evil one, the Civil War, the fear of the Soviet Block and the rise of McCarthyism, atomic anxiety, ufology, apocalypse, and fear of terrorism as illustrated Floyd Salsa's State of Emergency (1996), which culminates presently in the hot pursuit

after Ben Laden.

This paranoia is, first and foremost, a frame of mind that dictates modes of behavior and expression. And if this paranoia, resulting from the permanent expectation of an impending conspiracy, wears oftentimes biblical and patriotic garments, it also garbs itself in the habits of the tattered soul and the confused mind. The paranoid soul is lonely, isolated, agitated, aggressive, apprehensive, hypersensitive, insecure, morbid, escapist, skeptical, and critical, to mention only a few of its manifestations. These manifestations reflect also a mind occupied with the fears infesting its attempt to comprehend itself and the world it reflects upon and projects into. It is a state of angst that seeks to define itself to get rid of itself on the premise that the best cure for paranoia is to come to grips with it. It is an anxiety of the modern age laced with futurephobia. This torturous ritualistic wedding of fear and freedom is a major marking feature of contemporary American literature in experience and expression of the mental state of paranoia breeding the culture of conspiracy, the topic of our distinguished guest speaker

Admissions in Action!

It has been an extremely hectic period for the Admissions Office. This is the peak season for school visits, campus tours and orientation. There has been a continuous stream of forums and student recruitment at all three campuses of Notre Dame University. What was even more significant this year was the series of school forums that were organized by the Association of Directors of Admissions and Orientation. These were in the Shouf, Saida, Zahle, Akkar and Zghorta. Many of the schools in the suburban areas participated and the results were rewarding. Moreover, more than 12,000 Admissions Guides were distributed personally to students in remote public and private schools through Right Services.

Managing prospective students has always been a challenge, but today it is even more complex. Both students and parents have high expectations and competition is heavy. It is very difficult to be effective without the right tools. The Admissions Office has created those suitable tools to enhance the process of recruitment.

International recruitment is also ongoing. The Admissions Office regularly receives international student applications. The Gulf Recruitment Tour for 2005-2006 was once again very successful. The Associa-

tion of Directors of Admissions and Orientation was responsible for all preparations and organization of the tour. The Universities that participated were NDU, LAU, AUB, USEK, USJ, UPA, UOB and MEU. Contacts with the schools and all academic personnel started as early as April 2005. The response and attendance were very significant. We visited Abu Dhabi and Dubai in UAE; Manama in Bahrain; Amman in Jordan and Kuwait City. We also had students come from Al Khobar, KSA, to visit us in Bahrain.

There was effective contact with the Lebanese Embassy in every country and meetings with the Ambassador and the Cultural Attaché, and NDU material was left on site. Very confidently, we can say that we have established excellent rapport with all schools abroad; Notre Dame University is now well-known as a prominent academic institution of higher education; and most importantly NDU is sought out.



Ms. E.Hachem in Amman, Jordan

The Director of Admissions met with the President of the University of Jordan and the Director of the Office of International Relations and Programs. The discussions were very productive and participants were enthusiastic about establishing a joint program and initiating research projects, since we have much in common. The University of Jordan was established in 1962. It has a range of 8,304 courses offered by 18 faculties. It houses 32,322 students pursuing both undergraduate and graduate programs – 26 doctoral and 68 Masters with 193 international programs.

The Hariri Fair was another successful educational event. There were about 12,000 students from both private and public schools that attended the Fair and visited the NDU stand to get information.

I would like to take this opportunity to announce the launching of the School of Nursing. The Admissions Office will be accepting applications during the months of May and July for prospective students for the Fall 2006-2007

For Fall 2005-2006, the Admissions Office received 1638 applications, of which 1445 were accepted and the total new student enrollment was 1183.

It continues to be a team effort and I want to salute

the contributions of the Admissions Office staff who unfailingly display commitment to NDU.

I would also like to take this opportunity to wish the NDU family a very Happy Easter. May the resurrection of Our Lord Jesus be the inspiration for peace and goodwill in Lebanon.

Our Lady of Louaize bless you.

"Education should consist of a series of enchantments, each raising the individual to a higher level of awareness, understanding, and kinship with all living things." (Author Unknown)

"Whatever is good to know is difficult to learn." (Greek Proverb)

Dr. Elham Hasham
Director of Admissions

International Association of Universities (IAU) met in Alexandria in 2005

What can Higher Education institutions and associations do to maximize the benefits and limit the risks of expanding cross-border higher education? This was the focus of both the Global meeting of Associations and the IAU International conference, two major events organized by the International Association of Universities (IAU) and hosted in Alexandria, Egypt by the Bibliotheca Alexandrina and the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport (AASTMT) in November 2005. The first Global Meeting of Associations gathered leaders and representatives from more than 30 countries around the world, and the International Conference gathered more than hundred leaders of higher education from over 50 countries worldwide.

NDU President, Reverend Father Walid Moussa, represented NDU together with its Public Relations Office. He participated actively in several meetings which led to a set of recommendations that could help both institutions and associations to orient their actions. Tasks identified included the following:

1. raising awareness, and promoting dialogue over the issues (circulating the declaration and the OECD/ UNESCO Guidelines, highlighting the need for, and the development of, quality-enhancement measures

at institutional and national level;

2. promoting national and international dialogue on HE as a public and common good, advocating citizen support for higher education and public investment;
3. joining IAU and stand ready to share with other national and regional associations innovative practices and projects in this area.

N.B.: NDU is a member of IAU and currently on the Administrative Board

IAU is a membership organization, founded in 1950 under the aegis of UNESCO, as a Non-Governmental Organization. The Permanent Secretariat of the Association is based in Paris, France.

As of September 30, 2005, IAU had a total of 645 members, of which

620 were member Institutions from 121 countries worldwide;

25 were member Organizations, including 10 international organizations and 15 national organizations.

WEERC-UNESCO Workshop

On Wednesday, 8th March, 2006, the Water, Energy and Environment Research Center of NDU (WEERC) and the Beirut UNESCO office held at the Old Campus a workshop on Hydro-Diplomacy in the Middle East: Lessons learned Orontes, Naher Al-Kabir and Hasbani Wazani Watercourse.

The objective of this highly technical workshop was to present the "lessons learned" from negotiation patterns and to contribute in-

1. Improving transboundary watercourse awareness for a targeted audience, stakeholders and negotiators.
2. Identifying the advantages associated with realistic and operational transboundary agreements.
3. Highlighting the criteria that would be necessary for establishing the basis of a fruitful cooperative process between riparian countries based on the UN Convention.

The participants would improve their ability and skills in the management of transboundary waters and so positively impact on their national institutions. This would help lay the grounds for a communication process towards the implementation of "A Water Culture Network" in the Middle East.

Proceedings opened with a speech by **Dr. Fadi Comair** in which he addressed Rev. **Fr. Walid Moussa**, NDU President, **Mr. Gier Pederson**, Personal Representative of the UN Secretary General for Lebanon, Mr. Ramzi Salameh, Director General of the UNESCO

Regional Office represented by Mr. George Awad, and distinguished guests from all educational fields, scientists, lawyers, diplomats, engineers and experts in Hydro-diplomacy.



Opening session

Dr. Comair said that the only option open to the nations of the region was to deal with water as a rare resource in a cooperative way, based on technical, economic and social criteria for resources, availability and present and future needs, within an integrated and equitable water management context.

The UN Report entitled *Water for Life, Water for People*, 2003, had listed 263 international transboundary basins. Apart from their significance in terms of area and conflict potential, these basins covered 45% of the land surface of the earth, affected 40% of the world's population, accounted for approximately 80% of the global river flow, and crossed the political boundaries of 145 nations.

The international community had reinforced its commitments to satisfy the water quality and quantity requirements of the global population and its environment and had identified attendant tasks, policy measures and legal principles need to fulfil its pledge. (Rio Conference 1996).

Three transboundary watercourses involved Lebanese territory and the number of countries sharing the Orontes, Nahr El Kabir and Jordan River basin highlighted the precarious setting of any simple and non-equitable mechanisms for sharing water. An example of negotiation had tended to the ratification of two treaties based on equitable, sustainable and integrated management of the Orontes and Nahr El Kabir rivers in conformity with the UN Convention on Non-Navigational use of International Watercourses (1997).

It had tended to the statu quo concerning the 2003 negotiation procedure between Lebanon and Israel for the Hasbani watercourse and the Wazani spring through the UN, EU and USA. Unfortunately, these negotiations had been very complex and proposals for Hasbani-Wazani water management and usage had been applied only by Lebanon, on the basis of

the Rio and 1997 UN Conventions.

Dr. Comair explained that two sessions had been tailored for the present workshop. The first was to present the technical and legal vision from the hydrology aspect, the water quality aspect, and the aspect of the legal context. The second was to lay the groundwork for the development aspect of international transboundary watercourses in the Middle East.

Speaking on behalf of Dr. Ramzi Salameh, **Mr. George Awad**, UNESCO Communication and Information Officer, said that for its Natural Sciences sector UNESCO had chosen water and its ecological support systems as a principal component of its medium-term strategy. This choice reflected the widely-held view that freshwater resources and their integrated management were one of the most critical environment and development issues of the coming decades. Water was now recognised as being the basis for a healthy ecosystem for sustainable development as well as for human survival itself. Yet too often, and in too many places, water was wasted, tainted and taken for granted. All over the world, pollution, over-consumption and poor water management were reducing both the quantity and quality of water. In addition, overall demand for water had already far outpaced population growth, and water crises and scarcities might at some point lead to armed conflict.

However, this did not need to be the case. It was UNESCO's belief that water could also be an agent of peace and a catalyst for cooperation among people and nations. This was where water management played an essential role. By developing principles and methods for managing water efficiently and ethically, it was possible to move a step closer to the goal of sustainable development. Through a people-centered and policy-oriented focus, UNESCO was committed to the targets set by the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the Millennium Development goals, particularly for improving knowledge of ways to ensure sustainable access to improved urban and rural water resources and raising awareness about the target of increasing the proportion of people with sustainable access to safe drinking water and sanitation. So UNESCO had joined forces with Green Cross International to launch the project From Potential Conflict to Co-operation Potential.

Finally, UNESCO valued and appreciated the efforts of the Water, Energy and Environment Research Center of Notre Dame University, and the Center and in particular Dr. Fadi Comair were to be thanked for organizing and hosting the present event.

For his part, Mr. Geir Pedersen said that he understood that those gathered before him were people who indeed had experience in handling water crises in Lebanon and he thanked UNESCO and NDU for inviting him. He knew that there had already been cooperation between the two and he looked forward to this being strengthened. He had been in the Middle

East before and knew how Lebanon was blessed with the quantity of its water. In the coming years, this important natural resource could become a reason for war or for peace, for destruction or for calm, for separation or for reconciliation. Whatever diplomatic efforts and institutional arrangements were made, the need for water would remain, as people would not stop drinking, irrigating their fields or developing their industry. The complexity of the region could not allow, simple, immediate and unplanned solutions, as these could cause unforeseeable and uncontrolled reactions capable of affecting the whole Middle Eastern region.

It was then the turn of Rev. Fr. Walid Moussa, NDU President, to welcome the assembly.

Speech of Father Walid Moussa, President of NDU

Your Excellency Mr. Pedersen, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

With great pleasure I welcome all of you today participating in this seminar dealing with *Hydro-Diplomacy in the Middle East: Lessons Learned Orontes – Naher Al Kabir and Hasbani Watercourse*.

"In the beginning, when God created heaven and earth, the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters" (Genesis 1). Reading the first story of the creation of the world, we meet God making the firmament and dividing the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament, and this firmament was called Heaven. Then, we find God gathering the waters under heaven and making the dry land appear, and this dry land was called Earth.

These words from the Holy Book affirm that water was at the origin of all creation, and refer to us the importance of water in the formation of the universe.

Where there is water there is always life. Indeed, life is impossible without water.

Since the beginning of time, water has been an essential resource for peoples' development. Many human, economic, social and cultural activities, throughout history, have made use of this wealth in various quantities and qualities, and have contributed to the development of hydraulic systems. The degree of complexity of such systems has undergone change from one civilization to the other.

Nowadays, world events constantly remind us that water is a resource inappropriately used and not always well managed. Water as a vital resource is a real and continual challenge to all of us, users, researchers, decision-makers and leaders of this world. Moreover, it is a crucial subject and needs to be managed in an equitable cooperative manner in order to preserve the basic human rights of the global population.



Group of audience

We at Notre Dame University are aware of this responsibility and hold ourselves accountable in this regard. This belief, in fact, led us to establish this Research Center and it is directing us to make the appropriate endeavors for the optimization of water usage and the development of our society.

The UN has an important role in providing orientation to the specific management of each application of water, for it to be efficient and well-balanced in order to secure development and sustainability.

On this occasion, we would like to thank UNESCO for its support in launching active cooperation on Transboundary Rivers in Lebanon for the sake of future peace.

This effort is based on-

1. Suitable scientific, technical and technological resources;
2. Economic and financial instruments which are perfectly adapted to a market environment;
3. Legal and institutional tools which are suitable – in particular from a social and cultural point of view – for the management of water, which requires greater collective awareness, solidarity and cooperation at all levels and on all sides.

As a matter of fact, sustainable development is a powerful concept within which we can rationalize the notion of water management for the benefit of one and all.

In the name of NDU, I would like to thank you all for your participation at this event, and I would like to acknowledge the efforts of all organizers, particularly of Dr. Fadi Comair, Director of the Research Center.

May this be a productive and significant seminar!

The program was as follows:

Session I, Technical and Legal Aspect

Impact on Hydrological and Hydro-geological Data on the Distribution of Water, by **Dr. Salim Catafago**, Honorary Dean of ESIB and Professor of Hydraulics and Water Resources at ESIB.

UN Convention on Transboundary Watercourse Resources (1997): Water Quality and Protection of the Ecosystem, by **Dr. Najat Yahia**, Assistant Professor at Notre Dame University.

The Legal Context of the UN Convention on Non-navigational Water Courses: Constraints and Perspectives,

by **Dr. Hyam Mallat**, legal expert on International Waters.

Session II, Development Aspect

Transboundary Water Resources in the Middle East: Option for Comprehensive Coordination and Sharing, by **Dr. Fadi Comair**, Director of the Water, Energy and Environment Research Center and Professor of Water Resources – Notre Dame University.

Implementation of the Experience in Water Negotiation: What have we learned? by **Mr. Bassam Jaber**, former Professor at ESIB and the Lebanese University

WEERC Workshop Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy in Lebanon Future Vision and Road Map

On February 16, 2006, under the patronage of His Excellency the Minister of Energy and Water, Mr. Mohammed Fneich, the Ministry of Energy and Water, the Water Energy, and Environment Research Center (WEERC) at Notre Dame University, and the Lebanese Center for Energy Conservation Project, held a roundtable entitled ***Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy in Lebanon, Future Vision and Road Map*** in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) at NDU's Old Campus – Zouk Mosbeh. The roundtable included Dr. Adnan Jouni, representative of the Minister of Energy and Water Mr. Mohammed Fneich, Dr. Fadi Comair, General Director of Hydraulic and Electric Resources, and a number of experts and specialists from the United Nations and ESCWA, as well as representatives from different NGO's.



Group of audience

Conference Recommendations

The establishment of a committee for the drafting of the proceedings presided by Dr. Fadi Comair, in cooperation with the Lebanese Center for Energy Efficiency, the Ministry of Energy and Water and UNDP. The committee shall be responsible for preparing and drafting a working paper that includes the different suggestions and recommendations presented to the chairpersons, lecturers and participants in the conference. The latter represented the different competent energy sectors and Lebanese universities; and they presented the latest scientific research in the fields of energy efficiency and renewable energy.

The working paper shall be presented to the Minister of Energy and Water and shall be the cornerstone of a future vision and a road map on the subjects of energy efficiency and renewable energy. The working paper shall promote, in line with its recommendations, the rescue plan for the development of the energy sector and the integrated strategy set by the Minister and his team.

David Jury visits NDU for a week-long workshop and a public lecture

Mr. David Jury is the Editor of *Typography*, and Head of Graphic Design at Colchester Institute in England. He holds Awards of Excellence for his typographic work from the New York Type Club, the International Society of Typographic Designers and ICOGRADA. Previous publications include *About Face: Reviving the Rules of Typography*, *Letterpress: the Allure of the Handmade* and the forthcoming *What is Typography*, all from RotoVision. David Jury is also a fellow of the International Society of Graphic Designers (ISTD).

As part of the visit, David Jury gave 2-hour lectures daily in the mornings. The lectures covered a detailed history of type development starting with the Trajan column until modern times, textual type and the mechanics of reading including legibility and readability. The lectures also covered the rhetorics of type, discussing authority and politics in typography starting with William Morris to reach the modernist and post-modernist era.



Mr. David Jury giving a lecture

These lectures acted as “food for the mind” if not merely as visual stimulants for the junior students who were to carry out a project on the design of one issue of ‘Typographic’ magazine with the theme of typography and advertising during the whole week.

As for the senior students, Jury discussed with them on two afternoons the different briefs for the Student Assessment Scheme of the ISTD. The students made some presentations on the status of their work within their project, which is an annual tradition at NDU. On Friday, March 10, Mr. Jury also held a successful public lecture which was attended by alumni graphic design students from NDU, AUB, LAU and AUST. The title of the lecture was “Letterpress: the Allure of Control.” Jury presented the work and the story behind the book “MO”, a limited edition book that is a collection of letterpress work from the finest typographers of the industry. The book holds a multitude of awards and publications in books. Jury explained the process of letterpress and discussed the issue of typographic detailing, including the control that the designer has in making a letterpress piece. Then Jury displayed the actual work for all attending to see.

Mr. David Jury held a couple of meetings with Dr. Assaad Eid, Dean of the Faculty of Architecture, Art and Design (FAAD), to establish a cooperative relationship between NDU/FAAD and Colchester Institute, England. He also met with Fr. Walid Moussa, President, Dr. George Eid, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dr. Ameen Rihani, Vice President for Sponsored Research and Development.



Group of audience

One could finally say that Mr. Jury’s visit to NDU was an event that the instructors and the students alike would like to experience much more often at the University. Jury has added a new voice, a rich variety and a whole lot of experience to the students’ work in a very short time.

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