

*Sociedad Libanesa de Rosario in Argentina and Jovenes Chilenos de Origen Libanés Representatives and Members Visit LERC*

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> August 2010, LERC, NDU

Reported by Elie Nabhan

Mr. Nicolás Kronfly, Argentinean businessman of Lebanese descent and Vice-President of the youth section of U.C.A.L. (Union Cultural Argentina Libanesa), the J.U.C.A.L Filial Rosario, both of which are part of the Argentinean Sociedad Libanesa, along with Mr. Michel Ghossoub, Representative in Lebanon of the *Firkat Al Arz*, a folkloric *dabkeh* dance group that performs at cultural events around Argentina, paid a visit to the Lebanese Emigration Research Center at Notre Dame University, Louaizé. Both groups are part of the organization Sociedad Libanesa de Rosario in Argentina

They were accompanied on their visit by Ms. Nicole Naciff Contreras, a Chilean of Lebanese descent, and member of the Jovenes Chilenos de Origen Libanés, in order to learn more about LERC and to donate some original materials to the Lebanese Emigration Archives Database and to the Lebanon Migration Museum at NDU.

Mr. Kronfly donated to the Center several copies of the brochure *Sociedad Libanesa*, copies of *Ahlan* magazine and copies of congressional documents.

Professor Walter Amilcar Muller (Moujir), an Argentinean researcher of Lebanese descent, who joined LERC as an Adjunct Associate Researcher during his visit to the Center on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2009, and in his capacity as LERC's Liaison Officer for Argentina, also sent to the Center, through Mr. Kronfly, another impressive donation including a DVD of the Sociedad Libanesa organization in Rosario, copies of important event programs concerning Lebanese immigrants and Lebanese Independence Day anniversaries, an official decree, other official documents, a poster and a brochure.

The visitors were then given a thorough presentation of variety of materials collected by LERC on its electronic database. Mr. Kronfly stated his amazement at the work done in the Center and his gratitude to LERC for gathering information about Lebanese Community in Argentina.

Ms. Naciff also expressed her acute interest when seeing the quantity of information that LERC has been collecting, historical information dating back a hundred years. She said she was amazed at the amount of work done by LERC for Lebanese emigrants and as a Chilean of Lebanese descent she promised to help LERC as much as she could in collecting more information.

In his parting statement, Mr. Ghossoub also stated his surprise at the amount of precise work done by LERC to preserve the heritage of Lebanon and to preserve old documents in Lebanon and the diaspora.

The visitors met with LERC Director Ms. Guita Hourani during which discussions centered upon deepening cooperation between LERC and their respective organizations.



(From left-right): Mrs. L. Haddad presents LEAD to Mr. N. Kronfly, Ms. N. Naciff Contreras and Mr. M. Ghossoub (Aug 2010).