

Director of Khayrallah Program for Lebanese-American Studies at North Carolina State University Dr. Akram Khater calls on LERC

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Reported by Elie Nabhan

Dr. Akram Khater, who is an Associate Professor of History, Director of Khayrallah Program for Lebanese-American Studies, and Director of Middle East Studies Program at the North Carolina State University in the United States, paid a visit to the Lebanese Emigration Research Center, accompanied by two renowned videographers Ms. Danica Cullinan and Emmy Award-winning filmmaker Mr. Neal Hutcheson.

Dr. Akram and his team were in Lebanon for the purpose of taping interviews and filming footage in the towns of Ghbeleh, Hammana, and Mazraet el Teffah, among others for a one hour-long PBS documentary on the Lebanese community in North Carolina. The film is to be screened in January 2012. The film will include interviews with Lebanese emigrants and their descendants in North Carolina.

The visitors were given a tour of the materials displayed in the Lebanon Migration Nucleus Museum and then a thorough presentation of LERC's electronic archives and database, where they found many items of interest to them.



At the Museum: (from left to right) Ms. D. Cullinan, Mrs. A. Khater-Touma, Dr. A. Khater, Mr. N. Hutcheson (May 2011).

Dr. Akram and his colleagues met with LERC Director Ms. Guita Hourani and discussed the work that is being done under the Khayrallah Program and the upcoming activities which include, in addition to the film, an exhibition, a book and an international conference.

Dr. Akram was interested in knowing more about LERC electronic collection being scheduled to become accessible on the internet and LERC upcoming activities and research projects.

Dr. Akram and Director Hourani agreed to cooperate and exchange material of mutual interest.

In their parting statements, Mr. Hutcheson and Ms. Cullinan thanked LERC for the impressive demonstration of the LERC electronic archives while Dr. Akram described it as an “amazing collection, the product of excellent work and selfless dedication.”



The group visits the LEAD Offices: (from left to right) LERC Chief Indexer Mrs. L. Haddad, Ms. D. Cullinan, Mr. N. Hutcheson, Mrs. A. Khater-Touma, Dr. A. Khater (May 2011).