

Honoring Dr. Akram Khater at NDU

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Date: Tuesday, May 21, 2013

The Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) honored Dr. Akram Khater for the following: 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. Assad Eid, Vice-President for Sponsored Research and Development, Dr. Amin Rihani, 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 United States of America 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 books in print 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 also 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.



(From left: Dr. Assad Eid, Dr. Akram Khater, Dr. Amin Rihani.)

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.

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