

Shekrallah Akiki and Family Visit the LERC

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Reported by Maritta Sislian, LERC Staff

Mr. Shekrallah Akiki, the son of Kozhaya Akiki, who lives and works in the United States of America, visited Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) and the Lebanon Migration Nucleus Museum with his family on August 10, 2012.

As the family toured the Museum, Mr. Akiki praised the impressive collection at the LERC, which provide a window into the historical and contemporary experience of Lebanese emigrants from around the globe. These exhibits include photographs, artwork, documents, and a variety of cultural items that the communities and families in the diaspora have shared with the Center.

The family members were eager to see their own family collection: the “Kozhaya Akiki Collection”. They admired the collection for a long time, looking at memory-invoking pictures, which instilled a newfound pride in their ancestors who preserved their Lebanese identity in Tupper Lake, New York, U.S.A.



The Akiki family at the Lebanon Migration Nucleus Museum, standing in front of the “Kozhaya Akiki Collection” (August 2012)

Upon completing the tour, the family visited the Center and met with Ms. Guita Hourani, Director of the LERC, to relay salutations from the U.S.. Ms. Maritta Sislian later presented the

Center's mission and objectives, and revealed an electronically saved collection relating to the Akiki family, which once again delighted the visitors.

Promising to visit the Center again, the Akiki family reinstated their intent to cooperate with the LERC and send more collections to be stored in the Lebanon and Migration Nucleus Museum and the LERC's Archival Database.