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Celebrating Dialogue as an Intellectual Tradition

Today, universities share several similar concerns and interests. Although varying in size, scope, and geographic location, they invest much time in matters related to academic planning, governance, and more specifically to the role they need to assume in benefitting all members of the society. To further consolidate its commitment to intellectual integrity, a university has to provide a forum for open dialogue and exchange as a means to creating understanding and reconciliation among the different social constituents.

As it seeks to navigate the 21st century, Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) continues to commit itself to enhancing an open and continuing dialogue. Through adopting key initiatives that engage perspectives on the values it places on pluralism, democracy, and social justice, NDU celebrates the faith it has in dialogue.

On May 8, 2015, the University launched the Lebanese Observatory on Decentralization, the purpose of which is to enhance those values associated with social justice (equity) and pluralism in Lebanon. Another equally significant initiative was the establishment of the Benedict XVI Endowed Chair of Religious, Cultural and Philosophical Studies. This initiative shall encourage the application of Catholic Social Teaching in a spirit of interreligious openness, especially between Christians and Muslims in Lebanon.

The stories and events featured in this issue of the *Chronicle* highlight the culture of dialogue we have embraced to serve our community – a community that has suffered from economic hardships and political tensions.

president's message

Father WALID MOUSSA

feature

Launch of a Decentralization Observatory at NDU under the Auspices of Former Swiss President and Lebanese Minister Ziad Baroud

On the occasion of the launch of the Decentralization Observatory, the Faculty of Law and Political Science (FLPS) at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) hosted the former President of the Swiss Confederation Pascal Couchepin, and former Lebanese Minister of Interior and Municipalities Ziad Baroud.

The FLPS Dean Dr. Maan Bou Saber recently organized at Pierre Abu Khater Hall, NDU main campus, a debate on *"Decentralization and Federalism: Points of Similarity and Points of Difference."*

Following a welcome speech delivered by NDU Director of Public Relations and Cultural Affairs Dr. Nada Saad Saber in the presence of NDU President Fr. Walid Moussa, former Lebanese Minister of Interior and Municipalities Marwan Charbel, the Ambassador of Switzerland to Lebanon François Barras, mayors, military representatives, notable figures, and specialists, Dr. Bou Saber expounded on the main axes. He questioned whether the decentralized approach to federalism is a need to hide a risk and whether the points of difference and similarities between decentralization and federalism are in the nature of these regimes or in their levels.

For his part, Couchepin began his presentation with two ideas. The first idea was based on the article of the Swiss Constitution, which states, "The Swiss Confederation consists of the Swiss people and the provinces ..." therefore, sovereignty is vested in the people and the provinces, and preference to the provinces.

The second idea being that provinces are self-sufficient: Each has private fiscal arrangements, and a citizen in a particular province pays more taxes than another living in another province. From this, federalism has an absolute freedom regarding authority in the provinces.

Baroud then took the podium and thanked NDU for taking this initiative and for establishing the substantive and objective Decentralization Observatory. He also introduced the decentralization project and focused on its strengths, as follows:

1. The privacy of the area where decentralization exists through the municipalities in Lebanon. Since the Taif Accord and the new reforms, decentralization has been expanded, but the principle has not been translated correctly; therefore, decentralization is not a synonym for division.
2. The current draft law (since 2012): At the request of former Lebanese President Michel Suleiman and former Minister Charbel, a specialized committee to draft a law was created, which in turn conducted numerous meetings with specialists to examine the strategy before going into detail and issuing a report. According to Baroud, this report is more important than the legislative project itself. He, therefore, provided some insight into this law, which helps maintain the municipalities' power and preserves their finances, but noted that they must come up with more funding, and establish regional councils headed by an individual and not an elected mayor, which will replace the board of directors composed of elected members.
3. Decentralization is an element of the unit elements: This technique is of a political scale, it is the best way to manage pluralism.
4. Federal dialectic: Federal does not mean division, but is based on geographical nature.
5. Decentralization as a means of management concerns: Decentralization must contribute to the election and the creation of physical independence, from here decentralization and federalism converge.

6. Inappropriate timing in which institutions are paralyzed; in addition to the different religious beliefs, leading to the risk of confrontation.

Following the dialogues, a discussion took place with the audience, and the event concluded with Fr. Moussa presenting a plaque to Couchepin, as a token of appreciation.



Fr. Fadi Bou Chebl Appointed H.E. Exarch-elect



The Secretariat of the Maronite Patriarchate has issued the following statement:

“The Holy Father appointed Fr. Fadi Bou Chebel, of the Maronite Order of the Holy Virgin Mary, as Apostolic Exarch of the new Exarchate of Colombia and a delegate of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches in Peru and Ecuador.”

The University administration holds in high esteem the initiative taken by His Holiness Pope Francis, and expresses its deepest gratitude to His Beatitude Cardinal Patriarch Mar Bechara Boutros al-Rahi and Their Excellencies the Bishops for their decision and statement. NDU congratulates Fr. Fadi Bou Chebl, of the Maronite Order of the Holy Virgin Mary, and prays God to bestow upon him the wisdom, strength, and sanctity to perform his duties in the diaspora and to help spread around the world the good name of the Maronites.

We have known Fr. Bou Chebl as the University Pastoral Counselor (Chaplain General) and as General Director of the University Pastoral Ministry in Lebanon. He has always been, both in word and deed, a faithful servant working in the service of

students and helping them deepen their love for Jesus and the Virgin Mary, our mother.

God has blessed him by entrusting him with this new mission, which we pray he fulfills with love and faith.

We reiterate our congratulations to H.E. Exarch-elect Bou Chebl, and by the same token, the Maronite Order of the Holy Virgin Mary represented by its Abbot General, as well as the Supreme Council, family, and friends.



outreach

AFNDU's New IRS Status

The American Friends of Notre Dame University (AFNDU) – Louaize, Lebanon, has been approved by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service (IRS) as a public charity. This is a milestone for AFNDU.

Should friends of NDU seek further clarification about this new status or wish to contribute to AFNDU, they are invited to contact Haley Kalil at the Washington, D.C. Office on 240-461-9121 or e-mail her at AFNDUDC@gmail.com.

High-ranking NDU Team Visits Boston, Washington D.C.

Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) President Fr. Walid Moussa, Vice-President for Finance Fr. Bechara Khoury, and Vice-President for Academic Affairs Dr. Badr recently visited Boston and Washington D.C. in the USA within the framework of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) accreditation effort.

The team attended a series of meetings, notably, with the Association of Governing Boards (AGB) of which NDU has become a member. In addition, the team held a meeting with the NEASC commissioners regarding competency-based programs, which are gaining prominence. In the final leg of the trip, the President and his team visited the Catholic University of America (in D.C.).



NDU Students Win IAA Apprentice Conference Competition

Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) Advertising and Marketing Department students participated in the International Advertising Association (IAA) Apprentice competition and won. They competed against 150 students from different countries, such as Australia, France, Hong Kong, Philippines, United Arab Emirates, Lebanon, and Saudi Arabia.

The competition focused on a real-life experience in the work field in which competitors were asked to design a complete ad campaign for an actual client in the sport field. The client and a number of advertising experts made up the jury. We send hearty congratulations to our students.



Four-ton Dame Ballerina Telescope Installed at NDU

Scientists, engineers, and technicians from both the Faculty of Natural and Applied Sciences (FNAS) and Faculty of Engineering (FE) at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU), and from the Japanese National Astronomical Observatory of Japan (NAOJ) have completed the installation of the Japanese-made telescope, which will be the central piece of equipment of the future NDU-Japan Observatory. The four-ton Dame Ballerina is located at the Mechanical Engineering Labs. The current control system was designed and developed at NDU.



NDU, Ministry of Culture Sign Cooperation Agreement

Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU), represented by its President Fr. Walid Moussa, recently signed at the headquarters of the Directorate-General of Antiquities in Beirut two cooperation agreements with the Lebanese Ministry of Culture, represented by Minister of Culture Raymond Arajji.

Both men made a statement after the agreements were signed.

Mr. Arajji emphasized the significance of “preserving national cultural heritage given that it unveils an important era in Lebanese history, both artistically and culturally; an era that marked the Lebanese society, and constituted a major milestone in the formation of the country’s identity.” Arajji also stressed the importance of enabling researchers in the fields of history, the arts, social and human sciences, Lebanese cinema, and oriental music to take cognizance of this heritage and conduct related studies.

For his part, Fr. Moussa thanked the Ministry of Culture for “its continuous interest in preserving the Lebanese cultural heritage, and specifically the Ministry’s support to preserve the Baalbek Studio, which includes in its archives the fifty-year-old history of Lebanese cinema and theater masterpieces ... A nation that cannot preserve its past, cannot build a future.”

According to a statement released by the Ministry, the agreements aim at taking inventory of and examining all video and audio tapes available at the Ministry in order to clean, digitize, and transfer the selected tapes onto hard disks. Experts in the field will be responsible for storing and conserving the originals, using the latest scientific techniques, which guarantee their preservation. It is noteworthy to mention that NDU will handle the digitization process of film tapes.

A five-year completion timeline has been set, as of the date of signing the agreements, especially since the environment in which the current material is conserved at the Ministry is inappropriate due to humidity, dust, and temperature fluctuations. That was why the digitization plan decision was made, a plan of vital importance to data preservation.



(from left) Mr. Suheil Matar, Fr. Walid Moussa, and H.E. Raymond Arajji Minister of Culture

campus activities

Opening Mass for Academic Year 2015-2016

The Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) Opening Mass for academic year 2015-2016 was celebrated on October 9, 2015, by His Excellency The Most Reverend Archbishop Gabriele Caccia, Apostolic Nuncio to Lebanon, and held at Issam Fares Conference, NDU main campus. The Mass also served to highlight the Inauguration of the Benedict XVI Endowed Chair of Religious, Cultural and Philosophical Studies.

All reverend fathers at NDU participated in the celebration: NDU President Fr. Walid Moussa; University Chaplain Fadi Bou Chebel; Fr. Raymond Khallouf (visiting priest); Shouf Campus Director Fr. Hanna Tayyar, and Fr. Akram Khoury and Fr. Joseph Tannous (lecturers); Fr. Mark Khoubbiyeh (chaplain); Vice-President for Administration Fr. Pierre Najem; Vice-President for Finance Fr. Bechara Khoury; Director of Student Housing Fr. Georges Nassif; Fr. Ziad Antoun (lecturer); and North Lebanon Campus Director Fr. Samir Ghsoub.

Reprinted in full below is the address of Fr. Moussa.

Address of NDU President Fr. Walid Moussa

As Archbishop Gabriele Giordano Caccia, Apostolic Nuncio to Lebanon, once noted on February 27, 2013, here at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU), Lebanon was the last country that Pope Benedict XVI visited before retiring and signing the last official magisterial document of his pontificate. The convergence of this announcement with two other important announcements made during the same event was timely and auspicious: First, the naming of the Faculty of Humanities Building after Pope Benedict, and second, the establishment of a Benedict XVI Chair at NDU’s Faculty of Humanities.

Today, I am happy to inaugurate the Benedict XVI Endowed Chair of Religious, Cultural and Philosophical Studies. The establishment of





this particular Chair is exceedingly momentous. In light of the rich intellectual heritage of Pope Benedict who was a distinguished professor at four prominent German Universities, the activities of the Chair shall engage the disciplines of Philosophy, Theology, and Religious Studies, and shall be pursued in such a way as to include serious engagement with the Social Sciences. This engagement shall encourage a concrete application of Catholic Social Teaching in a spirit of interreligious openness, especially between Christians and Muslims. The activities of this Chair shall be open, supple, and receptive to a variety of theological approaches that complement the original genius and unique Catholicity of Benedict's worldview.

The General Activities of the Chair shall be to organize international and local seminars, conferences, lecture series, symposia, workshops, and roundtables, revolving around Pope Benedict XVI's intellectual legacy as it relates to NDU's mission and vision. These activities shall require cooperation with many diverse academic, religious, and cultural institutions in Lebanon and around the world, in particular with the Council for Research in Values and Philosophy (CRVP); in addition to a number of other important international institutes in the U.S., Romania, India, and Iran, to mention a few.

The immediate planned events for the coming year include:

- An International Symposium that will bring together prominent international thinkers from Iran next month in November to discuss the theme, "*Philosophy and Religion as a Way of Life*;"
- A Relational Needs Course will be offered in February 2016 free of charge to NDU students and faculty wishing to deepen their knowledge of relational needs with an emphasis on the

philosophical and psychological meaning of dialogue;

- An International Conference in cooperation with the Faculty of Law and Political Science (FLPS) scheduled for this coming May titled, "*Thomas More's UTOPIA: 500 Years ON*;"
- A Local Workshop devoted to Father Afif Osseiran's landmark essay on the deep meaning and significance of Dialogue scheduled for the fall of 2016. This workshop will bring together Christian and Muslim thinkers, and practitioners in Lebanon to benefit from one another's experience and expertise. Presently, the Benedict Chair has already been cooperating with local NGO's (The Lebanon Dialogue Initiative and the Cedars Institute) in running the Study Abroad in Lebanon (SAIL) Program, which has brought students and faculty from Brazil to participate in a course on world history in the context of Lebanon. This important cooperation shall continue and be developed internationally;
- Other activities and events will take place in collaboration with each of NDU's seven Faculties through the newly-formed Benedict XVI Society of professors from each of NDU's seven faculties. This society will meet monthly to read and discuss academic articles devoted to showing the link between the category of faith and their own disciplines; and
- NDU professors and local thinkers will meet monthly to read and reflect upon the magnum opus of one of the most important theologians of the twentieth century, Hans Urs von Balthasar, whose work was so important for the theological vision of Pope Benedict XVI. Summaries of these meetings shall be published by the *International Catholic Review, Communio*.

Finally, I am pleased to announce that Pope Benedict himself is aware of the establishment of this Chair and has promised to pray for its success. He was personally informed of this initiative by Father Stephan Horn, who is head of the "Circle of Benedict Disciples" comprised of the fifty students who wrote Ph.D. dissertations under Ratzinger, during his tenure of Professorships at four prominent German universities.

I would like to thank the Vice-President for Academic Affairs Dr. Elie Badr, the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities Dr. Kamal Abouchedid, and the Chairholder of the Benedict XVI Endowed Chair of Religious, Cultural and Philosophical Studies Dr. Edward J. Alam. We congratulate Dr. Alam who was nominated by Pope Benedict XVI in 2012 to be a Consultor on the Pontifical Council for Culture and appointed to this position by Pope Francis in July 2014, adding to his credentials to hold this newly-established Chair.

In conclusion, allow me to thank His Excellency Archbishop Gabriele Caccia, Apostolic Nuncio to Lebanon, for all the efforts he has been spending for the well-being of Lebanon. We, as Lebanese community, extend our thankfulness and appreciation to His Holiness Pope Francis for his prayers and concern for Lebanon. Your Excellency, we, at NDU, are grateful for your presence among us today in this Opening Ceremony of the Academic Year.

We ask the Lord to always guide you in your future endeavors.

Thank you and God bless you.

Rev. Fr. Walid Moussa, S.T.D.
President

Said Akl Award at NDU

Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) recently called for a press conference to announce the winners of the Said Akl Award. Held at the Pierre Abou Khater Hall, NDU main campus, the press conference gathered journalists, intellectuals, and members of the Said Akl committee.

NDU President Fr. Walid Moussa said, "It is true that Lebanon is going through a painful and difficult time, voiding in different dimensions and forcing the country to experience a state of semi-paralysis and collapse; however, our University believes in the value of giving and in following the right path... we would rather light a single candle than curse the darkness ... From this, our gathering here today is centered on the great poet Said Akl."

Following Fr. Moussa's word, NDU Vice-President for Public Affairs and Communication Mr. Suhail Matar introduced the year's activities: Re-printing of the poet's books (10 books have been reprinted to date); creating electronic publications of Akl's books to bring his works to a wider audience comprised of Lebanese and Arabs, and global intellectual figures; activating the Said Akl throne (meaning promoting research and studies on literature); mapping the Center that will carry the name of Akl, which includes a museum, exhibition, and reception and study halls; working with the Ministry



Drs. George & Henriette Tohme



Dr. Nassif Nassar



Dr. Jabbour Al Doueih



Painter Samir Abi Rashed

of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) to ensure that Akl's literature becomes a staple in the national curriculum; and including the name of the poet in all the University's activities and global cultural showrooms.

Afterward, Mr. Mattar announced the winners, who are:

- Drs George and Henriette Tohme - Science Category;
- Dr. Nassif Nassar- Ideology Category;
- Painter Samir Abi Rashed- Art Category;
- Dr. Jabbour Al Doueih- Literature Category (prose);
- Dr. Salman Zein el-Dine - Literature Category (poetry); and
- Composer Abdullah Bishara Al Khouri- Global Lebanese Creativity Category.

There was also an honorable mention of both Capt. Mohammed Baalbaki and Mr. Edmond Rizk.

The first memorial anniversary of Akl was celebrated in late November 2015, and awards and certificates were distributed to winners on Tuesday, December 1, 2015, at 6.00 p.m., NDU main campus.

Those who have received the award since 1960 were invited to this celebration, which included the dedication of a Said Akl book (published posthumously) *Al Yawm Al Yawm (Today, Today)*. The book is a collection of essays previously published in the *Gazette* newspaper.

Conference: "Mary, Mother and Educator"

The Marian Studies Center (MSC) at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) and the Marian Groups Committee, held a conference titled, "Mary, Mother and Educator," at the NDU main campus.

This conference was held under the auspices of His Beatitude Patriarch Mar Bechara Boutros al-Rahi, who was represented by the Archbishop of Tyre His Excellency Shukrallah Nabil Hajj, and in the presence of Their Excellencies Bishops Joseph Bechara and Michel Aoun, Their Eminences Ahmad Lakis and Abdel Halim Charara, Rev. Fr. Joseph Zgheib, Assistant General Mariamite Maronite Order (OMM), and participants' parents, clergy, members of consecrated life institutions, and members of the Marian Groups, from Lebanon and the Middle East.

The opening prayer by Archbishop Hajj was followed by a speech delivered by master of ceremonies Ms. Micheline al-Katiba. Ms. Al-Katiba noted Mary's "importance in human life," and went on to expound that Mary was "an example of interaction between civilizations and dialogue, and between religions and peoples ... She carries a message of love and She is the queen of all creatures."

For his part, MSC Director Fr. Abdo Antoun noted the importance of the meeting, stating, "In our very first meeting, nearly fourteen Marian lay and religious groups carrying the Virgin's name attended, including non-Catholic and Muslim representatives, the fact which convinced us that the Virgin Mary is the common link among different denominations of the same faith and other faiths. She is the catalyst that inspires us to work on unity, live and work ethically, and find the true answers to our questions."

Archbishop Hajj then took the podium and quoted Patriarch Al-Rahi who reaffirmed his "appreciation of this gathering, and its constructive actions" and wished that everyone present would "grow in faith, wisdom, and grace by the hands of Mary, mother and educator." Archbishop Hajj also read, "The word of Jesus Christ

must be spread across this country and the entire East... the Marian Spirituality educates us first and foremost about freedom by obeying God's word, as she said, 'Yes, to the Divine Word,' in the presence of Gabriel, messenger of the Word of God. I am free as I work by the will of the Lord, therefore my faith increases, and I become unique and courageous. In full obedience, the believer is attracted with all his strength to the Lord."

Archbishop Hajj explained, "Mary's spirituality nurtures in us eternal loyalty to the Lord, faith, and hope; and strengthens love and undertakes virtue; therefore, we receive more and more grace, and this is what we call the spiritual formation or service of love. Dear beloved, live as Christ did - he who loved us and died for us as an offering and a sacrifice to God."

He concluded by saying, "This Holy Year, Pope Francis recommends that we put into action both physical and spiritual work to attain perfection with the chosen ones, to renew our relationship with Mary, Mother and Educator, and to participate in nurturing the grace of salvation."

The gathering included the screening of a documentary of the participating associations attending the conference.



Public Seminar: "Power of Remembrance"

The Center for Applied Research in Education (CARE) at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) hosted on November 24, 2015, a public seminar at Friends Hall, NDU main campus, to present the findings of a study titled, "The Power of Remembrance: Political Parties, Memory and Learning About the Past in Lebanon," which was done by Dr. Mara Albrecht (University of Erfurt, Germany) and Dr. Bassel Akar (CARE, NDU), in collaboration with the Forum Civil Peace Service (forumZFD, Germany). The researchers looked into the significance of the collective political memory of political parties in Lebanon and how they make use of their own interpretations of the past in the political and educational arenas. For the study, the researchers investigated the following seven parties:

- Free Patriotic Movement (FPM);
- Future Movement (FM);
- Hezbollah;
- Kataeb Party (Lebanese Phalanges);
- Lebanese Forces (LF);
- Progressive Socialist Party (PSP); and
- Syrian Social Nationalist Party (SSNP).

Assistant Professor of International Relations and Human Rights at NDU Dr. Elie el-Hindy highlighted the relevance of the study in his opening speech as an exceptional effort in reviewing and analyzing the role of political parties in memory and history education.

Dr. Albrecht presented the key findings of the study and emphasized that each of Lebanon's political parties has its own memory, which is shaped by different ideological worldviews as well as by diverse experiences of historical events and violent conflicts. Despite their differences, they share common themes and narratives, such as the veneration of the parties' leaders, the adherence to resistance narratives (Islamic Resistance, Lebanese Resistance, Left Resistance), and memory of War and Violence. She stressed that political parties use these political cultures of remembrance to form collective identities, to create socio-cultural boundaries, and to show strength in the political field. In this term,

Dr. Akar spoke of the teaching of history with respect to social cohesion.

The study concludes with the following:

- Political parties in Lebanon have very different narratives about the past, especially memories of violence and war, which are in many cases contradictory;
- The ideal to find a single, unified, national narrative all parties agree on poses risk of further conflict and could lead to partisans detaching from their parties;
- An alternative to learning about the past is a disciplinary approach for learning about the past in the fields of politics and education, which requires the examination of multiple interpretations of historical events and other sources of evidence;
- A mutual respect for different narratives of the past by all political groups can highlight Lebanon's political and cultural diversity as a cultural strength; and
- Further research and dialogues can explore a new form of collective memory that transpires from a shared science of examining different interpretations of the past.



Drs. Mara Albrecht and Bassel Akar presenting the findings of the study, "The Power of Remembrance" at NDU on 24 November 2015



An attentive audience

9th NDU International Film Festival

Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) recently honored Abdel-Halim Caracalla, founder and artistic director of the Lebanese dance company Caracalla Dance Theatre, at the Bechara Al-Rahi Theater, NDU main campus, during the opening ceremony of the 9th NDU International Film Festival (NDUIFF) held under its constant theme, "The Power of Youth."

The curtains opened to the beat of the most recognizable Caracalla tunes in the presence of former Lebanese parliament speaker Hussein el-Husseini; Dr. Walid Mousallem, representing the Minister of Culture Mr. Rony Arajji; members of Caracalla's family; NDU President Fr. Walid Moussa, NDU Vice-Presidents, artists, and representatives of various notable Lebanese figures.

Communication Strategy Office Assistant Director Ms. Emma Shaffu-Chacar delivered the welcome note, followed by the address of Fr. Moussa who also welcomed the attendees and thanked them for participating in the NDUIFF, which has not only become an annual tradition but also a benchmark for many professionals in the film-making industry.

Fr. Moussa said, "In a week's time, we will celebrate our Independence Day, and we can only stress the values associated with it ... The essential part of the NDU mission is to ensure that our students and all emerging talents benefit from a high quality education." Fr. Moussa expressed his pride in Media Studies graduates who have gone on to achieve a string of successes, especially in the film industry.

For his part, NDU Director of Communication Strategy and NDUIFF Founder and Director Mr. Sam Lahoud stressed that the event's goal was to find the balance between joy and sadness, beauty and ugliness, peace and war, security and terror, and ultimately the balance between life and death.

Lahoud said, "Tonight, we will talk about a 'success story' called Abdel-Halim Caracalla. A great figure, such as Caracalla, who stands before you here today, is a clear testament of success and a shining



example for all young talents to observe and learn from... Such great figures are not intoxicated by praise; rather, they rejoice when youths learn from their journeys." Mr. Lahoud went on to express his gratitude to everyone who contributed in organizing the increasingly successful event.

Dr. Mousallem then took the podium, noting that the NDUIFF "attracts Lebanon's finest students and brims with creativity across various fields in the film industry." Referring to Caracalla, Dr. Mousallem said, "If you encounter this fervent giant, the epitome of magnanimity and chivalry, you will understand how such a man is steeped in history but exudes modernity." Dr. Mousallem congratulated Caracalla for being honored, praised the NDU initiative, and thanked the University for playing its role in providing the nation's youth with quality education. He added, "The Ministry of Culture will begin ensuring all the necessary support for the film industry. The future of Lebanon is in the hands of its youth."

NDU Vice-President for Public Relations and Communication Mr. Suhail Matar said, "Caracalla did not start from the summit; rather, he started its foot and soared to its peak where he has since perched ... he became a leader, a role model, an innovator - he never gave up, never fumbled, never knew defeat, and never lived in someone else's shadow."

Then, Caracalla took the floor to address the audience. He thanked NDU for honoring him, and said that NDU's support of the great artists in Lebanon was phenomenal, citing Said Akl as a prime example. He went on to say, "Today, I can say that in Lebanon, NDU is a beacon filled with blessed people working toward illuminating minds, opening impossible doors to new generations, and raising the cultural level of the Lebanese society." He also expressed his gratitude to all those who stood by his side during his career, including the poets Talal Haidar and Marcel Khalife.

The honoring ceremony included the screening of documentaries and musical interludes, among other key highlights in Caracalla's rich career.

Afterward, Fr. Moussa and Mr. Matar presented Caracalla with an amazing sculpture carved by the talented Rudy Rahme. In addition, a chair at NDU was named after Caracalla, which is to become known as the "Chair for Research on the Art of Caracalla."

The ceremony ended with speeches delivered by artists Khalife and Haidar, who both recounted their colorful journey with Caracalla.

During the closing ceremony, the awards were distributed in the following order:

- International Documentary Category Award: Palestinian Mohammed Abu Senyini for his film *Praises of the Wounds*;
- Animation Category Award: British Rory Conway, *Shoot*;
- Short Story Award: Belgian Barney Friedman, *The Seed*;
- Best Animation Award: Lea Kamel, an ALBA student, *All That is Left*;
- Best Lebanese Documentary Award: Bettina Bassil, an USEK student, *Van -Home*;
- Best Screenplay Award: Robin Nachar, an USEK student, *Morpheus*;
- Best Cinematography Award: Jad Tannous, an USEK student, *Drain*;
- Best Director Award: Georges Berberi, an LAU student, *A Time in a Life*; and



Abdel-Halim Caracalla

The Ministry of Tourism Award targeted the film that projected a positive, cultural, and civilized image of Lebanon, and promoted Lebanon as a tourist destination. Winners of Four Minutes, Four Days films were:

- Khaled Al Rayess, Vivian Marquez, Clara Haddad, and Charbel Sidawi for their film *The Art of Revolution*.
- Hagop Tashdjian, Sirouj Hovsepian, Balik Dzadourean, and Annie Kokjaan, from the Arslanian School for their film *Shame On You*.
- Independent Film Category Awards:
 - Elie Kamal, *Revoltang*;
 - Emile Chahine Award: Tracy Karam, an NDU student, *The Split*; and
 - Jury Award: Omar Sfeir, an LAU student, *Salwa*.

Finally, the first three winners were:
 Third: Celine Leos, IESAV, *Last Nights of Beirut*;
 Second: Robin Nachar, USEK, *Morpheus*; and
 First: Simon Said, ALBA, *Sabaho Radio*.



Appointment of the Dean of FLPS Dalia Atallah



Professor Maan Bou Saber, Dean of the Faculty of Law and Political Science (FLPS) at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) and founder of the Department of Law, was appointed by the Special Tribunal for Lebanon (STL) Chair of its Disciplinary Board to a two-year term (June 22, 2015 - June 21, 2017)

STL President, Judge Ivana Hrdlicková appointed Prof. Bou Saber pursuant to Article 20 of the Code of Professional Conduct for Defence Counsel and Legal Representatives of Victims appearing before the STL.

The Disciplinary Board hears cases of alleged professional misconduct against counsel, and currently comprises of the chair and two other members, namely Ms. Aïcha Condé, appointed by Head of the Defense Office at the STL Mr. Francois Roux, and Ms. Sarah Grimmer, appointed by Registrar Mr. Daryl Mundis.

Prof. Bou Saber received his Ph.D. with distinction from The University of Paris II after graduating in Law from Université Saint Joseph (USJ), Beirut, and Lyon III, France. He is a lawyer registered at the Beirut and Paris Bar Associations.

The appointment of the FLPS Dean at such a prominent and influential tribunal ascertains once more the remarkable level of scholarly integrity and professionalism of NDU faculty.

Congratulations!



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