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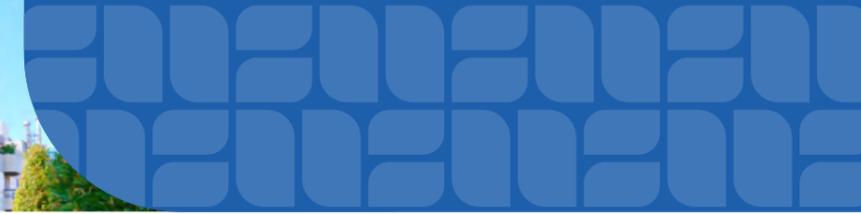
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## NDU's Commitment to National Democracy

Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) proudly celebrated its 29th Founders' Day on May 8, 2016. I use the word "proudly," because I stand in awe of the remarkable feats achieved by this University against all odds, especially in a country that has been plagued by instability on virtually every front throughout its rich yet dark history.

At NDU, we firmly believe that it is only through education that society can be transformed, and it is only through a transformed society that a nation falling apart can again be put back on track to reclaim its former glory as the region's shining example of coexistence and democracy.

For the past 29 years, we have transformed NDU into an inspiring place, a "space for openness" where a mix of thinkers, politicians, religious figures, activists, and educators can come together on equal terms to address the critical challenges Lebanon has witnessed and to find viable solutions for our national woes.

Despite its sectarian divisions and daily strife, and despite what some would have you believe, Lebanon remains a democratic state. This brings to mind the Encyclical Letter *Centesimus Annus*, by Saint John Paul II in which he declares that democracy, to be authentic, must rest on a "correct conception of the human person." He also adds that authentic democracy leads to "advancement both of the individual through education and formation, and of society through the creation of structure of participation and shared responsibility" (§46.2).

As one of Lebanon's leading universities, NDU continues to speak loud and clear from its free and democratic academic podiums. As concerned academicians, we need to continue educating our students and instilling in them the wisdom to re-chart the course of our history when their time comes to lead; and we need to continue finding solutions and putting forth solid recommendations to create a better tomorrow.

Together, we shall continue to walk down that righteous path, because we firmly believe that it is the duty of all universities, and our University in particular, to play an active role in solving our growing national problems and multifaceted crises. We also strongly believe that any university, devoid of a role to the nation and future generations, has neither value nor meaning.

## president's message

Father WALID MOUSSA  
President, NDU

## feature

### Revival of Friends of NDU Foundation - Canada

The Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) Montreal Alumni Chapter celebrated on Saturday, April 23, 2016, at La Sirene Restaurant the revival of Friends of NDU Foundation, Montreal, Canada, in the presence of NDU President Rev. Fr. Walid Moussa, Honourable Consul of Lebanon in Montreal, Fady Ziadeh, His Excellency Rev. Bishop Paul Marwan Tabet, NDU Vice-President for Public Affairs and Communications Souheil Matar, NDU Alumni Affairs Office Coordinator Joyce Chidiac Ghossain of, along with former members of Friends of NDU and new members of NDU alumni.



(from left) Suheil Matar, VP Public Affairs & Communications, Salam Eid, friend of the Foundation, Fr. Walid Moussa, NDU President, and Maitre Joseph Daoura.



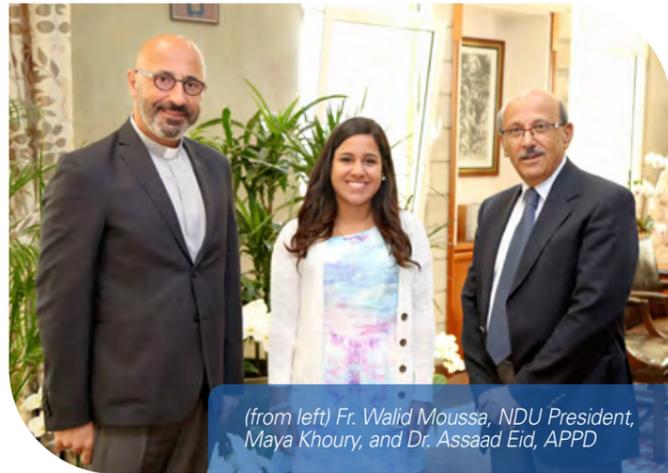
(from left) Rania Ziadeh, Fadi Ziadeh, General Consul, Maral Abajian Younes, NDU Alumna, Fadi Younes, and Fr. Moussa, NDU President



## NDU, A Place Like Home

The joint Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) and the National Apostolate of Maronites (NAM) scholarship offers college students who are active members of NAM the opportunity to spend a semester abroad studying in Lebanon.

Maya Khoury, a Lebanese-American and a student at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Virginia, USA, was able to win a full scholarship to NDU for one academic semester. Maya's experiences at NDU are reprinted below in her own words.



(from left) Fr. Walid Moussa, NDU President, Maya Khoury, and Dr. Assaad Eid, APPD

"It was a beautiful sunny February morning when I entered the gates of NDU's main campus for the first time. I can still remember, as if it was yesterday. I couldn't believe that I had finally arrived in Lebanon and that I would be living here for the next several months. Something that seemed like just a dream several months before actually became reality for the spring of 2016. It's crazy to think that just a few short months ago, I didn't know anything about the culture and customs of NDU. Now, NDU is a place I call home.

My experience at NDU has been wonderful! I wish I could fully describe to everyone how happy I have been here in Lebanon these past few months. I have to admit, the first week was a bit difficult getting used to the campus, the dorms, and the way everything works around campus, but after the first week, I began to acclimate to my new environment. Whenever you

go to a new place you always find that the first few weeks are difficult, after all you are starting over in a new place with new people, but with time everything becomes easier - you just have to have patience and faith. I learned very quickly that every time I step out of my dorm room, I am forced out of my comfort zone and once I got used to that feeling, everything was fine. After the first few weeks, I joined a few different student organizations, one of them including the NDU women's volleyball team. We trained twice a week.

My classes went really well and the professors were all very helpful and friendly. Due to the small class sizes, students are able to develop a relationship with their professors who are willing to help in any way. As I got more accustomed to the culture and environment, I began to fall in love with NDU.



Maya Khoury, NDU-NAM Scholarship Student

Over the past few months, I have met many students who also live in the dorms, many come from a Lebanese background like me, but similar to my story, their parents live outside of Lebanon. It's so interesting to compare stories and learn about everyone's background. Now at NDU everyday people ask me, "Why would you want to come to Lebanon?" I always reply, "Why not!?" My roots are here, I have family here, and despite all of the turmoil Lebanon faces on a daily basis, it's a beautiful country. Recently I helped participate in NDU's Open Doors event, this event is for prospective students who may be interested in attending NDU after high school. I was amazed at how

everyone — from students, professors, and staff — all came together to show the students, coming from across Lebanon, how wonderful NDU really is; it really amazed me how everyone worked together to make the two-day event a major success.

Another major event that I was so happy to be a part of was NDU Founders' Day, also known as NDU's birthday. All of the clubs at NDU and the entire University community came together to celebrate another wonderful year since the establishment of our University. The energy and happiness I felt that night while all of my friends and I were dancing and singing to the music really made me fall in love with NDU and realize that this semester has been such a wonderful experience.

I've met some wonderful people who have introduced me to their friends and family and the network continued blossom every day. As I reflect over the past five months I have nothing but wonderful memories here in Lebanon, I have made friendships that I hope will last for a lifetime. Some of my friends and I have planned to meet next summer when I return to Lebanon. Though I did miss my family and friends back home, I know that the time I spent in Lebanon, and especially at NDU, was precious and it's something I will forever hold close to my heart."  
Maya Khoury

## outreach

### Celebrating the Feast of Saint Maron in Canada

Under the Patronage of His Eminence Mgr. Paul Marwan Tabet, the Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) Choir, with the participation of the Maronite Parishes Choirs in Montreal, celebrated the Feast of Saint Maron through a reflective recital under the title of Saint Maron in Canticles.

The choir was invited to give two concerts at the Saint Maron Cathedral in Montreal on Friday, February 12, 2016, and another at Saint Charbel Cathedral in Ottawa, on Saturday, February 13, 2016. The two concerts were under the direction of Fr. Khalil Rahme. The program, assisted by local musicians, included a variety of secular and sacred hymns. It also featured some compositions by Fr. Rahme.

The NDU Choir's performance in both concerts captivated the audience, leaving echoes of chants and cheers behind. Those concerts were organized by Hay-Love Hadchiti, whose efforts helped make the Choir's visit a great success.





## Australian Ambassador at NDU

The Department of Government and International Relations at the Faculty of Law and Political Science (FLPS), Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU), recently hosted His Excellency Ambassador of Australia to Lebanon Glenn Miles at an open forum, which focused on confronting the challenges of refugees and terrorism.



FLPS Associate Professor Dr. Elie el-Hindy delivered the welcome note, and gave the floor to Ambassador Miles.

For his part, Miles expressed his appreciation for being invited to speak at NDU, and expounded on the fact that Australia has witnessed a long history of resettling refugees and emigrants, especially Lebanese emigrants who have been settling in Australia since the mid-19th century.

The largest influx of Lebanese emigrants to Australia, Miles said, arrived in the 1970s and 1980s. Those particular waves of emigrants were seeking to establish a safe haven for themselves and their families. As such, emigrants are considered very much a part of the Australian identity.

Miles added, "The rise of terrorist groups, like ISIL in parts of Syria and Iraq, have helped fuel the flow of refugees on the one hand, and on the other hand, have attracted up

to twenty-five thousand foreign fighters to the region." He also revealed the latest statistics, which show that around 110 Australians are currently fighting alongside terrorist groups in Syria and Iraq. Around 190 young Australian men and women are currently under investigation for supporting the Syria/Iraq conflict. In his opinion, the problem requires a domestic response by developing anti-radicalization programs, tightening Australian legislation, and strengthening law enforcement capabilities. At a global level, Miles advised a strong international response through strengthened alliances and improved cooperation with other world governments.



Following the ambassador's talk, Dr. Hindy moderated an open dialogue session, which included a Q&A session with Miles, who answered the questions put forth by a diversified audience, comprising of professors, students, and invitees.

## India Trip

Living the experience is far more intense than looking at the pictures!

A group of 51 students enrolled in the Department of Hospitality and Tourism Management (DHTM) at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) spent eight days and seven nights discovering the mystical aspects of the golden triangle circuit of India (Agra, Jaipur, and New Delhi).

The trip covered the Taj Mahal, Agra Fort, Fateh Pur Sikri, Amber Fort, Elephant ride, Hindu, Lotus, Sikh and Islamic temples, Jantar Mantar Museum, City Palace, Hawa Mahal, Pink City, Chandni Chowk Market, Qutub Minar, India Gate, and the Red Fort.



NDU students made a real impression in India! They made a delightful mess at the Holi Festival of Colors, invaded the streets of Jaipur (Pink City), cooked with the executive chef of the Courtyard Marriott Agra Hotel, drove the Tuc Tuc's, and left their mark everywhere they went!

Although now back in Lebanon, the mind and soul of the group has not left India!



# NDU Highlights

## Religion/Science Dialogue at NDU

The Benedict XVI Endowed Chair of Religious, Cultural and Philosophical Studies at the Faculty of Humanities (FH), Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU), organized on Monday, March 14, 2016, at the Pierre Abou Khater Auditorium, NDU main campus, a roundtable on the relationship between religion and science in the context of an interreligious celebration.

The event began with the angelic voices of Al-Mabarrat School choir, singing hymns in praise of the Virgin Mary, followed by the recitation of a poem dedicated to *Maryam* (Arabic for Mary) by Dr. Mahdi Mansour, and the welcome note delivered by Honorée Eid.

Dr. Alam, Chair of the Benedict XVI Chair, presented a brief history of the Chair's establishment.

This gathering was considered the first general meeting of the Benedict XVI Society, a society that has been meeting regularly since fall 2015.



Through this meeting, society membership is now formally open to all interested faculty and students.

Dr. Alam introduced the panelists and set the tone for the conference wherein he underscored the importance of recognizing the unity of truth in all of its religious, philosophical, scientific, and moral expressions.

The panelists were: Dr. Mehdi Mansour (Ph.D. in Molecular Physics); Dr. Roger Hajjar (Astronomy Specialist); Dr. Samir Mahmoud (Architecture, specialized in Sufi Architecture), Dean of the Faculty of Architecture, Arts and Design (FAAD) Dr. Jean-Pierre Asmar; and Dr. Hassan Younes and Omar Sakr (Business).

The conference concluded with a fruitful Q&A session after which many NDU faculty and students signed up to join the society.

## Fundraising Luncheon

Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) established the Community Service Office (CSO) at the Student Affairs Office (SAO) to suffuse students' knowledge education with an education of heart: A sense of empathy with the underprivileged and needy, a sense of responsibility for the betterment of our society, a sense of belonging to communities and country, and a sense of power in effecting positive change.



In keeping with its mission, the CSO recently aligned with NDU students, who are part of the various University clubs and societies, and partnered with Caritas Lebanon and Hands of Mercy (NGO) to launch a special action plan, involving the renovation of eight homes belonging to deprived families. The action plan falls within the framework of the Hands and Hearts Plan (one of the main plans on the CSO agenda).



Sympathetic NDU students embarked on an inspiring mission to paint each of the eight homes and equip each residence with brand new fixtures and installations. To further ensure the success of this project, the CSO organized a University-wide fundraising and luncheon campaign to garner support for this noble cause. As expected, the NDU community joined hands and hearts to help these underprivileged families improve their standard of living and made them feel that someone out there truly cares about their well-being.



## NDU Celebrates Mother's Day

Mother's Day at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) is that beautiful time of the year when we show gratitude to our mothers for being the fighters, the teachers, the achievers, and the generous givers that they are.



As we have done every year since 2008, we celebrated with staff members who are mothers, and this year in particular, NDU chose to honor five mothers who have uniquely contributed toward the betterment of our society: Rima Sayrafi (journalist); Antoinette Baroud (mother of former Lebanese Minister Ziad Baroud); Mimi Khoury (owner of Al Arz Hospital); Siham Moussa (mother of NDU President Fr. Walid Moussa); and Reva Costantine (a mother of three children with special needs).



The celebration also featured a piano performance delivered by Chairperson of the Department of Accounting and Finance at the Faculty of Business Administration and Economics (FBAE) Dr. Viviane Neami and another performance by an NDU Oriental music instructor along with two of his students.

## Way of the Cross

The Way of the Cross took place at the Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) main campus on Holy Monday, March 21, 2016, at 12:15 p.m., in the presence of NDU President Fr. Walid Moussa, Vice-President for Administration Fr. Pierre Najem, University Chaplain General Fr. George Nassif, University Chaplain Fr. Khoubié, and a large number of NDU faculty and staff. The ceremony marked the Fourteen Stations of the Cross, reliving the path that Jesus took on the way to his crucifixion at the Skull-place (Golgotha).



## Consecration of New Chapel

Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) recently celebrated in the presence of NDU faculty and staff members the consecration of a new chapel at its main campus, bearing the name: Notre Dame of Louaize.



NDU President Fr. Walid Moussa presided over Mass, assisted by His Excellency Exarch Abbot Fadi Bou Chebl, whose first act was to bless the altar. Also assisting Mass were Vice-President for Finance Fr. Bechara Khoury, University General Chaplain Fr. Georges Nassif, and University Chaplain Fr. Marc Khoubié. During Mass, the Pastoral Work group sang hymns in praise of the Lord.



In his homily, Fr. Moussa, stressed on the importance of the Church, saying, "Each of you is the body of the Church... The Church cannot exist without you."

## The "City Street 2" Collaborative Workshop

Several student workshops and lecture series have been organized to enhance exchange and interaction with other universities, as part of the "City Street 2" Conference, which will take place between November 9 and 11, 2016, at the Faculty of Architecture, Art and Design (FAAD), Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU).

The theme of the workshop was selected and developed by the faculty members involved from seven universities, including the FAAD at NDU. These universities are: the Lebanese University IBA2; University of Cyril and Methodius in Skopje, Macedonia; University of Cyprus in Nicosia, Cyprus; University of Ljubljana in Ljubljana, Slovenia; Alexandria University in Alexandria, Egypt; TU Delft in Delft, the Netherlands; Politecnico di Torino in Turin, Italy; and German Jordanian University in Amman, Jordan.



Some universities conducted the workshop within the study area in Beirut, while others worked on study areas within their own cities. At the FAAD, the workshop theme involved two student groups studying two adjacent study areas over two consecutive semesters. During the fall 2015-2016 semester, FAAD students worked with students from the University of Cyprus. NDU Assistant Professor Dr. Christine Mady attended the final juries at the University of Cyprus in December 2015.

During the fall 2015-2016 semester, the workshop focused on 'Linking the Mat'haf/Badaro area to its surroundings,' while in the spring 2016 semester it focused on 'Drawing on the Potential of Furn el- Chebback and its Surroundings'. These are the southeastern parts of Beirut, adjacent to the capital's suburbs. During the spring 2016 semester, university delegations visited the FAAD in February, March, April, and May. The workshops involve fourth-year students at the Department of Architecture. Students from the collaborating universities are also fourth- year students in architecture, or urban design.



The output of the collaborative workshop will be presented during the conference as an exhibition. A publication reflecting the work done will also accompany the exhibition.



## UNESCO and NDU Interventions in Lebanese Ministries and Municipalities

With the aim to identify existing initiatives targeting youth and led by national and local authorities, UNESCO Office in Beirut, in partnership with the Center for Applied Research in Education (CARE) at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU), organized a roundtable to discuss the findings of a recent report, developed by students, on youth-related interventions within ministries and municipalities in Lebanon.

On April 11, 2016, NDU professors and UNESCO experts, along with university students involved in the mapping activity, gathered at the NDU campus in Louaize, Lebanon, to discuss the progress report, prepared in the framework of the Network for Mediterranean Youth (NET-MED) Project. Discussions were led by Dr. Bassel Akar, Director of CARE.

During this meeting, titled "Mapping of Youth Interventions at Ministries and Municipalities," students shared their experiences and insights regarding the site visits they conducted to speak to representatives from ministries and municipalities, including Ministries of Labor, Culture, and Industry, as well as nine municipalities from regions across Lebanon, to learn about a total of 20 projects led by ministries and municipalities. Dr. Akar emphasized the importance of this activity,



not just for identifying and mapping out such youth interventions but also for empowering Lebanese youth to conduct research and fieldwork on issues that are directly related to them. Furthermore, Dr. Seiko Sugita, Programme Specialist for Social and Human Sciences at UNESCO Beirut office also reiterated the Organization's mandate and the prioritization of youth issues, especially through the Net-Med Youth project. Dr. Sugita also discussed opportunities for building on, expanding, and supporting the identified youth initiatives and interventions in order to benefit as many young Lebanese men and women as possible.

## Honoring Ceremony by the Lions Clubs International

The Lions Clubs International organized on June 1, 2016, an honoring ceremony at the Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) main campus to recognize among others:

- Rev. Fr. Walid Moussa, president, NDU; and
- Dr. Joseph G. Jabbra, president, LAU.

Honorees were presented with awards for exemplary accomplishment and achievement.



## End of Year Exhibition: EYE 16-REFORM

The Faculty of Architecture, Art and Design (FAAD) at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) organized on Friday, June 14, 2016, its 16th annual End of Year Exhibition titled, "EYE 16-REFORM," which puts on display students' senior projects in the disciplines of Architecture, Interior Design, Graphic Design, Multimedia, Fashion Design, Photography, and Musicology. The theme for this year's event was *REFORM*, which celebrates a new generation of senior students leaving academic life and joining the labor force to pursue a career in their chosen discipline.

Each End of Year Exhibition offers a distinctive program, depending on the number of graduate students and the diversity of projects exhibited. Given that the FAAD is a growing Faculty and the majors it offers are increasing, this year's exhibition was brimming with rich diversity.

NDU student Luna Saad delivered the welcome note before giving the floor to Chady Bteich, *EYE* chairperson. In his speech, Bteich said, "Today, we take an important step in the effort to explore the complexities of our work and to reform the dimension of our history to the understanding of our heritage ... This is *REFORM*"



FAAD Dean Dr. Jean-Pierre el-Asmar shed light on the importance of "always rethinking, reviewing, amending, or adjusting our programs to enable us and our students to face the rapid changes in a highly competitive environment without losing our balance when it comes to the category of aesthetics (...)." Dr. Asmar also appealed to students to start "reforming Lebanon."

For his part, NDU President Fr. Walid Moussa considered that "reform" is giving "fullness to what is empty and lighting what is dark." Fr. Moussa added that God gave us the power to participate with him in Creation.

Guest speaker Juan Jose Lopez De La Cruz invited students to look to the future, a future that awaits them. He encouraged them to "to draw the world with the ink of your mind and heritage."

Finally, NDU Music Department students performed several well-rehearsed sets, fashion students showcased their fashion prowess, and architecture students put on display their unique projects.





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