





President's Message

New Outreach Strategy

NDU-NAM Scholarship

Accreditation: FE and FBAE Lead the Way

2015-2016 Commencement

Opening of the New Academic Year 2016-2017



Once More, Outreach Efforts Leap Ahead

In keeping with the Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) commitment to internationalizing the campus and encouraging heritage students to study at NDU, I am pleased to announce that our outreach efforts have redoubled. During the NDU delegation visit in July 2010 to the National Maronite Convention (NAM) in the USA, I had the privilege to announce the formation of the 'NDU-NAM Scholarship Fund' for students who are active members of the NAM, granting to outstanding students full tuition waiver and residence for study at NDU. This year, the NDU community expects to see more Lebanese-American students on campus. Philip Raad and Gabriella Koussa from Indiana University and Denison University respectively, will be on campus in the coming months. Also, this year marks a new chapter in the establishment of the Friends of NDU Foundation-Canada, a nonprofit organization established by friends and alumni of NDU to act as liaison to the local Lebanese-Canadian community; thus, strengthening the University's outreach efforts. Last April, I had the opportunity to visit Montreal and pave the way for the University's new outreach efforts in North America. During a reception held on April 23, 2016, I extended an invitation to all friends of the NDU Foundation-Canada to join our growing network of NDU supporters. Clearly, there is a strong desire within the North American Lebanese communities to have institutional "bridges" to Lebanon that can connect Lebanese emigrants to their country of origin and their cultural routes. NDU is well-positioned to be the leading Lebanese institution in North America because of its positive image, religious affiliation, and strong base of support.

So far, our strategy of building NDU's cross-national bridges, reaching out to Lebanese communities abroad, and the University's internationalization, is beginning to pay off. To further enhance this strategy, a formal NDU presence is needed on a continuous basis in both Washington, D.C., and Montreal for development, information gathering, and communications. Accordingly, some sort of

organizational structure is warranted. To that end, a full time director responsible for all of North America's operations shall be appointed soon.

This issue of the *Chronicle* spotlights recent events and successes that correlate with our strategy. Certainly, we are increasingly an institution where "reaching out" is just as important as the "domestic" or "in-house."

As President of NDU, I am confident that these efforts, and given the level of support for these endeavors, will only serve to strengthen our bonds with North America in the future.



president's message

Father WALID MOUSSA
President NDU

new outreach strategy

NDU Washington, D.C., Office:
Updated Strategy and
Contact Information



The Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) Washington, D.C., Office was established to create awareness for NDU in the United States of America as well as to build a culture link between NDU and its American counterparts.

Throughout the years, the Office has focused on a variety of different projects, and - while still building upon its previous goals - is currently embarking on an exciting strategic change to focus more on alumni in the USA. That said, the updated objectives of this Office focus on:

1. Networking and engaging with alumni and friends residing in the USA.
2. Bridging the divide between NDU and the American community.
3. Forming relationships with American institutions and societies.





Networking and Engaging with Alumni

One of the biggest focuses of the new D.C. Office's strategy is to connect and communicate with NDU alumni residing in the USA. Whether via e-mail, social media, webinars, or in-person events, we hope to connect with you and create a sense of community and camaraderie amongst the NDU family in the United States. If you have ideas about how to unite NDU alumni in the States, please connect with us (*see contact information below*) to share your ideas.

Connecting with the American Community

Building upon one of our founding missions, the D.C. Office still wishes to share, cherish, and promote the educational values and goals of NDU to support it intellectually, professionally, and otherwise. In all we do, we look for opportunities to drive awareness for the University and to share its unique story. We hope that one day everyone in the USA will know, recognize, and consider studying at or working with NDU.

Relationships with American Institutions

Finally, yet of equal importance, we seek to create relationships with American institutions of all kinds - from educational institutions and government to corporations - to create opportunities for cooperation. We are open to and seek to build new and unique partnerships for the advancement of NDU, whether it be through a student exchange program, recruitment of new faculty, coordinating on research projects, or the exchange of publications.

How to Contact the D.C. Office

As we build plans around the aforementioned strategy, we want to hear from you! If you have ideas or suggestions on how best we can meet our goals, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. Additionally, if you are an alumni residing in the USA, please like our Facebook page, join our LinkedIn group, or contact the D.C. Office Coordinator via e-mail or telephone.

Contact information is as follows:

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 Washington, D.C. 20006
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 E: dc-office@ndu.edu.lb
 Fb: @ American Friends of Notre Dame University Lebanon - AFNDU



Ms. Haley Kalil, D.C.,
Office Coordinator

outreach action plan 2016-2017

OPD Outreach Efforts: Goals and Objectives

In the past year, the Office of Planning and Development (OPD) at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) has moved ahead with the second phase of its outreach efforts in the United States of America and Canada. This ongoing plan of action is based on three key objectives considered essential to institutional advancement since these objectives are laying the groundwork for a future in addition to a sustainable fundraising plan. During this second, intermediary phase the objectives are to:

- Promote the image and strengthen the presence of NDU in the U.S. and Canada;
- Build bridges between North American students, faculty members, and other individuals and NDU, especially those hailing from Lebanese expatriate communities; and
- Involve, and in some cases expand or make changes to, existing NDU units and infrastructure to accommodate these efforts and thus expedite outreach and development goals to serve a longer-term fundraising strategy.

The academic year 2016-2017 marks the **NDU Accreditation Progress** beyond the candidacy status, and the OPD has identified this important milestone as crucial to its institutional advancement plans. The **narrative** of NDU's progress during the past 30 years, as well as the University's **vision for the future**, is

of tremendous value to advancement efforts. The OPD, thus, recommends leveraging the University's accreditation status to serve as:

- The inauguration of a more ambitious, University-wide advancement agenda in accordance with its strategic plan, building upon current outreach efforts; and
- An occasion to undergo academic self-review and programmatic change to make a stronger case of support to future supporters and to facilitate student and faculty recruitment efforts in North America, especially from the ranks of the Lebanese diaspora.

The OPD views its current efforts in North America as part of a larger, University-wide advancement strategy that involves additional University units, including alumni and all pertinent Communications and Public Relations support units.

Suggested Activities

The following is a list of activities forming part of the OPD's continued outreach efforts in North America:

- **American Friends of NDU Chapters**
 - Increase the number of AFNDU chapters through contacts made at National Apostolate of Maronites (NAM) conventions
 - Strengthen existing chapters through leadership reorganization (Washington, D.C.)
 - Design communications package for AFNDU following the Canadian model
 - Set up a comprehensive website
 - Establish and promote, through local chapters, two semester scholarships for American college students modeled on the 'NDU-NAM Scholarship'
- **Friends of NDU Foundation Canada (CAFNDU)**
 - Name new Board of Directors and recruit Executive Committee
 - Set up a comprehensive website



- Issue, through the Foundation, two NDU scholarships modeled on the 'NDU-NAM Scholarships'
- **NAM**
 - Build upon success of recent outreach by continued participation in its annual convention
 - Continue to support the 'NDU-NAM Scholarship' fund for college students who are members of NAM
- **Recruitment of Executive Director for North American Operations**
 - Establish the full-time position of Executive Director for North American Operations to build on current outreach and to lead the next phase of efforts (i.e. fundraising)

NDU-NAM scholarship

NDU at the 53rd National Convention in San Francisco

Within the framework of the Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) mission to serve as a bridge of communication between Lebanon and the rest of the world, NDU Assistant to the President for Planning and Development Dr. Assaad Eid once again represented from July 6, 2016, to July 10, 2016, NDU President Fr. Walid Moussa at the "53rd Annual National Apostolate of Maronites (NAM) Convention," which was held in San Francisco, California, USA.

The NAM is the official lay apostolate of the Maronite Church of the USA. The only lay apostolate of its kind in the Maronite World, it was established in 1964 and has held a national convention every year since. NDU's regular participation further solidifies the University's image as the preeminent Maronite Catholic institution of higher education in Lebanon and the Middle East.

Speech Delivered at the NAM Convention by NDU-NAM Scholarship Recipient Maya Khoury

National Apostolate of Maronites (NAM) President Samir Farah, Executive NAM Director Mike Naber, NAM Board Members, Fellow NAM Delegates, Ladies and Gentleman,

Good morning.

I would like to thank you for the honor and the opportunity to speak tonight as past recipient of the NAM Scholarship-Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU).

My Name is Maya Khoury and I am a parishioner at St. Anthony's Maronite Church in Richmond, Virginia, USA, and a student at Virginia Commonwealth University. I have arrived directly from Lebanon where I studied for the past five months. I have been asked to share my experience at NDU.

It was February 3, 2016. I still remember what the pilot on MEA Flight 244 said minutes before landing. I remember how my heart sank at that moment when he told us to fasten our seatbelts. Many thoughts ran through my head that day. Was I really going to live 5,901 miles (9,496 kilometers) from home for the next five months? I was filled with excitement and anticipation for all of the new adventures I was about to encounter, but at the same time I was nervous and somewhat scared.

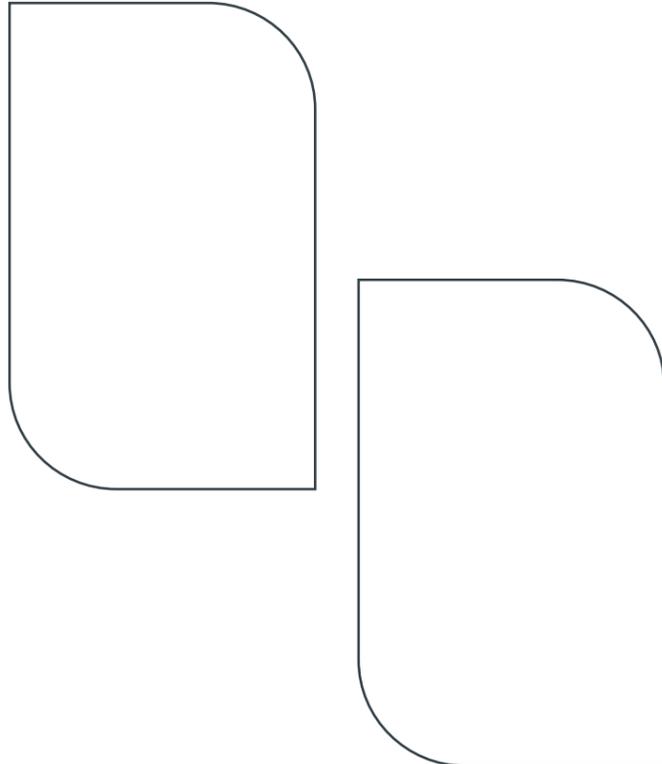
Our plane began its approach into Lebanon from the south, which has such a beautiful view of the Beirut coastline, my eyes were glued to the window. As we began to descend and the plane smoothly glided onto the runway the pilot announced, 'Thank you for flying with all of us at MEA. Ahla wo sahla fekoun b Libnan (welcome to Lebanon).' As we exited the plane, I'll never forget the sounds of Lebanon around 5:00 p.m. that day. I heard everything from the honks of who knows how many car horns, to church bells and prayer calls, to travelers' cell phones ringing, and all against the soft roll of the waves on the Mediterranean shore. I could smell the Beirut air. It has a special aroma of sea



(from left) Patriarch Mar Bechara Botrous al-Rahi, Maya Khoury, and Bishop Gregory Mansour.



Dr. Assaad Eid and Patriarch Mar Bechara Botrous al-Rahi.





salt, garlic, and gasoline. The sun was beginning to set and the sky was foggy on that Wednesday evening. My most vivid memory of that day was seeing my **jiddo (grandfather)** standing outside the security checkpoint and the big smile he had when my dad and I came around the corner as we exited customs.

A few days after my arrival, I moved to the campus. The moment I arrived at the NDU campus I felt at home. The campus is secured twenty-four seven and its ever vigilant guards keep watch over all the areas of the University. Also, NDU is a closed campus, so after a certain hour the main gate closes. I never once felt unsafe while staying at NDU.

Most class sizes are small, which is a great advantage for the students not only to access the professors but also to establish a relationship with them and with fellow students. My instructors and classmates were as curious about my life in the States as I was about their life in Lebanon, and we learned from each other.

For example, one of the courses I took was **'The History of Lebanon,'** which I highly recommend. I learned so much about my ancestors and the formation of Lebanon. Quite often I would go to my professor's office and talk to him for hours after lecture, and he would share stories of his experiences during the civil war. I will always be grateful for his generosity of time and the richness of learning that I received from our visits.

NDU offers a wide variety of majors and classes. Most classes are transferrable to U.S. colleges and universities since NDU is based on the American system. Before coming to Lebanon, I looked at NDU's course catalog and choose classes that would be in the normal sequence at my American university. Next, I checked with the Registrar's Office at Virginia Commonwealth University and the Advising Office at NDU to verify acceptance of credits and to coordinate my schedule. It was a smooth and quick process on both sides.

My dorm accommodations were modern and clean with a full-size bed and a spacious kitchenette, study area, and bathroom. Cleaning services were provided twice a week, and did I mention that I had a private room? After a few short weeks of living at NDU I began

to acclimate well, and I met many friends while living on campus. Much like me, many of my friends were from Lebanese origin but their families live outside of Lebanon, so we had a lot in common. We spent many meals, study sessions, and outings together. We formed a nice family bond since we were alone here in Lebanon. Once you meet one or two people, the network of friendship blossoms.

In regards to technology, on the NDU campus every student and faculty member has their own username and password. This past semester the Wi-Fi signal was updated and made stronger during the hours where more students were on campus. In the evenings when most students were in the dorms the Wi-Fi signal was stronger there.

The NDU Library has many resources, including online databases, computers for use, and books. Quiet study rooms and group study rooms. I attended one event there that was amazing - I will never forget it; it was called the **'Human Library,'** instead of going to the library and reading a book about someone and their story, the

NDU Student Affairs Office (SAO) invited people to tell their stories. Students were able to sit and hear about someone's life and ask questions. For example, there was a man from the Lebanese army, another man that was healed by Saint Charbel, and yet another man who was in a bad car accident. We also listened to the story of a recovered drug addict and a lady who lost her family, among many other people sharing their stories. It was a great way to 'read' about someone's story, and the event received wonderful feedback.

In addition to the Library, NDU has a wide variety of activities on campus. They offer many different clubs, such as sports, music, social, or political - in fact, just about anything you would like to get involved in. They also have some competitive sports teams, such as soccer, basketball, volleyball, and martial arts.

The most memorable event at NDU was Founders' Day also known affectionately as 'NDU's Birthday.' The entire University clubs and the entire faculty and student body come together to celebrate another successful year. The event included celebrities and entertainment,

and of course, food. The energy and happiness I felt that night while celebrating with friends dancing and singing to the music really made me fall in love with the NDU community.

Aside from spending time on campus, I was able to connect with many relatives that I had never met. I spent many weekends visiting different aunts, uncles, and cousins and getting to know them. I learned a lot of the Lebanese dialect this way, because many of my relatives weren't fluent in English. I was immersed in the culture and the language. Lebanon is a small country but what makes it even smaller is the family connections, you can't go out anywhere without meeting someone that knows someone in your family or someone from your village; it surprised me.

I met Lebanese from all over the country. I was fortunate enough to travel as far north as Tripoli to the southern village of Marjayoun on the border with Israel, and also from the mountains of Sannine and the coastal city of Beirut to the Bekaa Valley. I was able to hike through Mount Lebanon and through the Chouf.

Is it safe? I'm sure all of you are wondering. When people ask me if I felt safe in Lebanon I would always say 'yes.' The best advice I would give when it comes to that is if you are from outside Lebanon, when traveling to a new place don't go by yourself, travel with someone who knows the area. When the locals advise you to avoid certain areas, trust that advice; otherwise, enjoy your time. I always felt safe.



Maya Khoury, during her speech at the NAM Convention 2016





The Lebanese people don't live in fear, and most are honored to show you their country. I was fortunate enough to not have to deal with any crazy issues in regards to safety but you have to be careful wherever you go. The area where the University is located an extremely safe area.

I would like to thank the NAM Board, Dr. Assad Eid, Mr. Mike Naber, and NDU for an opportunity of a lifetime. I've fallen in love with Lebanon and its natural beauty and its people. **Nshallah (God willing)**, I will return each year with my family. I will cherish these memories forever. So I urge you to go; go to Lebanon, apply for the scholarship, and connect with your heritage. In the words of Khalil Gibran, 'You have your Lebanon and I have mine. You have your Lebanon with her problems, and I have my Lebanon with her beauty. You have your Lebanon with all her prejudices and struggles, and I have my Lebanon with all her dreams and securities. Your Lebanon is a political knot, a national dilemma, a place of conflict and deception. My Lebanon, is a place of beauty and dreams of enchanting valleys and splendid mountains. Your Lebanon is inhabited by functionaries, officers, politicians, committees, and factions. My Lebanon is for peasants, shepherds, young boys and girls, parents and poets. Your Lebanon is empty and fleeting, whereas My Lebanon will endure forever.'

Best of luck.

Merci, ktir.

Notification Letter Sent to NDU-NAM Scholarship Winners for the Academic Year 2016-2017

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the National Apostolate of Maronites (NAM), and the NAM Scholarship Selection Committee, I am proud and happy to inform you (officially) that you have been chosen to receive one of this year's 'Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) - National Apostolate of Maronites (NAM) Scholarship' awards.

It is apparent that you are an exemplary student, active in both your parish and in extra-curricular activities. Your commitment to your church, school, and civic community, and especially your love and pride of your heritage, are admirable qualities that will certainly serve you well in life.

As outlined in the application, this is a full scholarship, including tuition and dormitory at the NDU main campus in Lebanon, and as soon as you return, please forward to our national office address below an official transcript showing a 3.0 GPA or above from NDU so that we can issue a check of US\$500 directly to you.

On behalf of the NAM and all of its members, I congratulate you and offer you our prayers full of best wishes for God's continued blessings and graces in all your endeavors.

Gabriella Koussa

Gabriella Koussa, or Bella, is a Cleveland, Ohio, USA, native where she lives with her parents Nadeem and Deebey, sisters Jiana and Sara, as well as their puppy, Lucy. The Koussa's are members of St. Maron Parish and are active members in the church community. Her father is a member of the parish council and her mother volunteers at a number of church functions, including the annual festival, and is chair on the banquet committee for the National Apostolate of Maronites (NAM) regional and national conventions in Cleveland. The three sisters have each held the position of president for the Maronite Youth Organization (MYO) when they were in high school. As college students, they are members of the Maronite Young Adult (MYA) organization and



Gabriella Koussa, NDU-NAM Scholarship student.

Bella's older sister is a youth advisor. Bella and her family attend the NAM Regional and National Conventions annually, where they enjoy meeting and celebrating with fellow Maronites from around the nation. Some of Bella's closest friends in the states are those whom she met at retreats from when she was a member of the MYO. Her favorite part of summer is the first week in July every year where she is able to reconnect with her friends from Minnesota, Georgia, and California.

Bella is a high honors graduate from Saint Joseph Academy where she was elected a president of her class and a National Honor Society member. She was a swimmer for ten years, and thrived as

captain of her swim team at Saint Joseph Academy, record holder at her school, and an Ohio district medalist in the 200-freestyle relay. Currently, Bella is a third year Biology/Pre-Dental student at Denison University in Columbus, Ohio. Denison University, or "the hill," is a liberal arts university consisting of roughly 2,500 students from across the nation. Although Denison is small in size compared to many universities in the United States, a few notable alumni include Michael Eisner '64, Former Chairman and CEO, Walt Disney Company; Steve Carell '84, Actor; and Jennifer Garner '94, Actress. Her favorite part about the hill are the networking events available to all students where notable alumni, like those listed above, return to campus to share their stories of success.

Bella is an avid volunteer on her campus; particularly with the national Homelessness and Hunger-Food Recovery club, where she helps collect and transport excess food from campus dining halls to several local homeless shelters. She is a member of Delta Gamma, a sorority on campus, where she volunteers locally to assist the blind and visually impaired. Her most recent volunteer endeavor was a mission trip over her spring break to Monte Cristi, Dominican Republic. In the Dominican, Bella and several other volunteers from Denison worked with an organization called Outreach360. Outreach360 volunteers teach students (K-6) by exercising English immersion at various schools in the Monte Cristi area. Volunteers meet real needs in the communities where they work while learning about the culture, history, and people. Aside from her volunteer work, Bella is a teacher's assistant as well as a tutor for the Beginner's Arabic courses on campus. She is also involved in club swimming, Middle-Eastern cultural organization, Denison University Biological Society, and Denison University Pre-Medicine Club. Although she enjoys Denison and all of the opportunities she has had on campus and through her church, she is greatly looking forward to her semester abroad at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU)!



Philip Raad

Philip Raad was born to Joseph Louis Raad and Ellen Gilbert Raad in Rock Hill, South Carolina, USA. Louis Raad, his paternal grandfather, immigrated in 1926 as a teenager to the United States of America from Lebaa, a small town in the south of Lebanon. Raad attended St. Anne Catholic School, then Rock Hill High School, and then the University of South Carolina, Columbia, graduating in 2014 with a BSBA in International Business and Marketing. In the spring of 2012, following his first three semesters at university, he attended the American University of Beirut (AUB) for one academic semester, where apart from visiting his native country, he continued his studies in Economics, Accounting, and the Arabic Language. He is a parishioner of the Maronite Mission of Charlotte, N.C., which until recently was under the supervision of Fr. Elie Mikhael. Following his graduation from the University of South Carolina, Raad served as the Student Affairs Assistant Director at St. Joseph School, Kornet Chehwan, Lebanon, under Principal Fr. Georges Antaby, Ph.D. During this time, Raad decided to pursue graduate studies in Arabic Language and Literature, and enrolled at Indiana University, Bloomington, as an M.A. student in Near Eastern Languages and Cultures. He hopes to use the experience gained at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) to enrich his experience as a student of the Middle East, and Lebanon in particular.



Philip Raad, NDU-NAM Scholarship student.



accreditation: FE and FBAE lead the way

Engineering Programs Earn ABET Recognition

The Faculty of Engineering (FE) at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) recently announced that all its undergraduate degree programs have been officially and fully accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET, the global accreditor of college and university programs in applied science, computing, engineering, and engineering technology.

To mark this landmark, NDU Vice-President for Academic Affairs Dr. Elie Badr released a statement addressed to the members of the NDU community in which he said, "I am absolutely delighted to inform you that the Engineering Accreditation Commission of Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) has our fully accredited our Engineering Programs at NDU. The ABET granted this accreditation for the maximum term possible (six years) and extended the period retroactively to October 1, 2013! Getting ABET accreditation is a milestone accomplishment, and signifies a historic moment in the life of the FE. With this momentous seal of quality assurance, the FE has become a major player in Engineering education on the national, regional, and international academic arena. No institution in Lebanon, offering accredited Engineering programs, can any longer claim an edge over NDU. On the contrary, NDU programs can claim this edge based on unblemished facts. We offer ABET accredited programs of the same quality, if not better, delivered by qualified faculty members, supported by cutting-edge laboratories, and technological facilities at a fraction of the tuition charged by the other institutions, and always mindful and guided by our mission. On behalf of all faculty members, I extend my thanks and congratulations to our colleagues at the FE. My special thanks go to Dean Dr. Michel Hayek for his strong leadership and guidance throughout this long process. Hats off to our FE!"

FE Dean Dr. Michel Hayek also released a statement on the same subject and addressed it to the members of the NDU community. He wrote, "The FE at NDU is pleased to announce that all its degree programs (Civil, Computer and Communication, Electrical and Mechanical Engineering) are now officially and fully accredited by the ABET, the global accreditor of college and university programs in applied science, computing, engineering, and engineering technology. ABET accreditation assures that programs meet standards to produce graduates ready to enter critical technical fields, leading the way in innovation and emerging technologies, and anticipating the welfare and safety needs of the public. This accreditation covers all engineering degrees offered by NDU, regardless of campus and with a two-year retroactive effect. We are the first institution in Lebanon with multiple campuses to achieve such accreditation thanks to the contribution of all concerned: faculty, staff, students, support units, and the administration. Congratulations to the Engineering team for a great achievement and congratulations to NDU for a well-deserved success on both a national and on an international scale."

NDU Business Programs Receive Eligibility for Accreditation by AACSB

All Business programs at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) recently received eligibility status for accreditation by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB). This eligibility status was highlighted in two separate communications released NDU Vice-President for Academic Affairs (VPAA) Dr. Elie Badr, and Dean of the Faculty of Engineering (FE) Dr. Elie Menassa.

In his communication, Dr. Badr said, "I am absolutely delighted to share with you the AACSB news, as related below by Dean Dr. Menassa to his colleagues at the Faculty of Business Administration and Economics (FBAE), NDU. In summary, the AACSB has granted the FBAE eligibility status; a status granted **only** to our FBAE out of 11 members in Lebanon. The President and I extend our thanks and gratitude to Dr. Menassa and his colleagues for this signal achievement. This AACSB eligibility status is an important stage in the life of the FBAE, and, with the help of all concerned, work shall continue to celebrate full accreditation in the foreseeable future."

For his part, Dr. Menassa wrote, "In Spring 2013, more than a dozen business schools in Lebanon (including the FBAE) applied for AACSB membership. By July 2013, 11 were admitted. As of today, I am extremely proud to share with you that in their meeting held on August 2, 2016, at their headquarters in the USA, the AACSB Initial Accreditation Committee (after thoroughly evaluating our extensive eligibility report submitted in April 2016) **officially declared NDU's FBAE as eligible for accreditation after accepting our submission "as is" without a single amendment.** Now, we are in a league on our own. Statistics in Lebanon are currently as follows: two accredited schools (AUB and LAU); one eligible school (NDU); and the rest are at the other end of the spectrum, standing little chance of joining our rank in the foreseeable future. Congratulations for making it from the first attempt (this achievement by itself is a worthy indicator of our professionalism and high standards). Be proud!"



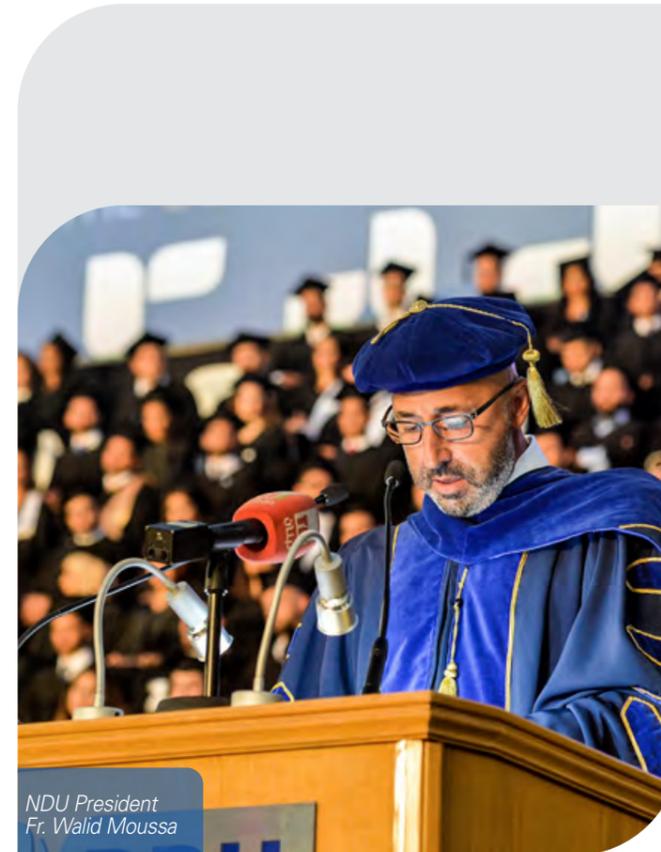
2015-2016 Commencement

This year's golden moment was graduating 1,282 students who have now joined the ranks of the prestigious Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) alumni. During the Commencement Ceremony held on July 11, 2016, the guest of honor, world-renown businessman Carlos Ghosn, said, "If you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go together."

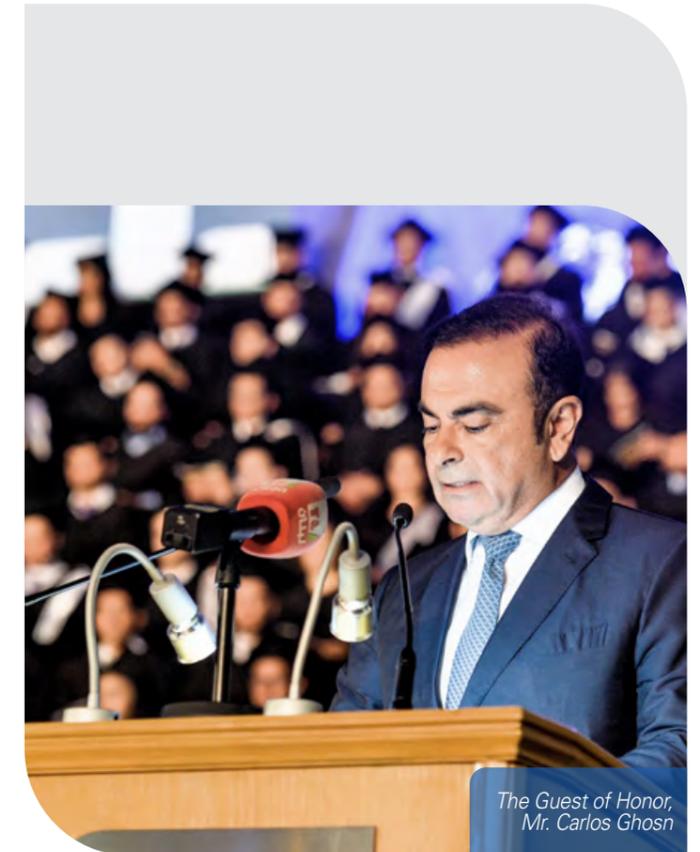
Ghosn's inspiring speech was followed by an equally motivating word delivered by NDU President Rev. Fr. Walid Moussa who told the graduates that he was proud of their achievement and reminded them that they were now the face of NDU. He advised them to always stand proud and to always put their faith in God.

For his part, NDU Vice-President for Public Affairs and Communications Suheil Matar congratulated the graduates and their parents, and talked about Lebanon's painful and challenging reality. He told the graduates that they now have an obligation, in their capacity as emerging professionals, to try and set things right.

James Karam delivered the Class of 2016 Valedictorian Speech. Karam is a Fulbright Scholarship recipient who graduated with a B.S. in Actuarial Sciences and a Minor in Finance, with a GPA of 4.0.



NDU President
Fr. Walid Moussa



The Guest of Honor,
Mr. Carlos Ghosn



James Karam





opening of the new academic year 2016-2017

Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) officially began the academic year 2016-2017 by celebrating on Wednesday, September 21, 2016, its annual Opening Mass at Issam Fares Hall, NDU main campus.

NDU President Fr. Walid Moussa presided over Mass, assisted by NDU Vice-President for Finance Fr. Bechara Houry; NDU Vice-President for Administration Fr. Pierre Najem; NDU University General Chaplain Fr. Georges Nassif; NDU University Chaplain Fr. Marc Khoubbieh, NDU Shouf Campus (SC) Director Fr.

Hanna Tayyar; and other NDU priests: Fr. Khalil Rahme; Fr. Akram Houry; Fr. Joseph Tannous.

The Pastoral Work students served the Mass and voiced the choir in the presence of deans, faculty, staff, and students.

In his homily, Fr. Moussa invited everyone to ask the Lord for the strength, patience, love, and wisdom needed to guide the NDU community through a new academic year.



From the President's Desk: Letter Addressed to the NDU Community Marking the Start of the New Academic Year

Dear Members of the NDU Community,

Welcome to the new academic year; a year full of promise and possibility.

The history of Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) bears testament to a wealth of milestones as well as important academic, physical, and financial changes in its landscape, placing it today among the top-ranked academic institutions in Lebanon. The catalyst driving this progress and sustaining this vitality has been, and always will be, the collective effort of all of us - faculty, staff, students, and alumni.

Last year alone, we achieved great feats on many fronts. Indeed, our ambitious endeavors took courage and foresight to reach given that our path was strewn with challenges but in the end we reaped the rewards. This year, with our Strategic Plan guiding the way, I assure you that our eyes are firmly fixed on the future, and our ambitions are greater than ever. I firmly believe that our unique ability to work together toward common goals will continue to see this University, which we all call home, grow by leaps and bounds with each passing day.

We all share a stake in NDU's overall success and even though we have made encouraging strides through our combined commitment to excellence, we must always remain objective to ensure that our strategies nurture rather than inhibit our pursuits.

May God bless you all.



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