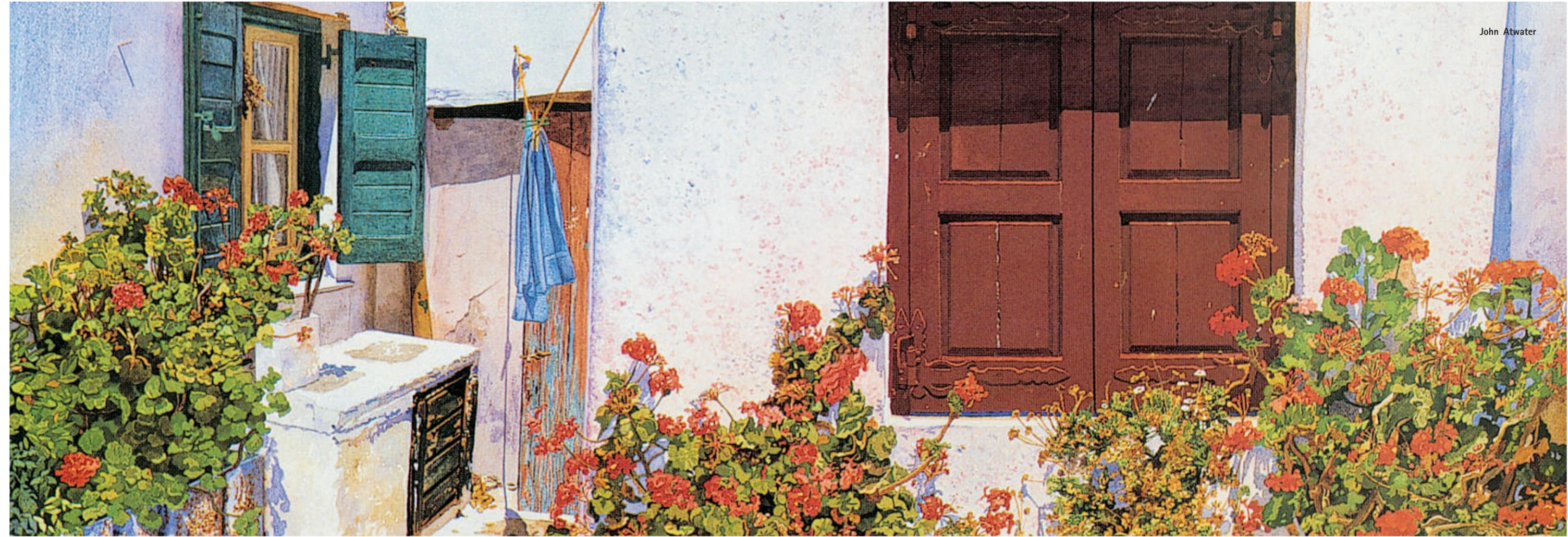


جامعة سيدة اللويزة - حزيران ٢٠٠٧، العدد ٤٠

ndu
spirit

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John Atwater

CONTENTS

Present in a region where oppressive military regimes abound, for the last thirty years Lebanon has been suffering from the influence of these and of their offshoots. No! It is not conceivable that any sincere and courageous person should let himself get bitten twice! At the same time, is it possible to bring into being a strong nation which does not possess strong military and security formations, ones in which the political authority should foster a sound and enlightened patriotic vision? So let us support these formations without any exception so that they might serve us all without any exception. And let us hail those elements of theirs who have offered their lives and been martyrs for us all and martyrs for Lebanon. May they rest in peace!

Editorial Staff

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS



- 3 Madonna University – Scholarship Protocol
- 3 Dean's List – Celebrating Academic Excellence
- 4 Inauguration of Issam Fares Hall
- 5 Euro-Med Cooperation



June 2007 | issue 40

ndu
spirit

NDU Spirit A periodical about campus life at Notre Dame University - Louaize.

ACADEMIC AND STUDENT ACTIVITIES

WEERC/BARSA

- 7 Water Vision Workshop
- 8 Waste Water Seminar
- 10 WEERC Events

LCSR

- 13 Seminar: The Horizons of Civil Society
- 15 Colloquium: between Identity and Globalization

LERC

- 17 Research Team additions
- 18 Danish Delegates and LERC: future cooperation
- 19 Associate Director visits Italy, France and Germany
- 21 LERC and LAU, Migration Conference

FAAD

- 22 Photography Exhibition
- 23 Information Design – Maria Bahous
- 24 Multimedia – International Encounters
- 25 Music Department – Grieg Celebration
- 26 Architecture Design VI
- 30 Ceramic Exhibition
- 31 Chadirji Award – won by Albert Farhat

FACULTY of HUMANITIES

- 32 Hand-out Center – Dr. Carol Goff-Kfouri
- 32 Educators attend Modules – Dr. Carol Goff-Kfouri
- 34 Wolves on Campus, Advertising Seminar – Chantal Dagher
- 36 The Concept of Memory in Literature – Dr. Norman Nikro
- 36 Dina Achkar gets Gebran Tueni Award

FBA&E

- 37 Symposium on Lebanese Agriculture
- 40 NDU Wins AGBA Award

FACULTY of ENGINEERING

- 42 IEEE-Berytech Workshop
- 42 Sarmad Rihani Scholarship

FNA&S

- 43 Sex, Drugs and Alcohol – Dr. Naim el-Aswad

FPSPAD

- 45 NDU Participation at Pisa Conference
- 47 Dual Citizenship at T-Marbouta Café – Khaled Karam
- 49 Job Fair at NDU
- 51 Saïd Akl Awards

- 52 Toufiq Succar prize for NDU-DCE student

CLUB ACTIVITIES

- 53 Astronomy Club – Camping Club – Club of International Relations – Discovery Club – Music Club – Radio TV Club – Sartarabad Club

60 Founders' Day

SHOUF ACTIVITIES

- 61 Quantifying Knowledge – Dr. Fouad Chedid
- 61 Advanced LabView Applications – André Hajjar
- 62 Successful Selling – Dr. Hassan Saadeh
- 62 Global Warming – Dr. Nabil Haddad
- 63 Reconfigurable Computing – Professor Walid Najjar
- 64 Pastoral Work

SPORTS OFFICE

- 66 Inter-University and Schools Tournaments
- 67 Documentary on the Houses of N.D. Louaize
- 67 Social

OPINION AND CULTURE

- 68 MEDA Water Programme – Dr. Fadi Comair
- 70 Labor Youth in Lebanon – Cendrella Khoury Mjaes
- Messina papers:
 - 76 Cyprus, the Troubled Island – Jean Angelopoulo
 - 82 Arabs in Israel – Bechara Melkoun
 - 88 The Water War (Litani) – Alya Chehab
 - 93 Thomas Gray – K.J. Mortimer
 - 96 Inequality in Lebanon and the Region – Dr. Louis G. Hobeika
 - 98 Governance and Development – Dr. Rock-Antoine Mehanna – Youssef Yazbeck
- 103 Center for Teaching – Dr. Hratch Hadjetian
- 110 Something for your grey matter

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The President's Message

good.
citizens

Are there still good citizens?

It is said of a great philosopher that he used to walk around the city exploring its streets while holding a lighted lamp in his hand, not only during the night but also during the day. When asked about this uncommon and somehow insignificant habit, the answer of this wise man was that he was searching for the truth. Nowadays, I find myself in the shoes of that truth-seeker, on foot in the streets of my country, looking around for the truth and searching for good citizens. I find myself, like many others, trying to find the truth about my Lebanon.

While walking, I came across all kinds of "non-Lebanese" people, and asked myself: "What is wrong with these people? Can't they see and understand?" Then, I realized that their eyes were "blind" so they could not see and their hearts were "hardened" so they could not understand. Deceiving people, who claim to be defenders of my Lebanon, but whose focus is the promotion of other countries' interests. Unworthy people, who publicly claim to be

protectors of my Lebanon, but whose deep-down belongingness is not to this country, whose name and identity they would fight to change.

As a matter of fact, I realized that the truth these days is not so much in need for someone to seek it out; rather the truth is engaged in a desperate wait for honest people, for zealous promoters, for self-giving defenders, who without being under oath are yet out to sincerely declare it. The truth in our time needs people to see it with their minds and understand it with their hearts. I realized indeed that Lebanon needs good citizens; citizens who love it, who defend it by all means more than defending any particular ideology or party.

The more I walked, the more paradoxes I crossed. I encountered a culture of hatred, violence, and death in the country of love, peace, and life. I met with impiety in the acts of religions, I experienced the secular in the heart of the sacred, I faced ignorance in the mind of knowledge and foolishness in the house of wisdom, and I saw the spirit of desperation invading the hearts of the people of hope. For instance, I watched many stand up on sad occasions and dare to comment on heartbreaking incidents, yet I waited long for someone courageous enough to transparently tell me where he or she was planning to take my country.

Then, I could not but ask myself: "Why is all this killing taking place? Why is there this propagation of evil?" And I wondered: "Doesn't my Lebanon deserve a better condition? Don't my fellow-citizens merit an explanation? Isn't there a trustworthy person who can openly tell us the truth?"

However, in spite of all that I came across, I am continuing my search. Are there still good citizens? Yes, there are! I am all-confident that I will find good citizens who will walk along with me in the streets of our Lebanon and share my belief in the words of Our Lord, who candidly say: "Where your treasure is, there is your heart." Lebanon is my treasure! Lebanon needs good citizens who keep it in their hearts. No matter what happens, we are not going to leave our treasure. We are the people of hope in spite of all the attempts to spread desperation. We shall never accept others to love our country more than we do! I shall never expect from a non-Lebanese to love Lebanon more than his or her own country, but I shall always expect from every Lebanese to love Lebanon as being his or her own country.

Do not be strangers in your homeland, and always ask yourselves: "What good have I done for my Lebanon?"

President
Fr. Walid Moussa

Presidential Scholarships for Madonna

A student scholarship protocol was co-signed at NDU by its President, **Rev. Fr. Walid Moussa**, and **Dr. Nancy Jamroz**, VP for Student Services and Mission Integration at Madonna University (MU), accompanied by **Dr. Jonathan Swift**, MU International Relations Director. This protocol covers an exchange of students for one full academic year, with high achievers being granted a scholarship covering their tuition and stay in the host university. This practical cooperation between the two universities will not only allow students to stay and study in the partner university, but also to pursue their education without any delay or change in their courses of studies for their degree.

We have pleasure in announcing that, after a long process of evaluating and interviewing at more than one level, the following four NDU students have been selected for the first Presidential Scholarship at Madonna University, Michigan, USA.

- **Wassim Bader, FNAS**
- **Amanda Yacoub, FNAS**
- **Pierre Saade, FPSPAD**
- **Emily Hajj, FH**

Our congratulations go to the four students. We are sure that they will have a wonderful learning experience in the USA, starting this Fall, 2007

Dean's List

NDU Celebrates Academic Excellence

The 518 students who had obtained a grade point average of 3.2 and higher in Fall 2006 were honored in a ceremony which took place at noon on May 7th, 2007, on NDU's main campus in Zouk Mosbeh. NDU President **Father Walid Moussa** congratulated the students for their achievements and at the same time advised them to keep their humility.

Representatives from each of NDU's faculties then spoke on issues concerning the quest for academic excellence. The M.C. **Nathalie Sermanokian** introduced: **Ms. Sarah Moukarzel** (Faculty of Natural and Applied Sciences), **Emma Shaffu** (Faculty of Humanities), **Ahmed Karkanaur** (Faculty of Architecture, Art and Design), **Pamela Chemaly** (Faculty of Political Science, Public Administration and Diplomacy), **Alain Zreik** (Faculty of Business Administration and Economics), and **Georges Akiki** and **Maha Chalita** (Faculty of Engineering).

Students will receive certificates designed by the FAAD for the occasion.

NDU Hall Named after Issam Fares

On April 30, 2007 Notre Dame University officially named the new Conference Hall in honor of Former Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Issam Fares in recognition of his humanitarian and national contributions. The ceremony was held in the presence of NDU President Fr. Walid Moussa, and General William Mujalli representing Minister Fares, present and former members of the Parliament, political figures, and members of the clergy, the media, NDU administration, academicians, staff and students.



▲ *The naming ceremony in the impressive interior of the Issam Fares Hall.*

▼ *Presenting the Shield of Loyalty.*



At the end of the ceremony, Fr. Walid Moussa presented the "Shield of Loyalty" to General Mujalli, representing Minister Fares.

After the ceremony, the plaque bearing the name of Issam Fares was unveiled and the invitees drank his toast.



Euro-Med Cooperation

The Dream Moves towards a Reality

I

There are challenges facing the Euro-Mediterranean University cooperation. The parties involved are not always interacting on equal basis, either knowledge based or historic based. The parties in this case are not always mobilized on equal capacities. Cooperation in this case is not always balanced. However the need for collaboration between Europe and the Mediterranean countries, particularly universities, is more than a must. The interest of everybody involved is clear, the will and spirit of cooperation is evident. The emergency of such collaboration is stimulated not only by the dialogue of civilizations but evidently by the migration movements from South to North and from East to West, paralleled by the growing interest of the countries of the North and the West in countries and people in the South and in the East. If both the migration and the interest are not always innocent, the attempt of cooperation and the spirit of collaboration must take this factor into consideration in order to be successful.

Common issues enjoy the interest of all of us today such as energy, education, transportation, business and, culture. This leads to the search of a possible common language of sincere academic and scientific cooperation. This would be the main task of universities today in Europe and around the Mediterranean.

II

Among the immediate concerns of the Euro-Med Permanent University Forum (EPUF) are substantial common issues directly related to higher education and research such as credit transfer, degree accreditation, bilateral agreements, multilingual systems, scholars' mobility, non-academic staff mobility and training, quality systems, and virtual mobility. Programs such as Tempus and Erasmus should be highly encouraged to enlarge research cooperation.

It is common understanding to consider that research done as a result of cooperation between two universities is usually expected to reach better results than research conducted by only one university. The major areas of research so far under Euro-Med have been in environment, cultural heritage, health and agriculture. If we are seeking a dialogue of civilizations, then the area of humanities should attract research projects. It is suggested to increase topics of humanities to have calls for research proposals. The need is growing for fellowship programs designed for individual young researchers that facilitate their travel to the country of the counter-part research whether in Europe or around the Mediterranean. The different steps of moving from writing a proposal, to conducting a research project, to analyzing and writing the result of the research is a

rich experience by itself that should be continuously encouraged.

III

Another way of creating effective channels of Euro-Med cooperation is by launching sub-groups or teams of work from university scholars in Europe and around the Mediterranean. Instead of functioning by areas of knowledge the ongoing discussion and planning groups, under the Euro-Med University Forum, have established six areas of immediate interests: mobility, quality assurance, management and training, development and active citizenship, communication and e-learning together with the Euro-Med universities for the dialogue of cultures. These six areas could be divided into two groups in terms of facilities: one is related to learning and research facilities, and the other is related to innovations supporting community services.

Some teams tend to be more theoretical than practical; others seem to be more

analytical than narrative, or more of a performance group rather an intellectual group. However, the creation of an interactive forum for Euro-Med concerns is a major goal. Piloted projects for Euro-Med studies are always a substantial goal that may be reached and implemented sooner or later as long as a common language between countries in the North and in the South, in Europe and around the Mediterranean, is launched, supported and maintained.

IV

On another level Euro-Med Forum realized that it has to deal with issues that might be sensitive to some member countries such as academic freedom, human rights, democracy, equal opportunity, transparency and accountability. Peoples of the Southern part of the Mediterranean may not feel at ease in the matter of implementing those principles, and peoples of the Northern side of the Mediterranean cannot feel at ease in the absence of such "ideologies". Speaking about higher education and research raises the basic question: How can universities from these two

counter-worlds collaborate and work together? One might answer that this is the work of associations like the Euro-Med University Forum. But this forum is not a university, it is an instrument, a tool, a facilitator. Maybe one of its basic objectives is to reach a common language, a common principle, and ultimately a common tool of work that might facilitate and pertain an acceptable system where collaboration in research and common higher education could be possible and equally good in Lebanon and the United Kingdom, for example, and similarly in Morocco and the Netherlands, in Spain and Turkey etc...

The basic question that confronts the Euro-Med University Forum is how to "discover" a common language among the different languages of the member countries? How to "create" a common denominator among all the differences challenging us at the social, economic, and educational levels? How to reach a "mental map" that could clarify and organize our standards, our relations and, last but not least, our common human values?

V

One strong point that supports the Euro-Med University Forum is the Mediterranean basin itself. In a world of possible confrontation between East and West, Islam and the Occident, the religious state versus the non-sectarian

state, etc-, the Mediterranean turns out to be much more than a geography, more than a history; it becomes a meeting place between the two worlds, exactly like Lebanon itself, a meeting place between the two cultures and the two civilizations. The Mediterranean, in this particular sense, becomes like Lebanon a vibrant field of experimental studies and comparative research between these two "poles" of human culture. Why? Because it happened that these two "poles" coexist historically around the shores of the Mediterranean, and coexist historically in at least one East Mediterranean country such as Lebanon.

VI

Along these lines the Lebanese philosopher René Habashi comes into perspective. He tried to stress in most of his works that, sooner or later, Lebanon has to play the unique role of determining the cultural identity of the Mediterranean to which it belongs. If the Mediterranean is the vital basin of East and West, of South and North, Lebanon is an accurate image of the Mediterranean, and a vital experimental field of the East-West cultural co-existence. Both are the cradle of religious dialogue and common concerns across civilizations.

○ | Dr. Ameen A. Rihani
Alexandria, June 11-12, 2007





WATER VISION WORKSHOP – Barsa

Dr. Comair announces a plan for the construction and equipping of thirty dams with a lake.

Koura

The Water Vision Workshop II, *Restitution to Stakeholders and Assessment of Ways to Sustainable Water Management*, was held on 6th February, 2007, at Notre Dame University, North Lebanon Campus in Barsa, Koura, in cooperation with Cranfield University of the United Kingdom and under the patronage of H.E. **Mohammad Al Safadi**, Minister of Public Works and Transport and Acting Minister of Energy and Water. Present were **Dr. Fadi Comair**, Director General of Hydraulic and Electric Resources representing Minister Safadi, the Governor of North Lebanon **Mr. Nassif Calouch**, presidents of municipalities, and a number of experts and other personalities.

Father Jean Abou Chrouh, Director of the NDU North Lebanon Campus, delivered a message from the NDU President **Rev. Fr. Walid Moussa**. It affirmed that the aim of the workshop was to help preserve the nation's natural assets and its health. It also stressed the need to protect universities from political conflicts, provocation and violence.

Governor Nassif Calouch underlined that the present efforts were directed towards the establishment of a modern management by making use of all the skills and capacities available. He added that water was life itself and could certainly lead to an effective solution for the problems and issues facing the region.

Dr. Fadi Comair then took the podium to read the speech of Minister Mohammad Al Safadi, who declared that Lebanon had the reputation worldwide of being an oasis of water in the middle of a dry and thirsty Middle East. However the truth was exactly the opposite, for the simple reason that according to international standards the water threshold was the unavailability of a yearly volume of 1000m/person, whereas the average individual consumption of water was around 400 cubic meters in Qatar, 250 in Saudi Arabia and 240 in Lebanon.

Dr. Comair explained that this was why the General Directorate of Hydraulic and Electric Resources had, since he had taken over its direction, elaborated a ten-year plan to be achieved by 2011. This plan foresaw the construction and equipping of thirty dams, with a lake to collect excess rainwater, to be used in summer and periods of shortage, estimated at 290 days per year. The initial aim of the project was to collect about half of the lost rainfall, calculated to be about one-and-a-half billion (10⁹) cubic meters per year. The actual implementation of the plan began with the launching of the Shabrouh Dam project, which would be inaugurated later in 2007.

But, said Dr. Comair, the construction of dams and lakes was not sufficient in order to attain the sought-after goal. It needed to be accompanied by efforts to develop, improve and strengthen the

human technical potential in the public service and in water and other institutions so as to manage, maintain and operate the completed projects. In another connection, in keeping with the good neighbor policy, the General Directorate had prepared a number of agreements and conventions for sharing common water on a fair basis.

In fact it was for defining and assessing ways for sustainable water management and successful restitution to stakeholders that the present workshop on water vision had been organized by the Water, Energy and Environment Research Center of NDU. This particular meeting was focused on the study of submarine springs in the general framework of the Middle East Sustainable Development Program.

The session coordinator, **Mr. Philippe Ker Rault** from Cornfield University then highlighted the importance of the workshop for efforts to preserve water resources. He said that his own University was ready to provide help and support for the workshop of raising awareness and safeguarding resources of water.

May 7, 2007

Seminar on Waste Water in Lebanon

In collaboration with the Ministry of Energy and Water and under the auspices of His Excellency the Minister of Public Works and acting Minister of Energy and Water Mr. Mohammed Al Safadi, the Water, Energy and Environment Research Center (WEERC) held a seminar on waste water at Notre Dame University Main Campus on Monday, May 7, 2007. The seminar was attended by the Rev. Fr. Walid Moussa, President of Notre Dame University, Dr. Fadi Comair, Director General of Hydraulic and Electric Resources, representing His Excellency Mr. Al Safadi, Engineer Ismail Makki, Agriculture and Environment Department Project, Council of Development and Reconstruction (CDR), representing Mr. Nabil Al Jisr, Chairman of the CDR, and a large number of representatives of social welfare bodies, heads of municipalities and specialized engineers working for public administrations and private companies.

NDU President Father Walid Moussa warned of disaster if the problem of waste water were not solved resolutely. Fr. Moussa added: "Moreover, the water problem directly affects both life and health and might have a deleterious impact on our children and on our country's reputation. For this reason we are raising this issue today, with one eye on the toxic atmosphere that surrounds us." Fr. Moussa thanked His Excellency Mr. Al Safadi for sponsoring the seminar and the organizers and participating bodies for their contribution.

Engineer Ismail Makki for his part considered that the waste water issue and the search for appropriate means to solve this problem constituted a priority in Lebanon owing to their close relation to public health, development and environment. He pointed out that the waste-water treatment plants in Lebanon were few and he stressed the need to increase their number, especially as these plants could provide many job opportunities. Engineer Makki presented the program that had been

launched by the CDR in collaboration with the ministries concerned in order to finance the projects for collecting and treating waste water according to the master plan of 1982 updated in 1994

At the end of the opening session Dr. Comair read the communication of His Excellency Mr. Al Safadi, who stressed the importance of the seminar as it represented the highest degree of compatibility between the different sectors working in this field in order to raise the level of services. He affirmed that the water sector constituted one of the most important sectors in Lebanon, given its many uses when it came to such vital sectors as the country's economy, development and environment. These usages would lead to the increase of social services in Lebanon especially if they were managed globally. Further, "In 1992 the Lebanese government launched a global program regarding the treatment of waste water. This program aims at dealing with the requirements of environmental

► *Presiding the opening session
Engineer Ismail Makki,
Rev. Fr. Walid Moussa,
Dr. Fadi Comair and
Mr. Suheil Matar.*





protection and public health. A large number of master plans were drafted in order to collect and treat waste water in different Lebanese regions with the support of consultative bureaus working for the Ministry of Energy and Water and the CDR."

Dr. Comair then presented the strategy approved by the Lebanese government to build around twenty plants for waste-water treatment in different regions of the country. He indicated that six of these plants had been approved to procure waste-water services for up to 70% of the Lebanese population. Three plants had been built so far while others were still under construction. These plants would allow the re-use of treated water to irrigate arable land and to feedback ground water. Dr. Comair pointed out that the Administration was working hard to use water resources in an organized and sustainable manner in order to manage this sector with the collaboration of the public and private sectors. The aim was to operate and maintain the water plants and to support the four modernized water establishments so as to be able to run the sector of clean, irrigation and waste water according to the standards

of modern technique and of Water Law No. 221.

The first session of the seminar treated the regulations and legal framework of the waste water issue. **Engineer Bassam Jaber**, former Director General of Exploitation, Ministry of Energy and Water (MEW), raised the problem of waste water actors and institutions in Lebanon. **Engineer Hassan Jaafar**, Head of the Sanitary and Environment Department, MEW, treated Strategic Planning along with the Water Law and Institutional Statute. As for **Engineer Ismail Makki**, he discussed the management of waste water treatment. **Engineer Mohammed Baraki** from the Department of Protection of Urban Environment (MoE), laid emphasis on Waste Water Treatment Outflow Quality Control.

The second session covered the updating of the master plan of the year 1982 for waste water treatment and future projects. **Mr. Maher Habanjar**, Project Manager at Al Khatib & Alami Institution brought up the issue of updating the master plan for waste water. **Engineer Antoine Meouchi**, Director of Liban Consult - Cabinet Merlin, dealt with the Selection Criteria

of Waste Water Treatment Plant, Implementation and Technological Overview.

The third session broached the interactions of non-governmental organizations with municipalities and of decentralization. **Mr. Joseph Kassab**, Environmental Program Manager at YMCA, **Mr. Raed Ghantous** and **Mr. Mattew Antill** from CDM discussed waste water projects and treatment plants. At the closing session, **Mr. Bassem Jaber** read the recommendations which focused on the need to have an adequate Human Resource Department and to train the personnel to manage the waste-water plants, as well as to activate the role of universities in stepping up research studies in the field. The sessions were followed by discussion. The seminar was conducted by **Engineer Milad Mallah**, Project Manager of the Water, Energy and Environment Research Center.



▲ *NDU officials and audience at the opening.*

▶ *An audience of experts.*



2006-2007

Events of WEERC

The establishment of the Water Energy and Environment Research Center (WEERC) at the Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) and the other centers in Lebanon and the Arab countries is of major importance for the carrying out of studies and researches that aim at enhancing the implementation and management of water projects in the Arab region and at contributing to the improvement of decision-making in this framework. The conferences focused on the necessity of coordination, discussion and exchange of information between these centers and national, regional and international institutions in order to better distribute the benefits desired from the establishment of such scientific centers.

The conferences reiterated the importance of transparency in the implementation of water projects and the publication of periodical reports that detail the stages of implementation.

In this regard the Water Energy and Environment Research Center (WEERC) at the Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) has launched several conferences and seminars during the years

2006 -2007. In this article we present a list of Conferences and Workshops held at WEERC at the NDU main campus.

○ **1-** On Thursday, February 16, 2006 at WEERC - NDU old campus: **Seminar on "Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy in the Region and in Lebanon" Future Vision and Road Map.**

Under the patronage of H.E. the Minister of Energy and Water **Mohammed Fneich**, represented by **Dr. Adnan Juny**, and with the presence of UNDP Resident Representative **Dr. Mona Hammam**, and Director General of Hydraulic and Electrical Resources (MEW) and Director of the Water, Energy and Environment Research Center (WEERC, NDU) **Dr. Fadi Comair**, the WEERC, the Ministry of Energy and Water, The Lebanese Center for Energy Project (LCECP), the UN Development Programme and the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) jointly held a roundtable to discuss "Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy in the Region and in Lebanon" and to share research results and views and current and future projects, to reach a consensus on a common strategy for Lebanon and to agree on a roadmap on energy efficiency and renewable energy.

All the speeches and discussion focused on Regional Experiences in Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, a Case Study (Egypt, Tunisia, Jordan and Syria).

○ **2-** On Wednesday 8 March 2006 at the WEERC - NDU old campus: **Workshop on "Hydro-Diplomacy in the Middle East: Lessons learned Orontes, Naher Al-Kabir and Hasbani-Wazani Watercourse"**

This was organized by the UNESCO office in Beirut and by WEERC-NDU. The opening session was presided by **Dr. Fadi Comair**, by **Dr. Ramzi Salame**, Director of the UNSCO Regional Office in Lebanon, by **Mr. Geir Pedersen**, Personal Representative of the Secretary General for Lebanon, and by **Reverend Father Walid Moussa**, President of Notre Dame University. The purpose of this highly technical workshop was to present the "lessons learned" from negotiation patterns and to contribute in:

- | *Improving transboundary watercourse awareness aimed to a targeted audience, stakeholders and negotiators.*
- | *Identifying the advantages associated with realistic and operational transboundary agreements.*
- | *Highlighting the criteria that would be necessary for establishing the bases of fruitful cooperative processes between riparian countries based on the UN Convention.*

In the coming years, this natural important resource may become a reason for war or peace, destruction or calming, separation or reconciliation.



3- On Wednesday and Thursday 10 and 11 May 2006 at the WEERC - NDU old campus: Training on "Water monitoring, analyses and data base maintenance"

Within the context of the Technical Cooperation Programme for Lebanon (TCP-Lebanon 3003), the Ministry of Energy and Water in collaboration with the Water, Energy and Environment Research Center at Notre Dame University (WEERC-NDU) and in coordination with FAO, organized two days' training on the 10th and 11th May in Water monitoring, analyses and data base maintenance

The opening session was presided by Dr. Fadi Comair, General Director of Hydraulic and Electric Resources, H.E Abdessalam Ould Ahmed, FAO representative in Lebanon, and Ms. Randa Nemer, National Coordinator, TCP Project, who presented an overview of the project and the objectives of the training workshop.

4- On Wednesday 4th October 2006 at the WEERC - NDU, new Conference Hall, Main Campus: Roundtable on: "Lebanese Coast Oil Spill Pollution: Impact and Crisis Management"

This was held under the patronage of Reverend Father Walid Moussa, H.E. Mr. Yaacoub Sarraf and H.E. Eng. Joe Sarkis, Minister of Tourism, and organized by WEERC and the Ministry Of Environment (MoE), due to the global international interest in marine

pollution and the importance of cleaning the Lebanese coast from oil spill caused by the bombardment of the oil reservoirs at Jiyeh, and due to the environmental impact affecting several aspects such as public health and the flora and fauna.

The event was opened by the journalist Ms. Rebecca Abou Nader and speakers included Dr. Fadi Comair, Reverend Father Walid Moussa, Mrs. Mirvat Tallawy, Executive Secretary, ESCWA, Mr. Samir Doumit, President of the Order of Engineers, Dr. David James, FAO expert, and H.E. Yaacoub Sarraf, Minister of Environment

5- On Tuesday, February 6th, 2007 at NDU - North Lebanon Campus (NLC) BARSAs, Koura Tripoli, Lebanon: WATER VISION WORKSHOP II ON "RESTITUTION TO STAKEHOLDERS AND ASSESSMENT OF ROUTES TO SUSTAINABLE WATER MANAGEMENT"

See previous article.

6- On Sunday and Monday March 11th-14th 2007, at Damascus, Syria, Annual Meeting: "Third Annual Meeting of the project MEDITATE Mediterranean Development of Innovative Technologies for Integrated Water Management Workpackage 2 (WP2)"

This annual meeting took place at the Atomic Energy Commission of Syria (AECS) Damascus .

The Water, Energy and Environment Research Center (WEERC-NDU) as a partner and contractor (WP2 Socio-Economic Study Lebanon Chekka Bay Area North Lebanon) was represented by Eng. Milad Mallah, Technical Project Coordinator, and Mrs. Mirna Bitar, Administrative Officer (WEERC) and Mr. Philippe Ker Rault, Cranfield University, MEDITATE WP2 Coordinator. There also attended this meeting participants from Jordan, Syria, Spain, Turkey, France, and the United Kingdom

This third annual meeting was organized by AECS and Nathalie Dôrfliger as Project Coordinator of MEDITATE welcomed the participants and stated the purpose of the meeting.

Valuable and even vital data for socio-economic study and analysis of scenarios were presented by WEERC.

7- FAO is implementing a project in Lebanon in collaboration with the Ministry of Energy and Water, entitled TCP/LEB/3003 "Improved cooperation in irrigation water management through awareness and capacity building". The

National Director of the project is Dr. Fadi Comair.

Within the framework of this project, several workshops and specialized meetings were previewed for the end of 2006 and beginning of 2007 before the NTE of the project. In view of the situation in Lebanon and the ban on UN Missions to Lebanon since November 2006, these activities could not be undertaken. The project team, together with FAO HQs, was exploring the possibility of some of these activities taking place outside Lebanon, preferably at ICARDA's premises in Aleppo, Syria.

○ **8-** The training seminar on "Protection of Shared Aquifer Resources" from 24 - 29 March 2007 that will be held in Cairo, Egypt, will be convened at the Center for Environment & Development for the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE)

AQUIFERS SHARED WITH OTHER COUNTRIES
CASE OF LEBANON
Ministry of Energy and Water (MEW)
Water , Energy and Environment Research Center (WEERC)-NDU
Lebanon. Presentation by Milad Mallah, Katia Fakhry & Nayla Kaaki from WEERC, 24-

28 March 2007. Training Seminar on "Protection of Shared Aquifer Resources" CEDARE, Cairo, Egypt .

○ **9-** WASTE WATER IN LEBANON A PRIORITY IN QUEST OF IMPLEMENTATION
Water Energy and Environment Research Center Notre Dame University - New Campus
Wednesday May 7, 2007
See previous article.

○ **10-** On the 9th of May, the WEERC with the collaboration of the UNESCO is launching a press conference on Water Awareness.
Pamphlet distribution
George awad ,dr comair ,abadminam osman milad malla h , abdalminam aais municipality of Beirut

○ **11-** At the end of May the UNDP, the Lebanese Center for Energy Conservation Project (LCECP) organized a seminar dealing with conservation.

○ **12-** *Other activities*

Dr Fadi Comair Director of WEERC has been nominated to two commissions of the Environment Water Resources Institution (EWRI) of the American Society of Civil Engineering in order to formulate the code concerning water quality of rivers and transboundary river management. He participated on the elaboration of the new codes that will be issued by EWRT. Dr Fadi Comair has also been nominated as Vice President of EMWIS (Euro Mediterranean Water Information System) and Vice Director of the Mediterranean Water Management.

Dr Fadi Comair has also been nominated as member of the steering committee of the MEDA water project

○ **13-** Conference on "World Environmental and Water Resources Congress 2007" that took place in Tampa, Florida, from May 15 till 19, 2007

This year's conference theme was "Restoring Our Natural Habitat", Dr Comair's presentation was on the subject "Transboundary Water Resources: Hydrodiplomacy for Peace in the Middle East". Also our colleague Georges Comair Junior, Civil and Environmental Engineering student, University of Houston, presented THE MACHINE OF MARLY. Finally Dr. Fadi Comair attended the JICA regional workshop on "Water Management in Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan" on the 20-21 April 2007.

Lebanese Center for Social Research

Seminar on the Horizons of Civil Society in the Arab Countries and the World Today at Notre Dame University

The Lebanese Center for Social Research (LCSR) of Notre Dame University organized a three-day seminar (15-17 March) on The Horizons of Civil Society in the Arab Countries and the World, paving the way for the international conference under the title "What has Society Come to? Citizenship between the Crisis of Identities and Globalization, March 29-31, 2007. The purpose of this seminar was to shed light on civil social organization in social entities, formal and informal, especially in the Arab region.

At the opening session, NDU President Rev. Fr. Walid Moussa welcomed the participants and said that the seminar promoted us from the narrow pool of politics, confessional and sectarian association and party conflicts to the world of human culture which knew no limits or barriers.

He added that "the crisis of identity has exhausted us in Lebanon. It was a burden and the reason behind many crises...conflict on identity takes a confessional form in Lebanon, Arabism is reduced to Islam, the Phoenician identity is reduced to Christianity...There lies the core of the Lebanese problem."

Dr. Abdo Kahi, Coordinator of LCSR, raised the following question: "What are the means to rebuild trust and stability in our globalized world today in a way that allows people to live as brothers seeking to approach each other and coexist in a world where the entire universe has become one country in which we live as universal citizens spread all over its regions and areas."

The University Vice President for Research and Development, Dr. Ameen Rihani, discussed the issue of identity and globalization, one which is

approached in different ways, most importantly by the existential approach, the affective approach and the moral approach. He pointed out that "the most dangerous step we could make today is walking out of globalization under the pretext that we are the weak and they are the strong." He noted that we should never assume that "weakened" people have no role. The challenge lies in the need for defining our role in the process of productive, efficient and equal communication between peoples.

In the first session under the title of *The Basis of Civil Society*, H.E Dr. Farid Al Khazen examined the development of the civil society concept throughout recent years and especially after the Cold War, starting with Arab countries and finishing with Lebanon. He asked to what extent civil society could contribute to realizing and defining the said values, in the midst of the numerous conflicts surrounding it. He explained the development of the civil society concept from the 17th century up until the 19th century, during the emergence of the capitalist state, labor unions and the market economy. Today, the concept of civil society was not a mere getaway from capitalist control as there was now no industrial revolution but was linked to the shift

from authoritarian to democratic regimes. He added that the civil society issue did not create a crisis in Europe, the United States and a few other states because these states were democratic and their societies free to express aspirations, to participate in political life and decision-making and to contribute through the legislative elections. The civil society issue had been raised in the context of research related to Third World countries after the fall of their authoritarian regimes and the emergence of democratic ones, as in Latin America in the nineteen-eighties and Eastern and Central Europe countries.

Dr. Al Khazen further explained that the issue of civil society was far more complex in the Arab region than in the West or elsewhere for many reasons. After the Cold War, no changes occurred in our region although they occurred in other countries - a few African ones and South Korea - which had military regimes similar to ours. In the early 'nineties, all researches and studies focused on exploring civil society in Arab countries and on counting their institutions such as unions, syndicates, and associations advocating children's and women's rights. But these were practically linked to the state or controlled by

fundamentalist movements which had goals far different from those of civil society but which at the same time were part of civil society. One of the pillars of civil society was its ability to limit state control and interference, but most institutions in the Arab World were unable to assume this role.

Dr. Al Khazen believed that the Lebanese case was special, because of the sectarian structure of Lebanese civil society existing long before the state was established in 1920. Another reason was the presence of military and religious states in the Arab countries, unlike Lebanon where the state was neither military nor authoritative but less powerful than the society. The experiment which took place in Lebanon was that of the liberal state, with civil society always present through unions, associations and parties, free journalism and freedom of movement for all communities composing the civil society.

Dr. Al Khazen affirmed that the basis of civil society in Lebanon with its freedom was linked to the existence of confessional pluralism and independence from the state. He considered that the challenge lay in the following question: "How can we build an active society and a civil society capable of transforming the state into a civil state as mentioned in the Lebanese constitution?" However, the greater challenge was overcoming conflicts and crises in the country, which had sometimes become violent. Nevertheless, one could not disregard the significant and obvious energy among civil associations existing at the heart of the society in their civilized

and democratic opposition to the current reality of Lebanese society.

Dr. Antoine Msarra expressed himself thus on the three basic behavioral civil components:

"I am concerned, being aware of public issues, committed and ready to take individual and collective initiatives.

"I am a participant, participating in assuming public burdens (taxes and fees) at the national and local levels.

"I am responsible, assuming liability, control and accountability to ensure public well-being."

Dr. Michel Nehme considered civil culture as the heritage of civil society, and affirmed that definitions and explanations of civil society differ between various schools of thought.

Presenters of the second session, on *The Path of Civil Society*, were **Dr. Sami Makarem, Mr. Ziad Baroud, Dr. Chahine Ghaith, and Dr. Naim Salem.**

Speakers at the third session, on *The Measures for Civil Society*, included **Dr. Melhem Khalaf, Dr. Mustafa Adib and Dr. Abdo Kahi.**

The seminar continued the next day with two sessions in which **Dr. Ameen Rihani, Dr. Antoine Courban, Dr. Wajih Kanssou and Mr. Hani Fahess** discussed bringing up civil cultures and civil values in the society.



Citizenship between Identity and Globalization at Notre Dame University

The Lebanese Center for Societal Research (LCSR) at NDU held an international colloquium entitled: "What has Society Come to? Lebanese Society? Citizenship between Identity and Globalization." The colloquium took place on March 29-31, in the presence of a group of Lebanese and foreign researchers and scholars.

In the opening session, **Mr. Souhail Matar** said that the three-act play prepared by the Center coordinator **Dr. Abdo Kahi** painted the picture of the crises and wars which had taken place in Lebanon and the region over more than thirty years, and which constituted a challenge to the dominating powers, an opposition to the ruling authorities and an aspiration to the humanity of man through the consolidation of the spiritual factor. It attempted to present Lebanon as a ground for meeting and dialogue between Judaism, Christianity and Islam as well as revealing the importance of dialogue through spiritual sources and roots.

Rev. Fr. Walid Moussa affirmed that the University had been committed for more than fifteen years to the organization of activities related to public affairs. All should take part in this endeavor and universities should elaborate plans and necessary frameworks to build the state and promote the culture of citizenship. All should defend Lebanon until it became a nation of dialogue, love and freedom. He affirmed that the war would come to an end provided there was an elite

of citizens to struggle for the cause of righteousness, goodness and beauty. Afterwards, Dr. Kahi presented his three-act play on the state and evolution of society in Lebanon in a dialogue with **Amal Dibo**, who played the role of the Philosopher, together with a musical accompaniment by **Rev. Fr. Khalil Rahmé**.

1 The first session, under the title of *From the State of the Citizen to the State of Groups Dominating the Globalized Market, where is Society going?* was moderated by Dr. Kahi, who indicated that the colloquium focused on the new problems faced by society in the present-day world, particularly those following the September 11, 2001 attacks, and on the mutation of Lebanese society in particular. Here, it stated with the 1975 events, passing through the Taef state experience during the Syrian control period and highlighting the dynamics of conflict which had become more obvious after the assassination of Premier Rafik Hariri in February 14, 2005. This had triggered confrontation between the Lebanese social blocs of March 8 and March 14, then reaching the July-August 2006 war against Lebanon



2

which fueled this confrontation and its complications.

Mr. Ignacio Ramonet, Director of *Le Monde Diplomatique France*, discussed citizenship in general within the framework of globalization. He explained the Neo-Liberal globalization which obliges us to redefine basic concepts, whereby the major player is limited to the world's greatest power group in times when the citizen needs to adapt and change his concepts and give up his personal will while caught in the midst of conflict between market and state. He considered that globalization questions the concepts of nation-state and democratic autonomy.

3

The second session focused on Globalization and mutation of the societal condition in the contemporary state. The session was moderated by the University Vice-President for Research and Development **Dr. Ameen A. Rihani**. **Pr. Jacques Beauchard** of the University of Paris XII presented *The Lebanese mosaic: conflict between city and territory*. He discussed two problems related to the unity of territory and gave the example of Lebanese citizens who agreed on safeguarding the borders and the southern border in particular while Beirut remained a zone of conflict. The second problem was also related to Beirut and the question of whether Beirut was the state's city or an international city with its airport, seaport, streets, markets, services and interaction with global economy. **Pr. Beauchard** highlighted the importance of maintaining communication within the famous Lebanese mosaic.

4

In the third session, a round table was held to discuss the issue of *What kind of society for the world of tomorrow?* The session was moderated by **Dr. Chahine Ghais** and two speakers, **Dr. Demianos Kattar** and **Dr. Francois Farah**, took the podium. The session focused on the policies needed in order to reconstitute (civic) formations of society in the contemporary societies, covering urban policies, economic policies, social policies and cultural policies.

The subject of the fourth session was *Lebanese society before, during and after the war of July 2006*. Presentations were made by **Mr. Georges Mghames**, **Prof. Liliane Buccianti Barakat**, **Dr. Joseph Ajami**, **Dr. Viviane Naimy**, **Dr. Mansour Eid**, **Dr. Antoine Messarrah** and **Dr. Nasri Sayegh**.

The final presentation on *Lebanese Society, what perspectives?* was coordinated by **Dr. Michel Nehmeh** and included interventions by **Talal Al Hussein** and **Abdo Kahi**.



LERC Additions to LERC team

Dr. Norman Nikro of the NDU Faculty of Humanities is to be Adjunct Research Associate with the Lebanese Emigration Research Center, developing a paper on the work of Australian and North American writers with Lebanese backgrounds, which implies an experience of cross-cultural encounters. The project will cover how such cultural production may be described and specific works of literature such as Jad El-Hage's *The Last Migration* and Loubna Haikal's *Seducing Mr. Maclean*.

Born in Sydney, Australia, Dr. Norman Nikro obtained his doctorate at the University of New South Wales with a thesis on Australian cultural production and literature. He traveled extensively as an Australian Volunteer Abroad working in Development, arriving in Lebanon in September 1999 when he took up a Mellon Postdoctoral Research Award at the AUB. As Assistant Professor in NDU he has taught literature and the history of thought.

Recent publications include *Writing Lebanese Diaspora in Lebanese Diaspora History, Racism and Belonging* (2005); A Review of Bin Laden in *the*

Suburbs in the *Journal of Intercultural Studies* (2006) and *David Malouf: Exploring Imperial Textuality in Postcolonial Text* (2006). In addition, *Seductive Identifications: Parody and Power* in Loubna Haikal's *Seducing Mr. Maclean* is shortly to appear. Dr. Nikro has also published papers on Arabic literature.



◀ Norman Nikro

Ms. Suzanne Menhem is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of International Migrations and Interethnic Relations (*Migrations Internationales et Relations Interethniques*) at the University of Poitiers, laboratory of Migrinter (Poitiers, France) and at the Department of Social Sciences at the Lebanese University (Lebanon). Her doctoral research project is entitled: "The New Immigrants in Lebanon: Toward an Ethnicization of the Labor Market."

During her association with LERC, Ms. Menhem will continue her research work on labor immigration to Lebanon especially in the light of the Syrian withdrawal from the country. Ms. Menhem will also participate in LERC's activities and projects whenever possible.

Akimitsu Ikeda, M.A., Ph.D. Candidate, is a doctoral student in the Department of Social Anthropology at Tokyo Metropolitan University, Tokyo, Japan. His area of research in Lebanon particularly concerns kinship, clientelism, social stratification, and material culture, among other fields. His M.A. thesis focused on the dissemination of religious knowledge and interpretation of everyday life in the Arab Islamic world. While Mr. Ikeda continues his Ph.D. fieldwork on agriculture and social structure in Lebanon, he will research the role of labour migrants in the Lebanese agricultural sector during his one-year association with LERC. [a-ikeda@gb4.sonet.ne.jp]



▲ Ms. Suzanne Menhem



▲ Akimitsu Ikeda

LERC's Current Team

- | Guita Hourani, Associate Director, working on citizenship law and banking services for migrants and remittances.
- | Eugene Sensenig-Dabbous, Adjunct Research Associate, working on absentee voting and insecurity and migration.
- | Norman Nikro, Adjunct Research Associate, working on diasporic literature and Arab women writing in English.
- | Elie El-Mir working on Lebanese Emigration, Archives and Data-Base (LEAD).
- | Ghada Khoury, recently promoted from a volunteer to full administrative assistant. Currently working on LERC's textual archives and library as well as transcribing interviews.
- | Elie Nabhan, Research Assistant, rapporteur and editor of LERC's website (Volunteer).
- | Rudy Sassine, Research Assistant working on remittances and insecurity and migration (Volunteer)
- | Joelle Rahmeh, Research Assistant, responsible for LERC's SPSS statistical data-base. Currently working on insecurity and migration and diasporic philanthropy.
- | Joe Malkoun, Research Assistant working on citizenship laws and banking services for migrants (Volunteer).
- | Amine Nehme, LERC's Program Developing Coordinator.

Danish delegates and LERC prepare cooperation

Anne Margrethe Rasmussen, Head of Middle East and North Africa Programs, (KVINFO), accompanied by KVINFO advisor Mahmoud Issa, and Milenne Mikkelsen from the Middle East Desk of Danish Church Aid met with Guita Hourani, Associate Director of the Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC), Dr. Eugene Sensenig-Dabbous, Adjunct Research Associate at LERC, and the other members of LERC's team, Elie El-Mir, Joelle Rahme, Rudy Sassine, Elie Nabhan and Ghada Khoury. NDU was represented by Mrs. Linda Choueiri, Chairperson of the Design Department, herself a native of Denmark.

Basically the discussions covered the integration of gender issues. LERC stated its willingness to co-operate in all projects related to women and migration, affirming its belief that migration in Lebanon is now being feminized.

For their part the delegation thanked LERC for the meeting, which they believed provided more information and input for a regional program that could facilitate cooperation and dialogue between Danish and Lebanese institutions, organizations and individuals. They believed that there were many possibilities for, and much room for, dialogue on women's rights in Denmark and the different Arab countries. Hopes were expressed for increased collaboration and the exchange of ideas in the future.



▲ *The Danish Church Aid group meeting with LERC's staff and volunteers at NDU*



LERC Associate Director in Italy, France and Germany

o | Elie Nabhan

(shortened)

Florence, Italy

Ms. Guita Hourani represented LERC at an international conference entitled *The Eighth Mediterranean Social and Political Research Meeting*, which was held in Montecatini Terme, Italy, between the 21 and 25 March 2007. It was inaugurated by Dr. Ghassan Salameh, former Lebanese Minister of Culture and senior adviser to former UN Secretary General Kofi Anan.

In Workshop 6 entitled *Between Society and the Market: Novel Approaches to the Business History of the Middle East* Ms. Hourani delivered her research paper *Diaspora and E-Commerce: The Globalization of Lebanese Baklava*. In this she discussed

the role that diaspora communities play in e-commerce and particularly in the production and export of the Lebanese sweet pastry known as baklava. Thanks to emigrants, Lebanese baklava was now being sold or sent as gifts to the countries of immigration. The paper also examined how e-commerce involving the Lebanese diaspora had changed the way of doing business within the pastry sector, exploring its impact on such things as taste, presentation and packaging. The paper was very well received and chosen for publication.

One research method used for the paper had been the interviewing of four out of seven of the big-name

pastry houses, all based in Lebanon, all family-run businesses, namely Refaat Hallab, Abdul Rahman Hallab and Sons, Fouad Jer Doueihy, and Douaihy. Further interviews took place with lawyers and specialists concerned with the IT Law, which awaits the approval of the Lebanese Parliament, and with Member of Parliament Dr. G. Jalloul, head of the committee that drew up the IT Law, with particular regard to e-commerce. A company in charge of processing and confirming credit-card purchases was also interviewed.

▼ Dr. William Berthomière, Director of Migrinter, and Ms. Guita Hourani presenting LERC, at the University of Poitiers, France



Poitiers, France, 27th–30th March, 2007

In France Ms. Hourani visited the University of Poitiers to negotiate a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the two university centers LERC and Migrinter (The Center for Migration Studies at Poitiers). The MOU will allow NDU and LERC the great advantage of a partner within the European Union with access to higher education in, for example, migration, geography and politics. It will also allow exchanges of both students and professors as

well as further co-operation in research. The MOU is currently under preparation.

At Migrinter, Ms. Hourani met with Director of Migrinter **Dr. William Berthomière**, who is also Head of Research for the Comité National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS). He presented to LERC the whole collection of *Revue Européenne de Migration Internationale* covering the past twenty years and promised to send all future issues. Ms. Hourani also met with **Dr. Philippe Caron**, Director of the Doctoral School of Human Economics and Social Sciences and **Dr. Emmanuel Ma Mung**, former director of Migrinter and member of the CNRS. She was unable to meet **Dr. Salwa Nacouzi**, the Vice-President for International Relations, as she was away, but learnt that she welcomed the initiative linking NDU and Poitiers.

At Poitiers Guita Hourani discussed issues related to migration with several Lebanese and other international graduates and doctoral students studying at the university. She also gave a brief presentation about LERC to the staff and doctoral students of Migrinter.

Oldenburg, Germany

Ms. Hourani stood for **Dr. Eugene Sensenig-Dabbous** in presenting a paper

on Migration, Islam and Masculinities, Transforming Emigration and Immigration Societies at an International Conference at the Carl von Ossietzky University at Oldenburg, 12-14 April 2007, held in German and in English. She represented LERC on

Panel III held under the title *Culpable Victims-Victimizing the Culprit? Discourses on Violence in Migration Studies*. The paper, presented on Friday, 13th April, was very well received and will be published as part of the Conference Proceedings.

▼ *Ms. Guita Hourani presenting paper (co-authored with Dr. Sensenig-Dabbous) at Oldenburg, Germany.*



LERC in Al-Raida Magazine .

LERC has contributed three articles to Al-Raida magazine's issue *Arab Diaspora Women*, Volume XXIV, Nos 116-117

Winter/Spring 2007. This issue was edited by Dr. Eugene Sensenig-Dabbous.

The forthcoming volume will be on *Arab Women Writing in English*, edited by LERC's Adjunct Associate Researcher Dr. Norman Nikro, Humanities.





LERC and LAU Migration Conference

An international conference on *Politics, Culture and Lebanese Diaspora* organized by the Social Sciences and Education Division in collaboration with the newly established Institute for Migration Studies at the Lebanese American University took place between the 24th and the 27th of May 2007 at the LAU campus in Beirut. There were also lectures, workshops and parallel sessions whose main aim was to examine "the changing characteristics of politics and culture in respect to migration, diaspora and globalization."

In the morning's second session on the 25th held under the theme of Diasporan Politics, Professor **Akram Khater**, member of the LERC Advisory Board, Associate Professor of History at North Carolina State University, and Director of International Programs, presented his paper *Becoming "Syrian" in America: A Global Geography of Nations and Ethnicity* which examined "the role that immigration from Mount Lebanon played in the making of the 'modern Syrian' ethnic identity."

In the parallel session immediately following lunch, under the theme of Literature, **Dr. Norman Nikro** of LERC and NDU, presented his paper *Seductive Identifications: Parody and Power in Loubna Haikal's Seducing Mr. Maclean*.

In the second session of the conference's second day, under the theme Community Profile, **Dr. Eugene Sensenig-Dabbous** of LERC and NDU presented his paper *Engendering Diaspora Masculinities: The Impact of forced Migration on Male Identity in Lebanese Network Communities*, based on material gleaned from face-to-face interviews and detailed questionnaire responses for the study entitled Insecurity,

Migration and Return: The Case of Lebanon following the Summer 2006 War.

Again on the second day, in the parallel session on Media, LERC researcher and PhD candidate in the University of Oklahoma **Kristin Shammass** delivered her paper *Representing/ Constructing Immigrant Identity: Lebanese Oklahomans from 1901 to 1975*. Implementing a content analysis of *The Daily Oklahoman* from 1901 to 1975, the paper looked at construction of identity amongst Lebanese immigrants and their descendents in Oklahoma using "self-representation (i.e. letters to the editor, obituaries, marriage notices) and outside representation (i.e. "news" reporting by journalists) of the Lebanese community in terms of nominal national identity (i.e Turkish, Syrian, Lebanese)". Ms. Shammass pointed out that the Maronite community descendents from "Wadi Shahrur and Bdadoun, the Caza of Alay, referred to themselves as 'Lebanese' rather than 'Syrian.'"

All original papers presented will be edited into a volume to be published by LAU's newly established Institute for Migrant Research.

▼ *Dr. Nikro presenting Seducing Mr. Maclean, a book by Loubna Haikal, at the LAU conference.*



Photography Exhibition at FAAD,

In the setting of the ongoing exhibition at the FAAD premises, a photo exhibition was organized for the foundation students entitled 'Photography at NDU' lasting from March 12 until March 19.

It was opened in the presence of Dr. Assaad Eid, Dean of FAAD, and Mrs. Linda Choueri, chairperson. More

than 150 photos in black and white and in color were displayed in the Mood Gallery.

The photography students were happy to invite the whole university to explore their world, see their work, enter their minds, escape for a while and enjoy the trip.

The themes were Landscape, Portraiture and Journalism.

A student committee from the Design Department was chosen to help in setting up the exhibition, composed of Dina Wassef, Rana El Haddad, and Maria El Khoury.

The poster designers were Nathalie Badran and Youssef Nasr, senior students.

The next exhibition in prospect will involve the Ceramics students. Do not miss it!



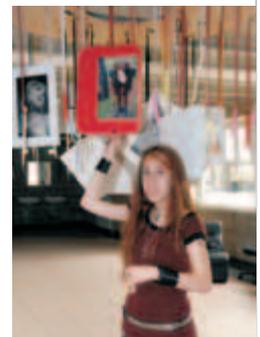
► *Dean Assaad Eid with Fr. Beshara Khoury, Director SAO.*

◀ *Explanation of the exhibition concept.*



▲ *Contributors to the students' success: left to right, Mrs. L. Choueri, Dina Wassef, R. Majdalani, J.-P. Tarabay, G. Tohme, Dr. Eid and Dr. Nicolas Gabriel.*

▼ *A classical portrait.*



▲ *Portrait and subject! Dina Wassef.*

Information Design

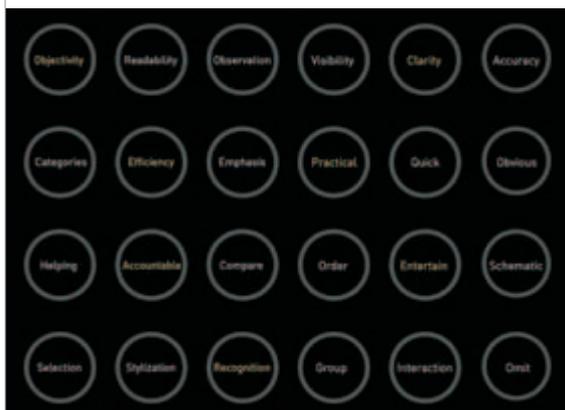
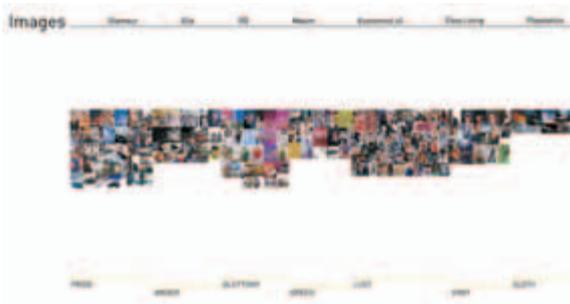
In the NDU Auditorium on Monday, April 16th, 2007, Ms. Maria Bahous spoke of information design as a discipline for the attention of professionals and students working in the design area. As stressed by Edward Tufte, communicating information clearly and precisely is at the core of the graphic design field. Whether one is dealing with signs and symbols, statistical information, manuals or interfaces, form should always follow function. So the material should be well researched and studied to ensure complete understanding through an appropriate visual representation and

the final result must be accurate, unbiased, simple, clear and unambiguous. Maria Bahous presented three of her research projects, a Notational System for Dancers, Advertising and the Seven Sins (shown here in illustration), and Proxemical Mapping.

Maria Bahous is a practitioner in the field of graphic design and a part-time teacher at NDU. She pursued her MA in typo/graphics at the London College of communication (LCC), London UK, where she mainly developed several information design projects.



▲ Ms. Maria Bahous addressing her audience.



Multimedia

International Encounters on Arts and Multimedia/Rencontres Arts et Multimedia Internationales, "RAMI", initiated in September 2006, is a platform for experimentation and communication that will organize international meetings based on contemporary creation, digital tools and multimedia. In all countries, we are seeing artistic approaches and projects which are marked by the digital tools, that is to say installation, interactivity and multimedia performances. Multimedia has become widespread in all aspects of daily life, both private and professional. In Lebanon, for example, groups of artists take part in experimental

workshops, and in France, in Marseilles and Aix-en-Provence in particular, cultural operators develop the production and diffusion of digital projects. In Egypt, new sites in Cairo and Alexandria play host to artists in the setting of residences and workshops.

International Encounters on Arts and Multimedia involves people from Italy, Ms. Delphine Azzurro (the speaker); France, Ms. Claudine Dussollier; Egypt, Ms. Reem Hassan, and Lebanon, Mr. Abdo Nawar, a Lebanese director of pedagogic, cultural and social documentary videos, video clips, talkshows and ads, who is connected to this group. All these members came to NDU and presented their work on Thursday May 10, 2007 in NDU Museum Auditorium.

This presentation was interesting not only to our Design students but also to the Advertising and Marketing students as well. It will be of great benefit to the Design Department body, and will maintain NDU in contact with professionals abroad. Furthermore, this contact may result in some of our students participating in workshops in Alexandria or Beirut, with themes such as -

- | *Dance and Multimedia,*
- | *Music and Multimedia,*
- | *Video clips and Multimedia.*

These workshops are of 10 days duration. All are offered for free.

The students showed great interest in the presentation and had ample time to discuss with the guests afterwards.



▲ *Ms. Delphine Azzurro, from a land home of the arts.*

▼ *Ms. Azzurro's keen audience.*



FAAD Department of Music

On Wednesday, May 2nd, 2007, the Music Department of FAAD presented a Concert for Piano and Flute, with the participation of soprano Nadine Nassar. The event took place in the NDU Main Campus Conference Hall. The Dean of the Faculty, Dr. Assaad Eid, opened proceedings with a short speech of welcome addressed to the audience, as follows:

In celebrating the 20th Anniversary of NDU, the Faculty of Architecture, Art and Design takes pride in introducing the University Choir to all of you gathered here tonight.

As Dean of the Faculty, I am privileged to speak on behalf of Fr. Rahmeh, who was behind the choir's formation in 1993. Today, the choir prides itself as being one of the well established groups with a reputation in Lebanon and probably throughout the region. Surely, Fr. Rahmeh has played a prominent role in bringing the choir to what it is today. His devotion and tireless efforts have contributed to its significant growth and distinction. As faculty and friends, we owe Fr. Rahmeh and the choir members those precious moments every time we assemble to listen to chants, hymns or other styles of music.

Tonight's program celebrates not only NDU's 20th Anniversary, but also Edward Grieg's centenary. For us, in the Faculty of Arts, such events are part of our heritage, because we do not rely on our academic work only, but aim at promoting all works of art, especially those developed or created by illustrious professional individuals.

Also, tonight's occasion is one full of promise and hope. The promise is that our University, under the leadership of our President Fr. Moussa, and under his guidance, will always respond to the ambitions of its young men and women as they look forward to the future. As for the hope, it is you our friends. Your presence here tonight confirms our trust in tomorrow and urges us to strive to attain our goals.

Therefore, we thank you for being with us tonight, and we invite you to join us, Fr. Rahmeh, Mr. Iyad Kanaan, Ms. Olga Bolun, Mr. Nabil Mroueh, and last but not least Miss Nadine Nassar in celebrating the occasions.

○ | Dr. Assaad Eid

NDU-FAAD spring 2007

As part of the preparation for their senior year and final architecture project (F07/Sp08), the students of ARP 556 Architecture Design VI course were involved in two workshops within their academic spring 2007 schedule which were organized by the Architecture Department - FAAD and coordinated by Habib Melki:

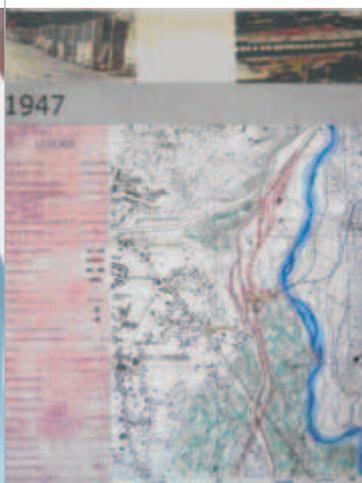
o | **Workshop 1:** **Weeks 4 - 7 (March 19 - April 13, 2007)**

The first workshop, lead by Dr. Charbel Maskineh, was entitled: **A NEW LUNG FOR BEIRUT: The Former Railway Station Area - the Beirut River.**

This former station (constructed in the second half of the 19th cent. by a French-Ottoman company) historically used to have an important role as city gate, sales point for the agricultural activity and the territorial transport that came from the south and the east (following the historical axis of Damascus and Sidon). Its construction as a railway at that point was imposed by the geo-morphology of the site, as it was placed on the mid-coast between the two hills, the Ashraffiyeh hill and the Furn el Shebbak hill, that separate the city from the land side.

The students' task was to analyze, by taking as reference similar cases from other cities, the whole urban context of these two above-mentioned slopes, and to consider them a new centrality, called to mark the nature of the new city horizon; a renewed-alive fulcrum. This new urban centrality could involve, later on, the conversion of the area through the rehabilitation of the old spaces on the fluvial slopes: localizing and redesigning of new multifunctional spaces, and other urban elements in miniature. It was also recommended that the area be subject to any other ideas or initiatives, inspired from the context need.

Everything was to be reintegrated in the surrounding urban tissue through relating the physical structure to the social structure of the area and the realization of routes in order to render them permeable, breaking off that traditional isolation.



□ | Workshop 2: Weeks 8 & 9 (April 16 – 28, 2007)

The second workshop was led by **Dr. Thanos N. Stasinopoulos**, from the National Technical University of Athens, (NTUA) entitled: **Workshop on environmentally sustainable design**. He has lectured on geometric visualization since 1978 and bioclimatic architecture since 1998. He spent several years as a graduate researcher and lecturer at the Architectural Association in London focusing on environmental design and research. Over the last 19 years he has continued to explore the potential of computer graphics in architecture and

visual arts. Two of his undergraduate students from the NTUA, **Borbantoakis Orestes** and **Yalias Eugene**, joined Prof. Stasinopoulos on his trip to Lebanon and presented their thesis presentations in addition to taking part in the workshop. They were hosted by NDU at the old campus dormitories. For more information on Prof. Stasinopoulos, visit the site <http://www.delaxo.net/delaxo.htm>

Introduction

'Sustainability' is a broad and often vague neologism referring to the longevity of human practices such as economic systems, agriculture, or design. Usually it reflects the concern about the impact of mankind on the

environment, since it is evident that population explosion and materialistic growth exert a heavy pressure on the limited resources and fragile ecosystems of our small planet. Energy is the most advertised environment-related crisis, but in fact it goes with a convoy of others like water, deforestation, waste, desertification, etc.

In the case of architecture, sustainability implies meeting social needs while decreasing the overall environmental burden of buildings during their lifecycle, from construction to disposal.

Aims

This workshop offers an opportunity to integrate such concerns in the actual design process as main priorities. In that direction, one goal of the workshop is to exemplify where and how decisions should be dictated by objective parameters that



address sustainable necessities, rather than by *subjective* whims like style or habits that convey human codes only [*I need vs. I like*].

An extra objective is to highlight the difference between ideas and matter -i.e. abstract conception and actual construction- where

the designer's inspiration has to be guided by the available material and human resources. To achieve that, one of your proposals will be materialized at the end of the workshop. The builder? You!

Topic

The topic is a small structure situated at an urban or rural setting. It could be a bus-stop shelter / beach bar /

mountain cabin / information kiosk / sentry post / chapel, or any other outdoor structure of similar scale that you may think of.

[A challenging hypothesis could be that the site is cut off from public utilities and therefore one should rely upon local resources for heat, power or water.

ARP 556 Workshop Schedule Summary

- | Monday, April 16, 2007
- | Tuesday, April 17, 2007
- | Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Afternoon 1:30 p.m.

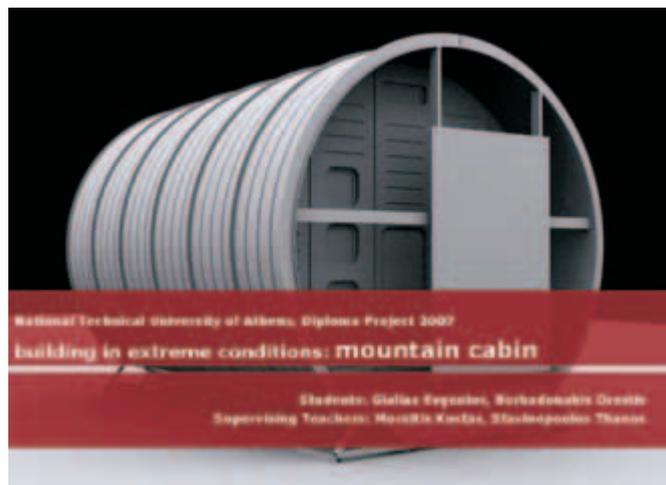
- Introduction*
- Group discussion & Project definition*
- Site visits & photo's*
- Full-day studio workshop*
- Site analysis & conceptual approach*
- Workshop session on shading devices using AutoCAD software*



- | Friday April 20, 2007
12:30-1:30 p.m.

Afternoon

- Morning: studio workshop*
- Athens student's thesis presentation*
- "Building in Extreme Conditions - Mountain Cabin"*
- Studio workshop*



National Technical University of Athens, Diploma Project 2007
building in extreme conditions: mountain cabin

Students: Giannis Evangelos, Vasilios Doukakis Orestis
Supervising Teachers: Maria Rita Kostas, Stavros Apostolos Thanas

○ | Saturday, April 21, 2007

Field Trip to Mar Charbel & Byblos



○ | Monday, April 23, 2007

Full-day studio workshop

○ | Tuesday, April 24, 2007

NLC (North Lebanon Campus) visit - informal lecture on sustainability

"Sustainable: Can Be or Cannot Be, that is the Question"

○ | Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Full-day studio workshop

○ | Thursday, April 26, 2007

Meeting with Architecture Department faculty

Public Lecture at 6.00 pm.

"Towards a Hangover Architecture:

Sustainable Design in the Post-Consumerist Future.

See text & power point presentation:

<http://www.delaxo.net/ndu07/lecture1.htm>

○ | Friday, April 27, 2007

Presentation & Evaluations of Proposals

1:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Closing discussion



Ceramics Exhibition at NDU

June 1 until June 12, 2007

June 1, 2007 was a special day at the FAAD, Faculty of Architecture, Art and Design, with the students' exhibition entitled Ups and Downs, displaying over 150 masks and shoes in the Mood Gallery.



▲ Ceramic - Nicolas Gabriel.



▲ Shoes - Nicolas Gabriel.

The Chairperson Linda Choueiri welcomed all the visitors at the opening at 12:30 and said that students from different faculties take Introduction to Ceramics Course as free elective; no special skills are needed but the students can freely explore their creative side.

Working with clay is interesting because it involves the four elements of nature, clay, water, air and fire. Three steps were required in the process of all the ceramics item in this exhibition: first of all **creating** the appropriate shape by hand or with a potter's wheel by mixing the clay with water and leaving this shape for a while to dry, then **firing** it in the kiln

to obtain what is called the biscuit stage, finally the **glazing** stage, coloring the biscuit and putting it again in the kiln at very high temperature. Then we have a beautiful ceramic work of art.

The Ceramics Lab at NDU is very well equipped thanks to a donation of the late Dorothy Salhab Kazemi and contains hundreds of examples of students' work. A permanent ceramics exhibition is in preparation.

This exhibition would not have been possible without the help of two Design students, Eddy Abi Abdallah and Abdo Gemayel.



▲ Left to right: Mr. Suheil Matar, Father Walid Moussa, Dean Assaad Eid, Chair Linda Choueiri and Graziella Daghfal.

CHADIRJI AWARD

For Architecture Students in Lebanon
December 8, 2006



► This is a synopsis written by Albert Farhat explaining the project.

FIRST PRIZE

Albert Farhat, NDU, FAAD, Architecture Department

PROJECT

MEMORIABILITY: A WALK THROUGH MEMORIES OF A LEBANESE WAR CENTER

LOCATION

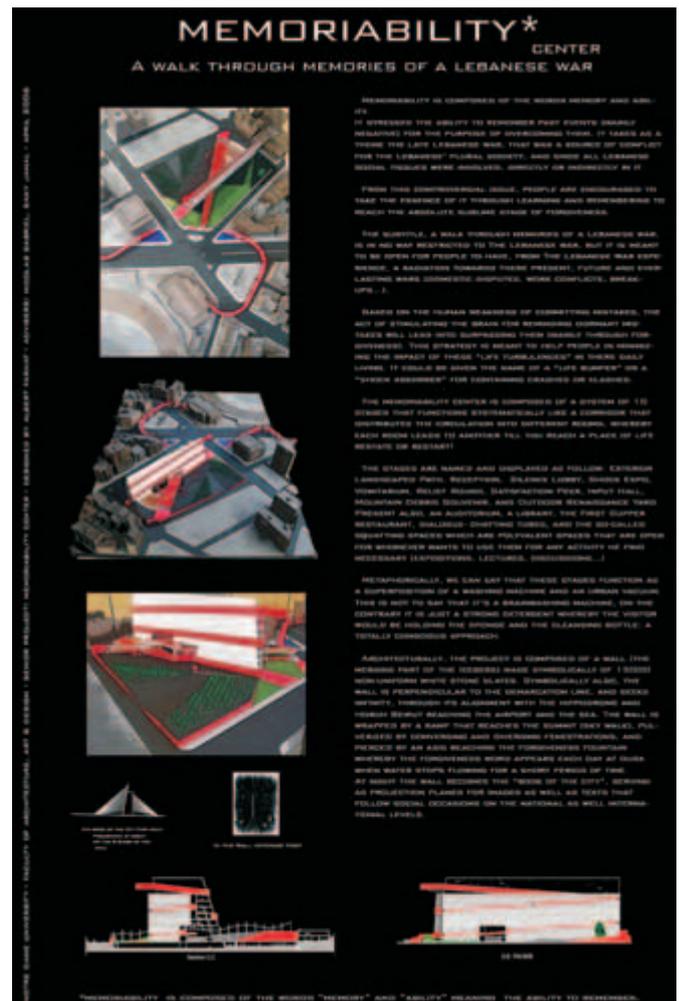
Lebanese Order of Engineers and Architects (LOEA)

PARTICIPANTS

- NOTRE DAME UNIVERSITY (1st Prize)
- BEIRUT ARAB UNIVERSITY (2nd Prize)
- INSTITUT LIBANAIS DES BEAUX ARTS (3rd Prize)
- AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT
- ACADEMIE LIBANAISE DES BEAUX ARTS

JURY

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| Nabil Gholam | Architect |
| Dolly Braidy-Debs | Architect |
| Saad Khaled | Former director of Town Planning and University - Professor (BAU) |
| Mona Fawaz | Architect and Town Planner |
| Emile Akra | Representative of Al Chadirji Award Committee |
| Amine Bizri (EI) | Former president of the LOEA |



CHAIRMAN OF DISCUSSION (Non-voting member)

Sany Jamal
Architect, President of the Architecture Branch in the LOEA

NDU has a Mini-Handout Center

o | Dr. Carol Ann Goff-Kfourri

Have you gone into the NDU library lately and turned left at the entrance? If you have, you will certainly have noticed the two bookcases full of colorful handouts. The sign posted above the bookcases is indicative of their purpose: **Mini-Handout Center; Collect them all. Free for all.**

The Faculty of Humanities houses the Department of English, Translation and Education. This department provides English communication courses for all students of the University. It is obvious that students cannot learn all they need in their classes. Sometimes they need a little extra help in writing a cover letter for a job, a c.v. for that position they really want to obtain, preparing a Works Cited for a paper they are writing or even to get some ideas on how to begin a paper for which they seem to have writer's block.

As many of these activities take place while the student is in the library, it was decided that the library was the correct location for a Mini-Center that would provide quick reference for students in need.

There are presently twenty-three handouts prepared by faculty members in the Department of English, Translation and Education available to NDU students. Subjects range from how to use the past tense correctly to paraphrasing information from another source and correctly documenting it in a research paper. How to use APA format and documenting electronic sources also figure among the handouts which are regularly restocked for the students.

Mrs. Mary Khoury is in charge of keeping this project ongoing and

ensuring that the handouts are always available in sufficient quantities. Mrs. Khoury has had very positive feedback from the students; some NDU students have reported that students from other universities have requested copies of the handouts.

Mrs. Leslie Hage, NDU Librarian has begun to convert the handouts to PDF files; they will soon be available on line.

The Faculty of Humanities hopes that this Mini-Handout Center will become a regular stop for students who wish to improve their English language competence.

NDU Modules - attended by Educators from around the City

o | Dr. Carol Ann Goff-Kfourri

The Department of English, Translation and Education at NDU has had a rich tradition of providing modules, workshops and training sessions for teachers in the various schools of the city. This year has been no exception.

The Education Committee made up of Dr. Mary Angela Willis, Chair, DETE, Dr. Christine Sabieh, Dr. Joyce Bahous, Dr. Amale Yazigi, Dr. Amal Malek, Dr. Kamal Bou Chedid, Dr. Ramzi Nasser and Dr. Carol Ann Goff Kfoury met in early November and planned this year's activities.

The members of the committee agreed that it was time to "Go Back To Basics" in English language modules and planned a series of six modules on the following topics:

- | *Teaching Listening and Speaking Skills to Elementary School Students.*
- | *Teaching Listening and Speaking Skills to Middle and Secondary School Students.*
- | *Teaching Reading and Vocabulary Skills to Elementary School Students.*
- | *Teaching Reading and Vocabulary Skills to Middle and Secondary School Students.*
- | *Teaching Writing to Elementary School Students.*
- | *Teaching Writing to Middle and Secondary School Students.*

Members of the committee chose a subject in which they felt interested and prepared two 2-hour sessions which took place on alternate Wednesday afternoons from 4 to 6 p.m. in HA 121/HA 122.

The committee also decided that teaching English is only one small aspect of education; teachers in the community often inquire as to methods of teaching Math and Arabic. So one seminar was also given on new methodology in Math. Three seminars on updating methodology for teaching Arabic were also held.

Feedback on these modules has been very favorable; participants have reported that they particularly enjoy the practical aspect of the sessions, and that they go away with ideas that may be implemented in their classrooms the very next day.

The DETE plans to continue this tradition of teacher training. The Teaching Diploma is already available for teachers in the area who wish to obtain licensure with the Lebanese government. The NDU Teaching Diploma requires 6 courses (18 credits); candidates may specialize in teaching English, Math, Science etc. NDU also offers an MA in Education with three concentration areas: Leadership, Early Childhood and Educational Technology.

A special accelerated program also exists for school directors, coordinators or subject specialists who want to obtain an MA in Education, Leadership. This program provides flexible timing for students; classes meet on weekends. One on one tutoring is also available for busy professionals.

- | For further information, please consult the NDU website or call the DETE or the Office of the Dean of Humanities at NDU.

Wolves on the Campus

On Friday, 13th April, 2007, the NDU Advertising Club and the AAA (Advertising Agencies Association) held a seminar at Main Campus under the title The Advertising Wolves invade NDU Main Campus, with an audience consisting largely of students majoring in Advertising, Marketing, Graphic Design and Audio-Visual.

Opening the Seminar, Mass Communications Chairman **Dr. Joseph Ajami** read a message from **Dr. Carol Kfoury**, Acting Dean of Humanities, and for his part remarked that the advertising industry was going through countless changes worldwide. In fact advertising and innovation could be considered synonymous.

AAA President **George Abdel Malek** announced that AAA Secretary General **Kamal Darouni** of NDU had been

appointed to set up workshops with advertising training for university students, especially at NDU as it had been the first university in the Middle East to have developed a dynamic and up-to-date advertising and marketing major receiving accreditation from the International Advertising Association's World Education Chapter. A new website had been created (www.aaa.org.lb) to help students in contacting advertising agencies for work or for internships.

Philippe Skaff, Grey's MENO CEO and Chief Creative Officer, spoke of the challenges of the Asian Games, Qatar, campaign in the presence of **Ghassan Khairallah**, Regional Creative Director of Grey Worldwide. The client had wanted Qatar, Doha and the Asian Games, sporting event second in size only to the World Olympics, promoted simultaneously.

▼ *Dr. Joseph Ajami, Ghassan Khairallah, Philippe Skaff, Souheil Matar and Ass. Prof. Kamal Darouni.*



▲ *The large and interested audience.*

NDU Ass. Professor Kamal Darouni spoke on *International Advertising Trends and Best Practices*. The Middle East, he said, offered many advantages and new opportunities for global advertising as with North Africa it presented twenty-two countries sharing a common Arabic language and a similar culture. Kamal Darouni considered that with globalization the product life cycle should be in the same phase but that different life styles should be respectively appealed to. The Unique Selling Proposition (USP) was

on its way out. He called on global institutes for greater efforts to protect the individual "postmodern man" from stereotyping, violence, unethical material and, most importantly, subliminal communication.

- Ibrahim N. Lahoud, Deputy General Manager and Strategic Planning Director of Publicis Graphics, Beirut, spoke on *Understanding the New Advertising Trends*, insisting that it is the image, not advertising, that sells, as the customer wants above all quality of life and peace of mind. He mentioned also the present trend towards symbiosis between traditional and new media, resulting in "Mixed Media".



▲ Ibrahim Lahoud and Carole Hayek.

- Carol Hayek, General Manager of Optimedia, Beirut, described how affective an R.O.I. (Return on Investment) could be in media planning and even necessary after the increasing media fragmentation. Among the young the Internet was displacing TV as a source of news and entertainment.

Roy Nammour presented the UN campaign prepared under Prof. Darouni's supervision as a class case study for the IAA Inter-University Competition. Dani Karam, Managing Director of Feedback Advertising Agency and member of the Advertising Agencies Association, presented the AAA website



▲ Roy Nammour presenting the UN IMC campaign..



▲ Dani Karam and Dr. Khaled el-Fakih.



▲ Dani Karam presenting the AAA website and means for students of interacting with the advertising community.

- | From information supplied by Chantal Dagher.

The Concept of Memory in Literature

19 March 2007

On Monday 19th March, 2007, in the NDU Auditorium, **Dr. Norman Nikro** of the Humanities Faculty spoke on the above subject to fellow members and students in the framework of the Brown Bag series of gatherings. The question was how memory could be thought of as a form of *dwelling*, how past events and experiences could live on as memories. These could take on different forms, monuments, memorials, shrines, symbols or allegories. Thus memory could be thought of in terms of both *interiority* and *exteriority*. Dr. Nikro suggested a distinction between *knowing* and *telling*, as he was preoccupied with developing a concept of memory-dwelling in terms of story-telling. Towards the distinction between knowing and telling he mentioned Sophocles' version of the Oedipus myth and the difference between the memory-analytic of Proust and that of Toni Morrison. He related this to his work on the Lebanese critic and novelist Elias Khoury.

NDU Graduate's Success

Dina Achkar gets Gebran Tueni Award

Dina Achkar B.A. graduate



Dina Achkar is a B.A. graduate in the field of Mass Communication with emphasis in Journalism. She graduated from NDU with highest distinction (*Summa Cum Laude*) in 2004. She is currently pursuing a Master's degree in the same field.

At present Dina works with *Laha* magazine as a free-lancer, interacting with various social and human events in an attempt to shed light on recent developments so she can deliver her message to the general public. She is ever seeking a challenging position to utilize her communication skills. She has mastered three languages, Arabic, English and French, and has a passion to learn more. She takes pride in her work and is detail-oriented, presenting a high-profile professional demeanor complemented by a positive "can-do" outlook.

Last year, 2006, Dina won the *Gebran Tueni Award*, which is given to Distinguished Journalism students in Lebanon. She was chosen from among hundreds of applicants together with four others to receive the prize.

Lebanese Agriculture Symposium



Notre Dame University and the National Assembly for Economic Reform in Lebanon organized a national symposium on Lebanese agriculture with the participation of the Lebanese Farmers' Association and the Union of Agriculture Committees in the Chambers of Trade, Industry and Agriculture in Lebanon. The symposium was held at NDU main campus on March 20, 2007. Among the participants were the Minister of Agriculture (resigned) **Dr. Talal Al Sahili**, the former Minister of Agriculture **Dr. Adel Kortas**, **Engineer Elie Awad** representing **Minister Michel Pharaoun**, **Nabil Brax** representing the Minister of Tourism **Joe Sarkis**, the President of the Lebanese National Liberal Party **Engineer Dori Chamoun**, and a group of economic experts and representatives of agricultural and industrial associations.

The NDU President **Rev. Fr. Walid Moussa** considered the symposium was a turning point. The shift from agriculture to other forms of business had progressively destroyed the bonds that linked people to the soil and to rural life. An agricultural revolution was needed that took into account the geography of Lebanon, its population and its role in the region as well as new technology and state-of-the-art equipment.

Dr. Moueen Hamza, Secretary General of the National Council for Scientific Research, affirmed that the Ministry of Agriculture was still suffering from a continual decline of its competent human resources. Its capacity to adopt international projects and programs had decreased and the excessive divisions of its directorates had affected its efficiency. The Ministry was responsible, he explained, for elaborating a strategic framework for agriculture, providing infrastructure, establishing its legal framework, managing natural resources and rural development programs, and providing incentives for compliance with the standards imposed by external markets.

The President of the National Assembly for Economic Reform and Dean of the Faculty of Business and Economics at NDU **Dr. Elie Yachoui** focused on the economic environment hindering production. Although there were 44 Lebanese commercial banks, 10 foreign commercial banks, 10 banks for medium and long-term credits, 33 financial institutions, 9 financial mediation institutions, 3 bail bond companies and bank deposits amounting to 63 billion USD, the total of bank loans for the private sector in Lebanon did not exceed 18 billion USD, 16% of which were for all productive sectors and only 1% was for agriculture. There was an obvious geographic concentration of capital in Beirut and its suburbs, which received 80% of bank credits to finance services and light industries. The residents of the said area held 73% of the total bank deposits. On the other hand, the public sector held two-thirds of bank deposits, through loans from the Central Bank or other banks, or through the freezing of hard currency to keep an external reserve for stability in the national currency exchange rate, but with no effort to activate the

economy. Dr. Yachoui stressed that the cost of project financing in Lebanon had increased due to the monetary policy of very high interests to stabilize the currency without consideration of the internal investment needs. This harmful policy obliged governments to support interest rates in the general budgets of several sectors and to establish a guarantee company which provided small enterprises with modest capital, yet was still unlikely to cover most of the economy's financing needs. Reinforced interests were needed less than moderate interests that would benefit all sectors.

For his part, Dr. Sahili underlined the importance of this symposium held in such an important educational milieu, and he commended the efforts of Dr. Yachoui. He asked what would happen if the salt of the earth lost its savor. Agriculture was the basis for human development. Today we lived in a world where knowledge, technology, industry and trade had developed to

unprecedented levels. Did this mean that agriculture was no more important? The answer was No! What we ate was agriculture and no technology could replace agriculture.

Dr Yachoui, said Dr. Al Sahili, had referred to globalization and its impact on small states like Lebanon and he himself totally agreed with this viewpoint. We should prepare ourselves to enter this world, this small village, with its economic frameworks, or else we would become its victims. Here lay the importance of the agricultural policy adopted by the state in economic and legislative orientations and its relations established with foreign institutions and states. Dr. Al Sahili was still very optimistic about this sector because the Lebanese people and their economy had the capacity to push the wheel of agriculture for it to later stand by itself and be part of the productive economy in Lebanon. Dr. Al Sahili concluded by wishing productivity and effectiveness

for the symposium and expressing the hope that it would help in reaching the end of the Lebanese crisis tunnel through dialogue between today's loyalists and opposition, meaning the entire Lebanese population. All Lebanese citizens needed stability and tranquility to overcome despair and to serve Lebanon through agriculture and the various other sectors.

The first session was moderated by former ambassador **Dr. Georges Abou Jawdeh**. The former Minister of Agriculture Dr. Adel Cortas spoke under the title of *The Lebanese Agriculture: reality and perspectives: a national strategy to improve the agricultural sector*. In a concise study of agricultural enterprises in Lebanon he set forth a comprehensive view of how to deal with the agricultural issue in Lebanon. This study revealed that despite obstacles and hurdles facing this sector, there was still hope for improvement through an immediate plan and another long-term plan that would set the goals, clarify the outlook for agriculture in Lebanon and elaborate a mechanism for implementation.

▼ *Distinguished personalities preside the opening of the Symposium.*



Moussa Freiji, Secretary General of the Lebanese National Assembly for Economic Reform, talked about the high cost of agricultural production in Lebanon due to such factors as labor costs, taxes and bribery. He stressed that pressures exercised by politicians and agricultural stakeholders and the deficient budget prevented the government from providing support. If the agricultural sector was still important to the government, it should keep the current customs tariffs, introduce slight amendments to some of the pertinent provisions, join the WTO while keeping high customs tariffs, stop the implementation of all free trade agreements and support for foreign agricultural

products and exports, maintain customs protection and end smuggling from Syria.

Atef Idriss presented the means for benefiting from available studies done on the agricultural field in Lebanon. He spoke about the threat of pollution and the need to take measures to guarantee food safety. He pointed out that there was a way to implement the pollution effects analysis system covering the whole cycle of production from the production of primary food products until final consumption.

In the second session, the President of the Lebanese Farmers' Association **Engineer Antoine Hayek** spoke about the role of the fifth sector and civil society in agricultural development. Civil society was capable of imposing change and correcting mistakes and there had been several achievements in this regard. Society was capable of this if it objectively considered the issue.

He called for the establishment of an agricultural exports support program and furthermore called upon the government not to discontinue supporting wheat and sugar-beet plantations, highlighting the need to provide farmers with access to new technologies.

The President of the Union of Agriculture Committees in the Chambers of Trade, Industry and Agriculture in Lebanon **Rafla Debbaneh** presented the role of agricultural and semi-official enterprises in the agricultural development plan. He specified the roles of each and underlined the urgent need to temporarily and provisionally re-implement the agricultural calendar in Lebanon and the Arab countries through a serious and scientific vision of the critical, difficult and painful reality of Lebanese agriculture.

► *An attentive audience.*



FBAE GRADUATE DIVISION

NDU wins the AGBA Business Scholar Award in the Middle East

The Board of Trustees of the Academy for Global Business Advancement and the World Congress of the Asian Academy of Management have unanimously selected NDU's Director of Graduate Programs and Associate Professor, Dr. Rock-Antoine Mehanna, to receive the 2007 Best Business Researcher Award in the Middle East. The Joint World Congress was held in Penang, Malaysia, May 21-24, 2007.

FBAE Graduate Students

Selected Master of Business Administration (MBA) Theses and Master of Science in International Business (MIB) Memoirs*

MBA Candidates

- ① **MBA Candidate:** Ms. Samar Elias Bou Jaoude. Thesis: "A Strategic Management Model for Building Loyalty at Almost No Cost: Case Study of Apple, Inc." (Supervisor: Dr. Atef Harb; Reader: Mrs. Viviane Nakhlé).
- ② **MBA Candidate:** Ms. Rana Nakad Korbani. Thesis: "Strategic Management Tool for Reducing Turnover: Case Study of Star, Inc." (Supervisor: Dr. Atef Harb; Reader: Mrs. Viviane Nakhlé)

MIB Candidates

- ① **MIB Candidate:** Mr. Fouad C. Bitar. Memoir: "Market Entry Strategy Eli Lilly International-Algorithm Lebanon: The Glystor Case" (Supervisor: Dr. Tanios Touma).
- ② **MIB Candidate:** Mr. Wissam Rafic Abi Nasr. Memoir: "International Coffee Trade: The Case of Lebanon" (Supervisor: Dr. George Labaki).
- ③ **MIB Candidate Student:** Mr. Tony Mansour Mansour. Memoir: "Contracting Business in the UAE: Growth Strategy and Implementation" (Supervisor: Dr. Tanios Touma).
- ④ **MIB Candidate:** Ms. Nicole Edward Jabr. Memoir: "Online Lead Generation: Value Creation" (Supervisor: Mrs. Alexandra Y. Benz).

- ⑤ **MIB Candidate:** Mr. Joseph Salloum El Hage. Memoir: "Expanding Airlink Business in the Context of the Asian Games" (Supervisor: Mrs. Alexandra Y. Benz).

Faculty Committee Members

Dr. Atef Harb; Dr. Mohamed Hamadeh; Dr. Tanios Touma; Mrs. Viviane Nakhle; Dr. Georges Labaki; Mr. Dominique Beaulieu, BBS Faculty Representative; Mr. Bertrand Marçais, BBS Faculty Representative; Mrs. Alexandra Y. Benz, BBS Faculty Representative; Dr. Cesar Baena, BBS MIB Director; Dr. Rock-Antoine Mehanna, Director, Graduate Programs, FBAE.

FBAE Graduate Faculty Scholarly Activities

- | Dr. Mohamad Hamadeh, Assistant Professor and Chairperson of the Department of Accounting, Finance and Economics at NDU, presented and published his paper entitled *"The Quality of Education and House Values"* at the International Academy of Business and Public Administration Disciplines Conference Proceedings, vol. 4, No. 2: pp. 1195-1207, Dallas, USA, May 2007.
- | Dr. Akl Keyrouz, professor in the joint MBA-MIB program, has launched his new book entitled *"Nuclear Iran: A Prelude to WWII"* (published by Author House).
- | Dr. Rock-Antoine Mehanna of the FBAE at NDU has published the following two articles, entitled: (1) "Fiscal Policy and Economic Growth: What's Economics Got to Do with It?" that appeared in the *Global Journal of Finance & Economics*, vol. 4, no. 1 (2007): pp. 13-22; and (2) "Regional Integration and Economic Development: An Empirical Investigation" (co-authored with Dr. K. Hassan of University of New Orleans and Drexel University) that appeared in the *Global Review of Business & Economic Research*, vol. 2, no. 2: pp. 173-188.

NDU, the only University invited from Lebanon to the Int'l Conference on Iraq

- | The University of Massachusetts at Boston, USA, has invited Notre Dame University's (NDU) Director of FBAE graduate programs Dr. Rock-Antoine Mehanna to sit on the International Scientific Committee of the International Conference on *Rebuilding Sustainable Communities in Iraq*, Boston, Massachusetts, USA, July 23-26, 2007. The International Scientific Committee comprises 35 international scholars from 32 prominent institutions from the United States, Australia, Europe, and the Middle East.

IEEE - Berytech

Workshop on "How to start your business in engineering and technology" meets success.

In partnership with Berytech, the leading business incubator in Lebanon, and with the support of INDEVCO and Byblos Bank, the Institute of Electrical & Electronic Engineers (IEEE) organized a workshop titled "How to start your business in Engineering and Technology". All student branches of IEEE in the country, which included AUB, BAU, LAU and NDU in particular, participated in the planning and execution of this event, which brought together over 100 participants on May 5, 2007 at the NDU auditorium.

In order to ensure a high level of interaction between the speakers and the audience, places were limited to 103, and these were sold out days prior to the event.

High-profile local and international experts moderated the sessions, which covered all the stages of transforming an idea into a sustainable business venture.

Topics tackled included how to conduct feasibility studies, the challenge of becoming entrepreneur, and methods of financing start-ups as well as engineering management challenges. The workshop opened with a brief overview of Berytech services for entrepreneurs and ended with inspiring testimonials from successful entrepreneurs established in Berytech. "Dream and go for it" declared **Oscar Bou Chaaya**, co-founder of Pro-Comix and NDU graduate. Participants expressed their satisfaction with the contents of the sessions, which gave them practical hands-on advice.

A prize draw allowed attendees to take home valuable prizes offered by Microsoft. The event concluded on a high note with a luncheon offered compliments of Berytech.

o | Maher Sarkis,
workshop organizer,
IEEE, NDU

Sarmad Rihani Scholarship

Dr. Elias Nassar, Dean of Engineering, has pleasure in announcing the launching of the Sarmad Rihani Scholarship, worth \$3,000, to be awarded to the top Civil Engineering student at the end of his or her third year, starting June 2007. The winner will be the student with the highest major cumulative GPA at the end of third year and the award will be paid as part of tuition for the fourth year in Civil Engineering.

The name of the winner will be announced at a special ceremony before the end of June 2007 in the presence of Mr. Sarmad Rihani in person. Mr. Sarmad Rihani is a Lebanese-American structural engineer with a BS from Oregon State University and MS from the University of Maryland, USA. He is Principal and CEO, BEI Structural Engineers Inc., Fairfax, Virginia, and President of the American Structural Engineering Association, Washington, D.C..



▲ Workshop organizers from left to right: **Imad Bou Khalil (BAU), Maher Sarkis (NDU), Rabih Yazbeck (AUB), Maher Beaini (LAU)**

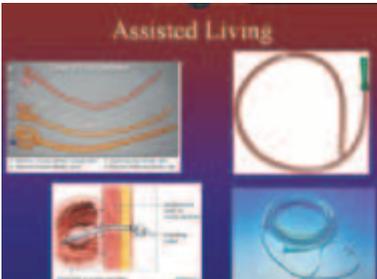


▼ **Mr. Maroun Chammas, President of Berytech and serial entrepreneur.**



Sex, Drugs and Alcohol: Why Not?

On Friday, 30th March, 2007, Dr. Naim El-Aswad gave a talk on the above subject in Friends Hall, Main Campus. The learned specialist is a board-certified internist practising internal and emergency medicine in the USA and Emergency Room and Medical Director of East Texas Medical Center, Trinity, TX and of East Texas Medical Center, Crocket, TX. He explained that he was speaking out of ten years of experience and gave examples of three patients, while giving an idea of the exhaustion of the medical personnel involved. We regret that we have not enough space for all the frightening details with which Doctor El-Aswad revealed the disastrous results of unregulated life-style and the strain under which a hospital doctor works.



Patient A had been brought in by ambulance when Dr. El-Aswad was trying to rest after airlifting a patient with massive heart attack to another hospital. She was blue, not breathing and had a weak pulse. Every second counted as the brain suffers permanent injury after four minutes without blood flow. The 21-year-old patient had been drinking at her graduation party and now showed not a single sign of life. To add to the confusion her family were in the waiting room.

The patient was rushed into the trauma room, was intubated and within five minutes was receiving medications, intravenous fluid, monitoring and examinations. This lasted from 3.20 a.m. until 5.04, when she died of cardio-respiratory arrest. Now came the worst part for the doctor, informing the

family. Some were in shock, some in a state of disbelief and others in raging anger. During his resuscitation efforts, the doctor had asked the family for clues but nobody would volunteer information. This aroused his suspicions; no one tells the real story at the time. Later the cause of death was found to have been a massive heart attack with traces of cocaine found in the blood. The patient had taken only a whiff but this was her first and last time.

Patient B presented a picture worth an entire medical literature, a 54-year-old male who came to the emergency room because of lethargy. His wife said he could hardly walk any more and his colour had changed. He looked like a man of 90 and had a girth of 210 cm. with a whitish yellow complexion. He was breathing around 28 times a minute instead of the normal 12. His legs were so big that one could define neither knee, ankle nor hip.

Doctor: "Any known past medical history?"

Patient and wife (belligerently): "No, none."

Doctor: "So, do you smoke, drink?"

Patient: "Yeah, I smoke, about a pack a day, and I drink, about half a bottle of vodka every day. So what?"

About 12 litres of fluid were drained from the man's abdomen but some had to be left for medical reasons. The patient could now breathe more easily but the rate was still about 20 a minute even after supplemental oxygen.

The final diagnosis was cirrhosis of the liver (end stage failure). A feeding tube had to be placed in the patient's belly as he could no longer eat. He was put on dialysis as his kidneys were non-functional and he needed a Foley catheter in his sexual organ to drain the urine. He lasted nine months longer and then died from drowning in his own secretions, of which his lungs were filled from the inside.

Patient C was a 25-year-old male

complaining of pain in his groin and testicular area.

Doctor: "How can I help you today?"

Patient: "Hey man, I got some serious sh-goin' on man. Look here, my partner is bleeding, man, my partner has some gunky stuff coming out of it, man. This sh-hurts, man."

What he and his partner (sexual organ) ended up having was gonorrhea, tearing him up from the inside. He needed a catheter in his bladder to urinate and, needless to say, could never use his organ again.

Doctor El-Aswad went on to say that knowledge was power, health and safety. Each of the three patients mentioned had an excuse and paid the price. Whether one is a novice or a seasoned expert, drugs will maim and kill. Doctor El-Aswad asked his listeners to remember the following. -

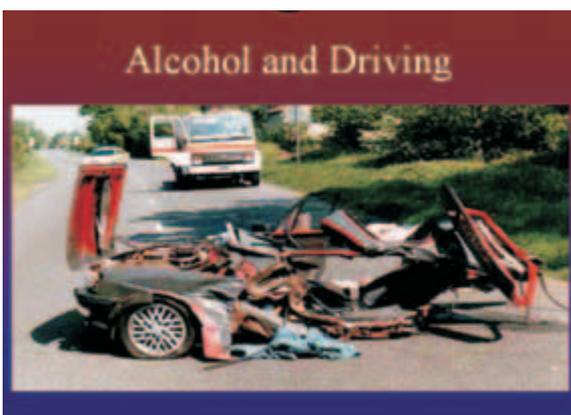
People take drugs to change their reality and maintain it so. Tolerance

drives the needed doses higher until neither brain nor organs can take them. To deal with drug dependence, one has to deal with the reasons behind the abuse in the first place. Between the first and the final dose one can go through the entire range of medical problems to an agonizing point where death is welcomed. If one is on drugs one should not despair but talk and talk particularly to people who care and want to help. *We should not be judgmental about anyone.* We all have our problems and sometimes need help. Finally, the most commonly abused drug is the cigarette.

All the above applies to alcohol. Alcohol kills the drinker and kills others. The doctor once had to treat a mother and a child both paralyzed because of an accident caused by a drunk driver. The husband wanted to kill him and the doctor shared his sentiment! Alcoholism means dependence, social isolation and health problems, with a miserable life until death and decay come as a relief.

As for STDs (sexually transmitted diseases), one should be safe, smart and trust NO ONE ! One should consider that others have HIV and other diseases until proven otherwise. Condoms should be used properly with regard for size, expiration dates, latex and electronic testing, and stored in a cool, dry place, not one's pocket or glove box. There are literally tens of STDs, some with a cure, some debilitating and some incurable. Fear of a test for disease being positive must not scare one off from taking the test.

Finally, and very importantly, Dr. El-Aswad warned about the internet, from which one might get either false or accurate information. One should trust websites that end with *.gov, .net and .edu*, not those ending with *.com*.



Report on Conference Research and Scholarly Excursion to Pisa, including the conference (see poster), by Dr. Eugene Sensenig-Dabbous (Department of Political Science) and Faculty of Humanities Professor Dr. Edward Alam:

Building the Earth, rebuilding Lebanon

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin and Giorgio La Pira, a perspective for the future

A high-level international conference took place in Pisa, Italy, on February 24, 2007 titled *Building the Earth, Rebuilding Lebanon: Giorgio La Pira and Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, A Perspective for the Future*. It built on work the FPSPAD had initiated during the Peace Studies Conference in Honour of Giorgio La Pira - 1904/2004: *Sources of Conflict and Prospects for Peace in the Mediterranean Basin*, organized by the University of Messina and Central Connecticut State University (CCSU). At this conference Drs. Ghais and Sensenig-Dabbous discussed the possibility of introducing the Italian Christian Democratic leader, Christian-Social thinker and peace activist, Giorgio La Pira to the Middle East.

The original idea of establishing a formal relationship in the form of a

formal Mediterranean LSI cooperation between Lebanon and Italy began in Philadelphia in 2005 during the annual Metanexus Conference, when members of the respective groups met and exchanged ideas. Substantial progress was made the following year in Philadelphia in 2006, and again at the annual Metanexus Conference, when Dr. Eugene Sensenig-Dabbous rekindled interest in the idea by focusing on a joint Lebanese/Italian investigation into the thought of Giorgio La Pira. Finally, after six months of correspondence and exchange, Professor Ludovico Galleni, Professor of General Zoology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Pisa, managed to secure funding from the Provincia de Pisa in conjunction with the La Pira Foundation to sponsor two members of LSI/Lebanon, Dr. Edward Alam, and Dr. Eugene Sensenig-Dabbous, to participate in an international conference. Other participants included Professor Mario Primicerio, former Mayor of Florence, and President of the La Pira Foundation, and the Vice-President of the Foundation, Professor Giulio Conticelli. In addition to an

agreement to cooperate in the future on similar conferences and meetings, two very important projects are under way, both of which are significant in terms of institutional buy-in: the first concerns a high-level LSI/Lebanon cooperation with the Metanexus Local Society: Etruscan Local Group (Universities of Pisa, Perugia, della Toscana) and the Ricerca Scientifica Avanzata (CGS Pisa), directed by Mr. Costantino Raspi. The Lebanese LSI will be developing a project design and submitting an application for the EC's 7th Framework Programme: Cooperation Theme 8/Socioeconomic Sciences and Humanities:

(http://euro-rdt.cstb.fr/Documents/Textes/T920_h_wp_200701_en.pdf)

NB: This new Framework Programme, (FP 7 Cooperation Work Programme: SSH / PROVISIONAL* WORK PROGRAMME 2007 / COOPERATION / THEME 8 SOCIOECONOMICS SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES / (European Commission C(2006) 6839) / Framework Programme and the Specific Programme Cooperation, page 7.) ,

explicitly foresees cooperation with Eastern Mediterranean countries, including Lebanon:

"In addition to this, support is possible for activities to develop partnerships between communities of scholars in relation to common challenges and opportunities, taking into account the broader strategic cooperation frameworks of the European Union (such as the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, the New Neighbourhood Policy, the Asia-Europe Meeting process, etc) (See topic SSH-2007-8..2)."

The other project underway as a result of the successful cooperation between

Metanexus Local Society: Etruscan Local Group (Universities of Pisa, Perugia, della Tuscia) and LSI/Lebanon concerns a translation project of Giorgio La Pira's Italian works into Arabic. Two Thousand Euros (\$2,600.00) have already been secured for the project, as a result of cooperation between the La Pira Foundation, and the Provincia di Pisa, which was facilitated by the Etruscan LSI. The project, in fact, has already begun. On February 24, 2007, the President of the La Pira foundation, Professor Mario Primicerio, formally asked LSI/Lebanon to begin work on the La Pira foundation website—a website that is text-orientated and contains seminal works that have never

been translated into any other language. Should we, the LSI/Lebanon group, be awarded the supplemental grant, we shall match this fund in order to continue the translation project by translating an entire major work of La Pira's into Arabic.

07/March/2007

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www.libanlink.org

N.B. Papers presented by the above-mentioned students at the 2004 Messina Conference are to be found in the section OPINION and CULTURE, by kind permission of the publishers of its Acta, slightly ortened. -Ed.

Pisa, 24 febbraio 2007

Hall of Pisa Provincial Administration / Biblioteca Cateriniana- Pisa
Building the Earth, rebuilding Lebanon

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin and Giorgio La Pira, a perspective for the future

9.30

Welcome of Pisa authorities

Welcome by Prof. Mario Primicerio, President of the La Pira Foundation, Florence

10.00

○ | Ludovico Galleni (Università di Pisa)

Teilhard de Chardin and the perspective of the future of the Noosphere

○ | Giulio Conticelli (Università di Firenze - vice president of the La Pira foundation)

La Pira and Abraham progeny

○ | Edward Alam (Notre Dame University - Lebanon)

"The Future of Lebanon: Philosophical Reflections on "Hope" with references to Teilhard de Chardin and Gorgio La Pira."

○ | Eugene Sensenig-Dabbous (Notre Dame University - Lebanon)

"Alternative Salvations: Marxist and Christian Labour Responses to Violence and Social Injustice in the 20th Century"

□ | Pisa Provincial Administration

□ | Giorgio La Pira Foundation- Firenze

□ | Metanexus Local Society: Etruscan Local Group (Universities of Pisa, Perugia, della Tuscia)

□ | Metanexus Local Society: Lebanon Communio Study Circle (Notre Dame University - Zouk Mosbeh - Lebanon)

□ | Compagnia di Santa Bona - Pisa



▲ Giorgio La Pira, lord mayor of Florence, 1950s



Dual Citizenship: The Political Role of the Lebanese Diaspora

Khaled Karam, Senior Undergraduate, Department of International Affairs and Diplomacy, FPSPAD

The Social and Behavioral Sciences Department in the American University of Beirut (AUB) and the American Voices Abroad (AVA) held a conference on dual citizenship, titled *The Political Role of the Lebanese Diaspora* on Thursday, 26th April, 2007, starting 8 p.m.. The conference, held in Hamra at T-Marbouta Café, was organized by the "Sociology Café", a monthly meeting of informal discussion between students and professors on critical issues of life in Lebanon. It was organized by the efforts of Eugene Sensenig-Dabbous (Chair of AVA Beirut), professor of political science at NDU, and Sari Hanafi and Nabil Dajani from AUB. Dr. Paul Salem, Director of the Carnegie Middle East Center, was the main speaker.

The main topics to be debated during this event were the following:

- ① The expression of dual or multiple identities through political activism at home and in the diaspora (including the personal experience of the speakers);
- ② Conflicts of loyalty between two citizenships or identities, especially when both countries are at odds;
- ③ Grassroots activism vs. mainstream activism, including activist scholarship, i.e. the link between one's own research and political activism (e.g. explain the world / change the world) and work with local NGOs or initiatives;
- ④ Lessons learned personally, politically and academically from both country's cultures;
- ⑤ The ("proper" or "improper") role and use of religion and politics in both countries one belongs to.

The conference concentrated mainly on the issue of members of the Lebanese Diaspora and their ability to participate in Lebanese elections as part of their contribution in the political life of their mother country.

Dr. Salem pointed out that Lebanon had a long history of immigration, from the late 1800s up until the present. Lebanon had the largest diaspora relative to its size. Broadly speaking, up to 12.5 million ethnic Lebanese lived abroad. Most of

them lived in Brazil, and others were spread over the United States, Canada, Australia, Europe and some of the Arab countries (mainly the Gulf) and West Africa. He then indicated that the Lebanese abroad had the desire to participate in political life at "home" and to help in formulating decisions in the country. They also had great faith in the future of the country and the ultimate possibility of their return.

Discussion then focused on the absentee voting rights of emigrants. Many believe that living abroad without paying taxes and integrating in the social life of another country automatically deprives the immigrants of their right to vote and participate in domestic politics in Lebanon. But Dr. Salem believed that the emigrants left Lebanon for good reasons and their right to vote attached them to their home country while they were benefiting from their abilities in the countries where they lived.

The discussion then moved on to the technical mechanisms of absentee voting itself. The debate mainly concentrated on whether Lebanese abroad should vote for the district they came from - or the village or municipality for that matter - or should have their own reserved seats in the parliament. The U.S. was given

as an example of the former and France as an example of the latter.

Dr. Salem then picked up on a related topic, that of ethnic lobbies in the United States. He talked in depth about the case of the Jewish or pro-Israel lobby in the US and the effect it has on US foreign policy as well as its success in influencing state and local politics. He also pointed out the amount of money funneled into this field by Israel itself and pro-Israel corporations, both from Jews and so called "Zionist Christians". The debate continued by highlighting the relative absence of any Arab or Lebanese lobby exercising the same influence as does the pro-Israel lobby, this although there were many Arabs and Lebanese citizens living in the US or carrying an American passport while living abroad. Many related this to lack of unity and unified goals among Arabs, in general, and Lebanese, in particular, in the US unlike the case of the Jewish population, which is diverse but largely unified with respect to Israel.

Professor Sensenig-Dabbous, chairing the meeting, then discussed the position of the Democratic Party and

the Democrats Abroad (DA) in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). He asked why the Jewish population in the US and the pro-Israel lobby abroad dominated the debate. One of the reasons was the weakness of the Arabs and Lebanese within the Democratic Party at home and the DA in the MENA region. Arabs and Lebanese carrying dual citizenship were not making use of this fact in order to showcase their cause and become active in countries like Lebanon, Egypt, Palestine or Jordan. The absence of non-Jewish Middle Easterners with the DA was permitting Israel and the Zionist Jews to have a larger voice and enjoy more support than they should. Thus, Arab-Americans in the MENA were playing an indirect role in ruining the image of the Lebanese and Arabs, so leading Americans at home to misjudge the needs of the Middle East and the true causes of the huge problems in this region.

The panel discussion was attended by students and scholars from NDU, AUB and other universities, who were active contributors by presenting controversial views and personal expertise on the subject.

▼ *From left to right: Nabil Dajani, Sari Hanafi, Dr. Paul Salem and Dr. Sensenig Dabbous.*





▲ From left to right: Architect Habib Salameh, Mr. Suheil Matar, Rev. Fr. Walid Moussa and Mrs. Grace Khalil.

Two-Day Job Fair at NDU

○ | Christine Rayess Atallah

Current and former students visited the campus in Zouk Mosbeh on May 22 and May 23 for the annual Job Fair organized by the Placement Office.

Despite the current security situation, students came to the fair hoping to find a job in or outside Lebanon. More than 20 international, regional, and local companies participated in the Fair and more than 90 job openings were available for recruitment.

"The Fair was good in general, although 35% of absence was signaled in classes," said Mrs. Grace Khalil, the Job Fair coordinator. "It's hard to find our students a job in Lebanon due to the political and security situations, but the participating companies have vacancies they hope to get filled".

Mrs. Fadia Chlala from Sakr Group confirmed that view saying "We expected more students, but the candidates who gave us their CV's were just what we're looking for, and we'll start our interviews as of tomorrow."

Engineering, Graphic Design and Advertising & Marketing students were the luckiest, as demand exceeded supply, noted Mrs. Khalil.

Senior **Maher Sarkis**, majoring in Mechanical Engineering, could confirm this first-hand. "The Job Fair is very helpful," he said. "There is a great demand for engineers".

To mark the opening of the event, Public Relations Director **Souheil Matar** confirmed that "despite everything, we shall stay here. This blind violence aims at creating chaos and forcing people to emigrate. But our response should be a greater attachment to this land."

At the same time, Mrs. Grace Khalil admitted that "finding a job for a graduating student is becoming harder," and the companies' pretext is always the same: "We are overstaffed, and we have no vacancies."

NDU President **Fr. Walid Moussa** pointed out that "the objective of this Job Fair is to create interaction between the University and society and between students and employers and to fill the gap between the classes and the market ... The companies of the private sector are facing different problems due to instability, difficult security situations and illegal competition", he added. "It is our duty

to find practical solutions and not surrender to complaining and crying."

As for **Mr. Antoine Choueiri**, who was absent for medical reasons, he was represented by Architect **Habib Salameh**, who offered advice to the students seeking for a job, saying: "Despite the disasters Lebanon is going through, and the continuous emigration of our youth, we should look on them as our representatives abroad".

At the end of the opening ceremony, everyone was invited to drink a toast and to take advantage of the Job Fair.



▲ *Companies are interested in NDU students.*



▲ *Companies present spacious premises for interviews.*

Said Akl Creativity Award

○ | Christine Rayess Atallah

a) On May 23, 2007, the great Lebanese poet **Said Akl** made awards to three students, **Berinda Yara Younes**, **Georges Eid**, and **Salim Habr**, of the Faculty of Humanities for their outstanding performance in the Arabic poetic play *Sawfa nabqa (We shall survive)* written by **Dr. Jamil Dueihi**. The play was presented as part of the celebrations to commemorate NDU's 20th Anniversary.



▲ NDU figures with a great Lebanese.



▲ NDU personalities and award winners with a historic Lebanese.

b) In addition, three other brilliant students, **Elias Alouan**, **Nancy Daher** and **Charbel Chaaya**, from the Faculty of Engineering and Communications, received the Said Akl Award on May 12, 2007 for their exceptional senior projects. In his senior project, Charbel Chaaya, majoring in Civil and Environmental Engineering, has contributed to the reconstruction of the buildings destroyed as a result of the July 2006 Israeli war against Lebanon. He evaluated the capacity of the buildings to be constructed to resist bombing and gave suggestions on how to increase the resistance of the new buildings. Student Elias Alwan (cumulative GPA 3.99/4), majoring in Computer and Communications Engineering, has contributed to the upgrading of an individual machine for the Indevco Company, reprogramming the software system with his team and replacing the hardware equipment. Nancy Daher (cumulative GPA 3.82/4), who is majoring in Mechanical Engineering, was granted the award for her spirit of leadership and responsibility. She is the first student to be elected president of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), through which she has hosted many researchers and engineers who have presented to NDU students their findings in mechanical engineering. ASME has organized visits to several engineering plants in Lebanon.



▲ Group with the FNAS award winners and Dean.

c) On June 6th, 2007, the great Lebanese poet Said Akl granted three students of the Faculty of Natural and Applied Sciences the Said Akl Award for the academic year 2006-2007. The first winner was **Samir Shaker**, undergraduate student in Computer Science, who received half the award for the best paper submitted by an external student to the 6th Faculty of Engineering and Architecture Student Conference organized by the American University of Beirut on May 23rd-24th, 2007. The second winner was **Natasha Mourany**, a graduate student in Mathematics who received one quarter of the award for her top overall performance. The third winner was **George Elias**, undergraduate student majoring in Biology, who received one quarter of the award for his top overall performance.



NDU-DCE

The first prize of the Toufiq Succar Prize in Music for the category of under fifteen years of age was awarded to **Maroun Yammine**, who studies Piano, Solfege and Theory in the NDU-DCE School of Music. The competition took place on April 29th, 2007, at Balamand University in collaboration with Tripoli Leaders Lions Club. Our congratulations go to Mr. Yammine, his instructors and the School of Music

Astronomy Club

Like millions in Western Asia, Europe, and Eastern United States, many of the NDU family and guests from fellow universities gathered at NDU main campus and observed the eclipse during the event organized by the NDU astronomy club on the night of 3-3-2007.

The evening was chilly but luckily clear. The moon was the "star" of the night with all eyes fixed on it. Everybody was eager to experience the magic of the lunar eclipse, the magic felt and sometimes feared over thousands of years of civilizations.

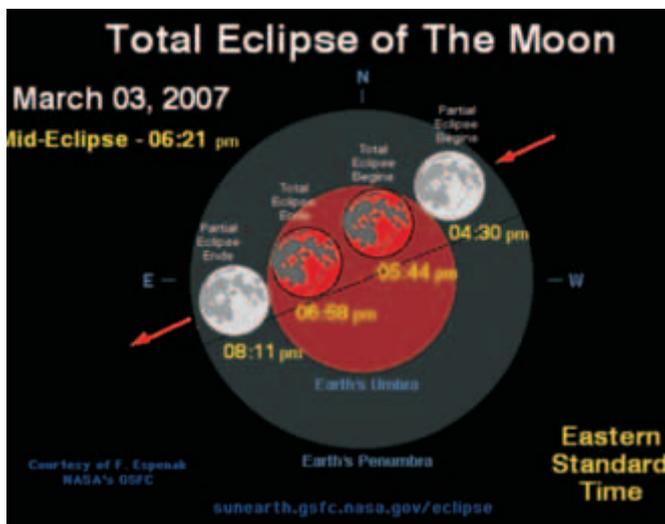
Four telescopes were set up along with the large NDU 14-inch Meade telescope. Everybody wanted a clear look at the eclipsed moon. As the shadow of the earth started covering the moon fabulous colors were displayed, varying from grey and dark grey to brownish red. The effect it leaves on one's soul after one peers at it either with scientific knowledge or poetic imagination is always significant.

Dr. Roger Hajjar and Dr. Bassem Sabra provided the participants with all the required scientific information and answered all their questions. For those more curious to know what was going on, the doctors took everyone on a tour through the skies and gave many an opportunity to see the cosmos as they had never seen

it before. Saturn, the most interesting neighbor then appearing closest to the moon, always amazes anyone who sees it through a telescope especially through our 14-inch "giant" at NDU.

The eclipse started at 10:21 p.m. and ended in the dawn of 3-4-2007, and it left us with many memories, memories of the chilly night, the laughter, the gathering, the various conversations and the view of our grey companion changing its usual smiling face into a bronze disk.

○ | Issam Shibany



▼ Using the 14-inch Meade.



Camping Club

...explore freedom

Getting closer to Mother Nature and discovering Lebanon and its magnificent scenery, while respecting the ecosystem and helping to protect it, are the activities that the Camping Club promotes.

Our objectives:

The Camping Club aims to organize all kinds of outdoor activities and extreme sports in order to spread among all its members the feeling of adventure, friendship and bravery.

We also aim to strengthen the link between Lebanese students and their homeland in order to lower the rate of emigration, through conferences, held by professionals in this field on campus, about the history of Lebanon, its role in this stage and its will to survive.

Our activities:

- | NDU annual rally paper
- | Snow outings
- | Camping
- | Rafting
- | Scuba diving
- | Biking
- | Rappel
- | Mountain biking
- | Speleology
- | Paint-ball
- | Kayak
- | Clubbing and partying
- | Sports events
- | Conferences and guest speakers at NDU
- | Trip to Lebanese historical sites
- | Common NDU activities: Christmas fiesta, Founder's day...
- | And many other activities to be held according to new creative ideas coming from club members.

1- Camping:

All equipments set, the Camping Club members are ready to experience the wild!

Away from noisy daily life, a guitar in hand, friends all around and the nesting in the fresh wilderness: back to basics!

From time to time, we need to experience life in the forest and to get closer to our Mother Nature, trying to learn how to live in a simple way,

without needing anything but each other's company!

When we get closer to nature we get closer to each other!

2-Diving:

"A Picture is worth a million words!" In brief, beside our rich "land" nature, another "Lebanese World" is yet to be experienced by Lebanese youth. Diving is a sport known by many, practiced by few. The Camping Club, on several consecutive occasions, has organized diving events during the summers, and given the opportunity to its members and participants to experience new feelings and environments.

And most of all, learned: "3mol mni7 w ma tkeb bil ba7eh"!!

Unfortunately, this last summer was a catastrophe, not only to our country but also to our sea life, when all the seashore was covered by oil and waste from Israeli vessels and ships!!

3- Founder's Day:

One of the most important events that NDU organize on its campus: the famous Founder's Day!

In this event, every club wants to impress the public in a way to give a better view of NDU to the community. The Camping Club is also interested and concerned about that great image

and impression and puts all its weight and uses all its manpower to show what team work means: on the last Founder's Day (pictures), the Camping Club members built a THREE-FLOOR Phoenician tower which reached a height of 15 meters approx! OUF! It took lots of work but, here's the result🌞!

Wait and see what's coming this year!!! (The sky is the limit, don't you think?)

4- Nivea event:

Kif? Leish? Chou khass l Camping bil Nivea?

Why? Because we care! 😊

The Camping Club and Nivea organized a give-away event where Nivea samples were distributed to students and faculty staff. Enclosed in the Nivea cover was a link to the Nivea web site where students could register online to enter a draw on a full accommodation trip for four persons to Dubai, to do skiing in the famous Dubai Snow Dome.

Moreover, Nivea representatives were present to give advice to students on how to take care of their skin, using Nivea!

5- Rally paper:

Hold your horses guys! It's NOT a speed rally!

The Camping Club is well known for organizing one of the best rally papers in the region. In this rally paper that covered around 150km, knowledge of teams was put to the test, in addition to the driver's skills in respecting the rules and regulations of the rally: speed, security...

Points were distributed for knowledge, games and driving skills ...

More than 80 cars were registered and traveled stage to stage with huge competition!

And, as a Camping Club tradition, a huge party took place to distribute the prizes to the winning teams.

After all, it's a team competition! Team spirit is the key!

6- Rappel & escalade:

It's not a 'weak heart' event!

'Wassaltina l noss l bir, w 2ta3teb l 7ablé fina...'

That's what you feel when you first start going down from the 55-meter-high bridge of Faqra, but without the second part!

55 meters high, the Faqra Bridge stands toughly above a river formed from melting snow!

Along with professionals, Camping Club members spent a very beautiful day in Faqra going down the bridge and experienced adrenaline rush as never before.

O.K.: once we're down how to go up? Rappel guys, rappel! Yalla, grab the rope and start climbing! 😊

7- Snow outing:

Here comes the snow!

Get ready boys and girls, because the fun has just begun!

Meeting around midnight, a walk on the snow under a clear sky and a full moon!

What can happen better than that? I'll tell you!

A traditional cheese and wine night after the snow walk, around a huge fire camp, with songs inspired from the great mood that heat, exhaustion and wine can give!

That's us, that's the Camping Club spirit!

Never tried it before with the Camping Club? You don't know what you've been missing!

8- Speleology:

I bet we have all watched or at least heard of Indiana Jones!

But, have you ever tried to live an adventure like him?

Have you ever experienced the feeling that you might discover something that no one else has noticed before?

Well, when you go inside the second biggest cave in Lebanon, the cave of Afqa, you will know and understand what I mean!

A 5-km-deep cave, four floors inside and halls that can contain the NDU closed parking area, an underground river whose water never sees the sunlight and of course...myths and ancient stories!

Sounds creepy, yeah? Well no, not at all!

But for all adrenaline lovers and adventurous spirits that's the event that can take your breath away!

You need to cross the cave from side to side in around four to five hours.

Wanna do it in 25 minutes?

Well, I can tell you one thing: bring spare clothes!

Club of International Relations (CIR)



▲ Left to right - front to back: Sara (Vice President), Paty (President), Jihane, Shyrine

Christmas Fiesta Event (Fall 2006)

To enrich the Christmas spirit in this holy month, we decided to spread the cheer with Lady Santa costumes, decorate our stand with original Christmas decorations and include games that could spread the Christmas spirit and love. Our main event was titled *Ring The Bell of Christmas*, where one must try to guess which bell would not ring from a choice of four to win a gift. Another event was *Candies Can Express a Thousand Words*, where one could send candies with a letter expressing one's feelings, to be delivered by two of the lady Santas. This event not only cheered us up during the Christmas fiesta, but will always be a great memory. We thank our University for kindly giving us the opportunity to hold such an event.

o | Sara El Hage
Vice President of CIR.

Music Club



On the 13 of December 2006, the Music Club NDU organized *Tryouts For Fun*, a simple event to gather NDU students and let them express their musical nature. Many bands and styles took the stage, delivering an hour of non-stop music fun. This event shows clearly that not only academic and social interests are found in NDU, but also cultural ones..



Discovery Club Events Fall 2006

Rooftop
03/11/2006



Hareb Tammouz 2006
8/11/2006



Recruitment Fall 2006

9/11/2006



Sartarabad Club



▲ *A successful Recruitment Day!*

Recruitment Day:

The recruitment day was very successful. Many new students filled in our application forms and joined the Sartarabad Club. They are already very active members in the club.

Christmas Fiesta:

The Christmas Fiesta was great. We designed a delightful stand. Everything was handmade, a Christmas tree with candies, paper Christmas cut-outs and hanging Christmas colored balls. The ambiance was very warm and everybody was happy and joyful.

Radio TV Club

Recruitment Day:

The Radio TV Club committee members gathered around the stand which was made of audio-visual equipment such as a camera plus its monitor, audio players and loudspeakers with the right music for the right mood. By the end of the week, around 500 forms were filled out for recruitment and casting try-outs.

Christmas Fiesta:

In collaboration with the Advertising Club, the Radio TV Club succeeded in bringing about one of the most successful stands at the Christmas Fiesta event held in the last week before the Christmas vacation. The club installed a chroma-key blue screen against which people had their pictures taken with Santa. The pictures were edited with beautiful Christmas backgrounds.



Journalism during War (Mona Saliba):

An event by the name of "Journalism during War" was held on the 19th of January by Radio TV club. Mona Saliba was welcomed at NDU where she narrated her own experience during the last July War. Videos of Saliba's presence in the hot areas were projected on a big screen.

▲ *A thought for Christmas*



▲ *Being photographed at the Christmas Fiesta.*



▲ *Experiences of the July War.*

Founders' Day

The year 2007 is a special one for NDU since it is celebrating the 20th anniversary of its foundation. This was particularly commemorated on Friday, May 11th, 2007, Founders' Day.

Over the past twenty years Founders' Day has been steadily establishing its traditions and has gained a reputation of which it can be proud. This year the day started with the celebration of Mass in the presence of members of

the NDU family from all three campuses. The activities of the participating clubs were not limited to putting up stands but also included dances, concerts and various stage performances.

This year's theme, "A Look to the Future", was an appropriate one loaded with imagery that gave us visions of future people, places and things. The highlight of the day was the attraction

of famous celebrities, singers, actors and TV presenters. All those present affirmed that events and activities planned were successfully put over.

Finally, the Student Activities Office at the SAO would like to thank all those people who put so much effort into this gathering and made it so successful.



▲ Jessica Azar and singer Zein el-Omar.



▲ The opening.

▼ Tony Baroud and Christine Sawaya.



▼ Student fantasy.



▲ Always an appreciative crowd.



► George Khabbaz, comedian and actor.



Shouf Activities



Quantifying Knowledge

This was the title of a talk given in the Conference Hall by Shouf Campus Sciences Division Chairman and Professor Dr, Foud Chedid on March 19th, 2007.

Summary: While the information contents of a binary string x can be measured by its prefix Kolmogorov complexity $K(x)$ (the length of a shortest prefix-free binary program that computes x), it is not clear how to measure the knowledge stored in x . In this talk, it was argued that the knowledge contained by a string x is relative to the hypothesis assumed to compute x .

So, if H is the hypothesis used to explain x , then it is suggested that the knowledge in x be measured by $K(H)$. The absolute knowledge in x is $K(H_0)$, where H_0 is the simplest model capable of explaining x . Using Bayes' rule and Solomonoff's universal semi-measure, we obtain

$$K(H) = K(H|x) - (K(x|mid H) - K(x)).$$

Here, $K(x|H)$ is the ideal code length for describing x given H . Such prefix code length can be achieved by the Shannon-Fano code. Also, one would expect $K(H|x)$ to be minimal. So, if we discard that term and rewrite the above equation, we obtain $K(x) = K(H) + K(x|H)$. We interpret $K(H)$ as the knowledge part in x and $K(x|H)$ as the random aspect (accidental information) in x following the hypothesis H .

Advanced LabView Applications

This was the title of a talk given on March 26th, 2007, at Shouf Campus by: Mr. André Hajjar of National Instruments.

This presentation explained the Virtual Instrumentation concept and how engineers and students can use software running on a computer combined with instrumentation hardware to define a custom, built-to-order test, control and

measurement solution. For over 30 years this vision has revolutionized the way engineers and scientists work, delivering solutions with faster development time, lower costs, and greater flexibility in a wide variety of application fields. The presentation explained also how LabVIEW, the graphical development environment, can be used to create custom input/output measurements and signal processing algorithms on FPGA

o targets and DSPs without the need of low-level hardware description languages or hardware board-level design. Some demonstrations on sound processing on FPGA showed the power of Virtual Instrumentation in audio measurements, octave analysis and frequency analysis. The presentation showed also how to implement RF and communication systems using LabVIEW and National Instruments hardware and how this PXI platform provides us with access to customizable functionality not available in traditional instruments and helps us keep pace with the changing standards and requirements.

Fourteen Easy Steps to Successful Selling

o On March 30th, 2007, Dr. Hassan Saadeh gave a talk at Shouf Campus with the above title of which we give the following summary.

The success of firms mainly depends on marketing activities. Finance, accounting operations and other business functions will not really matter if there is not sufficient demand for products and services for the company to make a profit. Marketing is tricky, but this mixture of art and science in choosing the right decision to satisfy customers' needs profitably can be learned and acquired, and this is the main objective of this presentation.

14 Easy Steps to Successful Selling introduced business and non-business audiences to the exciting world of marketing. This collection of easy and practical steps made the audience more familiar with this vital ingredient for business success and highlighted the idea that marketing profoundly affects our day-to-day life, formally or informally, as it is embedded in everything we do, from the choices we make to the websites we visit and to the ads we see.

Consequently, it can be of a great benefit for a variety of audiences no matter what the subject of their specialisation.

Global Warming, Major Environmental Problem

o On Monday, April 2nd, 2007, Dr. Nobil Haddad was the guest of Shouf Campus to speak about Global Warming.

He said that recent studies supported the consensus that the earth's atmosphere was getting warmer. Accurate measurement had shown that the temperature of the atmosphere had risen 0.6° C over the last few decades. Projection models predict that by year 2100 the global temperature average will have risen by 1.4 to 5.8° C. Nowadays, there was an increasing consensus that something should be done to limit the impact of temperature increase on our environment. In developed countries, global warming had become a political issue debated between governments and non-governmental groups in order to draw up economic and environmental policies. Dr. Haddad asked his listeners to join the movement to learn more about this issue and to become informed on what was being done to limit the damage of this global phenomenon.

○ Sports Doping

On Thursday, April 19th, 2007, Dr. Ziad Harb spoke about a matter of major concern in the sports world, namely doping, at all levels. He gave an overview of the substances mostly used, with their effects and dangers and gave practical recommendations preceding a general discussion.

○ Broadband Content

IPTV: The delivery of Live and On-Demand-Content over Broadband was the title of a talk given by Mr. Nassim El Boustany on Tuesday, April 24th, 2007. It introduced students to IPTV technology (Internal Protocol Television) used in delivering digital television services, which may include delivery by a broadband connection. The subject of triple-play technology – Video, Voice and Internet – was also introduced, together with the opportunity for integration and convergence.

○ Exchange Rate Reform

On Friday, April 27th, 2007, Mr. Talih Kaasamany presented *A Reform Proposal for the Lebanese Exchange Rate System – Pegging to a Basket*, as stabilizing the exchange rate and controlling inflation has been at the centre of all macroeconomic policies in Lebanon since the mid-1990s. The Lebanese pound has been pegged to the US dollar for greater access to funds, but this was criticized when the dollar was overvalued and pegging to a basket of foreign currencies has been suggested as an alternative, for example the dollar, Euro, yen, British pound and Swiss franc.

Reconfigurable Computing, a New Supercomputing Paradigm

○ Professor Walid Najjar

On Monday, April 30th, 2007, a seminar was given in the Shouf Campus Conference Hall by Professor Walid A. Najjar on the subject of *Reconfigurable Computing, a New Supercomputing Paradigm*. Walid A. Najjar is a professor in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering in the University of California Riverside. His research interests are in the fields of computer architecture and compiler optimizations, embedded systems and sensor networks. Lately, he has been very active in the area of compilation for FPGA-based code acceleration and reconfigurable computing, his research being supported by NSF, DARPA and various industry sponsors.

Professor Najjar obtained his B.E. in Electrical Engineering from the American University of Beirut in 1979 and M.S. and Ph.D. in Computer Engineering from the University of Southern California in 1985 and 1988 respectively. He was on the faculty of the Department of Computer Science at Colorado State University (1989 to 2000) before working with the USC-Information Sciences Institute. He has served on the program committees for a number of leading conferences in this area, including CASES, ISSS-CODES, DATE, HPCA, MICRO and FPL. He was recently elected Fellow of the IEEE.

Speaking at the Shouf Campus, he explained that the ROCCC (Riverside

Optimizing Configurable Computing Compiler) is an optimizing C-to-VHDL compiler, used for compiling routines written in a subset of C to an application-specific circuit on an FPGA. ROCCC incorporates several powerful parallelizing transformations targeted towards code generation for FPGAs and can achieve performance comparable to a hand-coded VHDL. Speed-ups have been demonstrated by Professor Najjar ranging from 800x to several 1,000x over the Itanium 2 1.6GHz on an SGI Altix 4700 with one RASC RC 100 blade

Professor Najjar's audience greatly appreciated this exposition given by such a distinguished scientist.

Observing Effort in Education

On Friday, May 10th, 2007, Mr. Jawad Nassredine spoke of *Principals, Agents, and Moral Hazard Applied to Education*. The speaker observed that one of the most important analytical constructs of modern microeconomics was that of the relationship between "principal" and "agent" when the employee performs some task on behalf of the employer. Unless perfectly monitored by the latter, the former tends to put in less effort than the latter thinks desirable. The principal then has to devise a scheme by which the effort becomes observable. Such a scheme was possible in teaching and could be successful.

PASTORAL WORK - NDU SHOUF CAMPUS

2006/2007 new committee:

Père Nabil Raffoul (Advisor).

Pierre Renno (President), Aline Hedary (Vice President), Christel Azzi (Secretary), Hicham Bassila (Treasurer), Christel Andraos (Spiritual Activities), Ramy Bou Rjeily (Entertainment), Darine Al Hachem (Publicity).

CHRISTMAS TIME:

○ | St Barbara's Day:

Powerpoint presentation about the life of St Barbara..

Distribution of "2ame7 maslou2" to members, students and staff.

○ | *Christmas decoration.*

○ | *Secret Santa for 12 days.*

○ | *Spiritual Evening in church of Mar Abda.*

○ | *Exchange of Christmas gifts.*

○ | *Distribution of hand-made decorated candles to all NDU family.*

EASTER TIME:

- | *Movie: "Passion of the Christ".*
- | *Distribution of hand-made wooden crosses including holy words.*
- | *Spiritual journey in Deir el-Mukhalles near Joun.*
- | *Easter Stand: what is the meaning of Easter? / Easter tree...*
- | *Competition: Best Decorated Easter Egg.*
- | *Distribution of sweets and souvenirs to all NDU family.*
- | *Powerpoint presentation about*

the Authenticity of the Shroud of Turin.

OPEN DOORS:

- | *Preparation of two boards resuming Pastoral Work's objectives and activities.*
- | *Distribution of brochures, stamped pens, "Erban"...*

WEEKLY MEETINGS:

Each Thursday during lunch break.

Topics:

- | *Spiritual (Holy Spirit, virtues, sharing of the Gospel, Holy Trinity, Eucharst, group prayer...).*

- | *Educational (Church's point of view about abortion, sexuality ...).*
- | *Social (Charity, importance of the family...).*
- | *Entertainment.*
- | *Celebration of members' birthdays.*

OUTDOOR activities:

- | *Trip to Faraya.*
- | *Trip to Saida and Sour (Sidon and Tyre).*
- | *Gatherings...*

○ | **Pastoral Committee**



▶ ▼ *Pastoral Christmas.*



▲ *Members of the Pastoral Work, NDU Shouf.*

▶ *Pastoral Easter.*



Tournament Results

The NDU yearly Sports Tournament was held with the participation of various Lebanese universities under the patronage of NDU President Father Walid Moussa and the general supervision of Father Beshara Khoury, Director of the Student Affairs Office. Those attending included the President of the Lebanese Universities Sports Federation Nasri Lahoud, as well as parents, faculty staff and NDU friends.

Final results were as follows:

o | **Chess:** 1. The War College 2. NDU 3. USJ

o | **Tennis, men:** 1. Vickein Sagharian, Haigazian 2. Afif Dimashkiyyeh, Haigazian 3. Ala' Hariri and Ali Zein, Arab University.

o | **Tennis, Ladies:** Sandrine Jabra, NDU 2. Dominique Maalouf, NDU 3. Rima El-Murr, Arab University and Carla Yaidalian, Haigazian.

o | **Table tennis: ladies:** 1. Christie Jalikian, NDU Eliana Rahbani, Balamand

o | **Table tennis, men:** 1. Christian Ghoush, LAU Jbeil 2. Michel Amin, Balamand

o | **Taekwando:** 1. NDU 2. USJ 3. Middle East

o | **Handball:** 1. Arab University of Beirut 2. International Lebanese 3. NDU

o | **Mini-football:** 1. NDU 2. LAU Jbeil 3. LU

o | **Basketball, ladies:** (in the final, NDU defeated the Anthonines 71/28.) 1. NDU 2. Anthonite Baabda, 3. Holy Spirit, Kaslik

o | **Basketball, men:** (NDU defeated USJ in the final 61/57.) 1. NDU 2. USJ 3. UL

o | **Volleyball, men:** In the final, the War College defeated NDU.

The following took part in the organisation of the games: Elias El-Murr, Elie Salamie, Zakhia Mansour, Jad Bashour, Joseph Mata and Joseph Shamma,. They were supervised by the NDU Sports Director George Nader assisted by Elias Boutros. Cups and medals were distributed to the winners by Judge Nasri Lahoud and Father Bechara Khoury.

Conclusion of the NDU School Games

The NDU tournament for Secondary Schools, this time coming with the celebration of the University's twentieth anniversary, was concluded in the presence of NDU President Father Walid Moussa, the Secretary General of Catholic Schools Father Marwan Tabet, the Superior of St. Joseph's Antoura Father John Sfeir, the Superior of St. Rita's School at Dbayeh, and the Director of the Office of Student Affairs at NDU Father Beshara Khoury. Also present were a large number of officials, administrators, sports enthusiasts, students from the schools and their relatives. Final results are as follows.

o | **Table tennis, young men:** 1. Habib Antoun, Jamhour 2. Hraig

Manuelian, Hripsimianitz 3. Patrick Tarbiyeh, Jamhour 3. Christian Maalouli, Jamhour

o | **Table tennis, young ladies:** 1. Robbie Bsaibes, Antoura 2. Missie Bsaibes, Antoura 3. Sabine Sakayem, Collège central 3. Rita Shikhani, Collège central
Play was supervised by the international coach Michel Rizcallah, the international player Fadi Kiwan and the referees Roy Akiki, Richard Tannous, Christie Jalikian, Rita El-Murr and Juliana Hawi.

o | **Tennis, young men:** 1. Dominic Shaftari, Athenée 2. Naïm Saad, Lycée français 3. Jad Abou Assi, Antoura 3. Mark Homsî, St. Joseph's Cornet, Shehwan

o | **Tennis, young ladies:** 1. Valerie Maalouf, Champville 2. Roxane Zaloum, Holy Hearts, Kfarhabab 3. Elisabeth Karam, Lycée français 3. Jennifer Er-Rayess, St. Joseph's, Cornet Shehwan
Play was supervised by the coach Charbel Tannous with referees Dominique Maalouf, Joe Shamma and Rana Sebaali.

o | **Football:** 1. Louaize 2. Broumana High School 3. Hripsimianitz 3. Champville
Play was supervised by coach Roy Melkoun and refereed by Raymond Hanna and Tony Yamouni.

○ | Volleyball, young men:

1. Apostles, Jounieh
2. Louaize 3. St. Joseph's,
Cornet Shehwan 3. Collège
central

Play was supervised by
trainer **Zakhia Mansour** and
refereed by international
referee **Elias Tayyeh** and
Ralph Mansour and **Sharbel
Akiki**.

○ | Basketball, young

ladies: 1. Champville 2.
Antoura 3. Jesus and Mary
3. Louaize

○ | Basketball, young men:

1. Champville 2. Antoura 3.
Apostles 4. Saint Rita
Dbayeh

General supervision was
assured by coach **Elie
Salameh** and international
referee **Fawzi Ashkouti**,
assisted by **Jad Bashour**,
Elie Batl, **Christelle
Chalouhi**, **Marwan Saad**,
Fay Mary Prince and **Nancy
Maalouf**. Before distribution
of the cups and medals,
Father Bechara Khoury,
Director of the Student
Affairs Office in NDU, urged
on all present a true
sporting spirit.

○ | Organisation was
assured by the NDU Sports
Director **George Nader**
assisted by **Elias
Boutros**, **Elias El-
Murr**, **Joseph Mata**
and **Issam Zgheib**.

Documentary on Houses of Notre Dame, Louaize

Christine Rayess Atallah

To mark the third centenary of Notre Dame Monastery, Notre Dame University paid a special tribute to the Lebanese Broadcast Corporation International (LBCI) and honored the anchorman **Mr. Bassam Barrak**, the producer **Ms. Juliette Salameh**, and the photographer **Mr. Roberto Qossaifi**, who had prepared a special documentary on the history of the Maronite Order of the Holy Virgin Mary and its different monasteries.

The ceremony took place on Tuesday, May 29th, 2007 at 12:00 noon in the recently inaugurated Issam Fares Hall in NDU main campus in the presence of **Abbot Semaan Abou Abdo**, Superior General of the Maronite Order of the Holy Virgin Mary, NDU President **Father Walid Moussa**, Fathers, journalists, members of the Board of Trustees, Friends of NDU and the administrative, academic and student bodies.

The 50-minute documentary entitled *Jouzour wa Nour* (Roots and Light) highlights the history of the Maronite Order of the Holy Virgin Mary since its establishment in 1682 until our present day. It also offers a panorama of the monastic life and the different monasteries that have arisen in various Lebanese regions. In the documentary there are shown and commented the precious collections of the library and the museum of Notre Dame Monastery with their manuscripts, old books and Bibles, paintings, statues and figurines, liturgical vestments, crosses and crucifixes, medals, rosaries, scapulars, chaplets and many other old and new well-conserved valuable articles. The documentary also stresses the educational mission of the Order, which has founded many schools and a great university, Notre Dame University.

▲ Left to right: Fr. Walid Moussa (president NDU), Robert Kossaiifi, Abbot Abou Abdou (Superior General), Bassam Barrak and Juliette Salameh.



Social

Birth

The Division of Computing Services and e-Learning Center has pleasure in announcing the birth of a son **Rayan Rechdan** to **Nathalie Kallassy Rechdan**, Senior Programmer, on Thursday, May 17, 2007.

Obituary

Our sympathy goes to **Theresa Hajjar Muça**, instructor in the Department of Mathematics in the FNAS, and members of her family following the decease of her father **Antoine Beshara al-Hajjar** on Tuesday 8th May, 2007. The requiem took place on the afternoon of the following day in the Church of St. Francis of the Capuchin Fathers in Hamra Street and the mortal remains were laid to rest in the Latin-rite cemetery of Fanar.

Also to **Mr. Sami Salameh** of NDU Library staff and members of his family following the decease of his mother **Eugenie Youssef Tannous al-Beyrouthy**, widow of **Antoine Simaan Salameh**, who passed away on Sunday, June 3rd, 2007. The requiem was held on the afternoon of the following day at the Church of Our Lady of Deliverance, Baqtouta.

Requiescent in pace.

MEDA Water Programme

<http://medawater-rmsu.org>

Dr. Fadi Comair, General Manager of Hydraulic and Electrical Resources, Director at NDU of the Water, Energy and Environment Research Center and NDU professor, has kindly sent us a copy of the MEDA Water Programme Newsletter of March 2007, of which we give a summary below.

The MEDA-Water Programme and its management

The Barcelona Declaration of November 1995 created the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership involving the European Commission and countries from the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean. Further, at Marseille in November 1996 the Ministerial Meeting on Local Water Management showed the need to strengthen commitment in order to promote sustainable use of water resources and to associate specialized organizations working in this field. At Turin in October 1999

the Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Local Water Management specified the content of the MEDA Water Programme and its Action Plan. The programme, which started in 2002, called for proposals and finally selected nine projects, led by consortia of non-profit organizations (NGOs, universities and government agencies), for action related to local water management.

The projects, most of which were launched in 2003, come under four headings:-

- | Improvement of decision-making in rural water supply and sanitation (EMPOWERS Project);
- | Irrigation water management (MEDWA, IRWA and ISHMM projects);
- | Integrated management of local water supply and sanitation, wastewater reuse, and use of non-conventional water resources (ADIRA, EMWater, MEDAWARE and Zer0-M projects); and
- | Drought management

(MEDROPLAN Project).

The Euro-Mediterranean Water Information System (EMWIS) has been charged with making information available.

Management of the MEDA Water Programme

The European Commission's Delegation to Jordan¹ has been put in charge of the MEDA Water Programme. The Regional Monitoring and Support Unit (RMSU) and the MEDA Water projects have been entrusted with monitoring and supporting the implementation of the MEDA Water Programme. The RMSU is managed by a consortium led by the Mediterranean Water Institute (IME) joined by the International Office for Water (OIEau) and the Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE).

Dr. Fadi Comair has himself written an article in the newsletter under the title *Which governance for Water Management in Lebanon?* He points out that the problem of water is particularly acute in the South-East Mediterranean Basin and Near East, as this area has a population growing at a rate of 2.8% yearly but only 1000 cubic metres of water per inhabitant per year as against a world average of

7000. So now water is on the diplomatic agendas of Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Palestine, Israel, Egypt and Turkey, with cross-frontier concerns particularly involving the Jordan, the Orontes, Nahr El-Kaabir, the Tigris, the Euphrates and the Nile.

Water policies, explains Dr. Comair, must deal with the problems of drinking supplies, agriculture and sanitation by innovative techniques within the framework of integrated management. Pricing must be dealt with, as must the question of decentralization of services within the framework of Private-Public Partnership (PPP), with the underprivileged social classes not being left out of the count.

Good Governance is a necessary condition for efficient management of a resource. This means public awareness among members of the public and their participation alongside government leaders in the application of the Water Code (in the case of Lebanon), the European Guidelines and the 1997 European Convention on the equitable sharing of non-navigable international rivers. A further challenge lies in applying the Millennium Goal of halving the number of people in the world without access to water and sanitation by 2015.

In "the Land of the Cedars", from Biblical and even earlier times, the Lebanese have managed their water resources rationally, but demographic

growth and social and economic changes in the 20th century have created a new situation. In a spoilt environment water has become rare, limiting development. Dr. Comair describes the ambitious 10-year programme now being proposed by the Lebanese government. This includes thirty dams and hillside lakes to store 800 million cubic metres of water for distribution in times of drought and a wastewater collection network with treatment plants throughout Lebanese territory to serve irrigation. The general strategy will include plans for recuperating water generally lost to the sea during the winter in order to replenish ground water reserves.

Within the framework of recent laws, four new Autonomous Water Boards have been created to take over the management and maintenance of drinking water supplies, sewage collection and irrigation networks while at the same time preserving the environment. Close cooperation will be needed with the technical personnel of such institutions as the French Development Agency (AFD), the World Bank, the European Union (through its EU Water Initiative Programme), the Rhone-Alpes Regional Council and the USAID. There will be a Geographical Information System (GIS) for all the water resources in Lebanon.

Dr. Comair concludes by pointing out the serious and no doubt tragic consequences of the water shortage and the geopolitical issues in the

region and the need for international cooperation in using water resources for peace, appeasement and reconciliation.

The pages following his article concern the achievements of the EMPOWERS Project and the actions financed by the MEDA Water Programme in the framework of the Mediterranean Component of the European Water Initiative (Med-Euwi).

○ | 1- Delegation of European Commission in Amman, Jordan, Al-Ameera Basma Street - North Abdoum, P.O. Box 852099, 11185, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan <http://www.deljor.cec.eu.int>



The author graduated from NDU in 2003 in Business Administration, Marketing Concentration, with Distinction, and took her MBA, Human Resources Concentration, in June 2006, with A+ on her thesis, summarized below.

Labor Youth in Lebanon: Management & Analysis

o | Cendrella Khoury Mjaes

Child Labor is present in our civilized world. Dealing with the problem has put international corporations in an awkward position, as use of working children is seen as saving costs in a competitive world. Here we describe the condition of working children in the different Lebanese business sectors, with the aim of proving that working children represent more of an expense than an asset for corporations. We also intend to show that child labor harms both the children and societies and businesses, whose future it threatens.

Child labor: Introduction, Definition and Background

As the business world becomes increasingly global and competitive, there is a tendency to profit from human capital and exploit children. So it is that child labor is increasing in our century.

Definition:

According to the ILO, child labor is paid or unpaid work and includes "activities that are mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful to children". *The American Heritage Dictionary* describes it as the full-time employment of children who are under a minimum legal age. The ILO says child labor implies working too young, working long hours, working under strain, working on the streets, working for little or no pay, working on dull repetitive tasks, often in an unsafe or unhealthy environment, having to take too much responsibility or being subject to intimidation. There is no universally accepted definition of child labor. Varying definitions are used by different organizations.

Employers may vary, locations change, and job nature alter but violating children's rights continues worldwide. Child labor is both the abuse and misuse of children and can be disguised in many ways. Children may work in a variety of fields, including agriculture, industry, fishing, construction, weaving, mining, and selling goods. They may be found making things such as shoes, footballs,

fireworks, matches, locks, furniture, toys, and cigarettes (Parker, p. 31)..

Child Labor: The Early Beginnings

A distinction has to be made between child labor and child work. Children may help around the house, run errands or help on the family farm. This may teach children responsibility and self-esteem and prepare them for adulthood, dependent upon the social and cultural context. Child labor does not apply to these activities, but to work detrimental to children's health or education or even childhood.

Most child labor in developing countries used to be agricultural, informal or domestic, not industrial. Boys worked in agriculture more often than girls, who usually worked in the home. Girls' work is often "invisible" and less valued, even though it may be much heavier than outside work.

Early in the 1800's most laborers worked at home. The family was a unit, working for the common good of all its members. They did not usually become contributing members until the age of fourteen. Girls started somewhat earlier as they could assist their



mothers with the domestic economy (Gaskell, 91).

With increasing poverty and the arrival of the industrial age, people shifted from farming to the factories and mines. Children followed the trend. In England, for example, adults and children could make between two to three times as much in factories as on farms. However, the absence of laws prohibiting child labor and the abundance of workers during the industrial age led to low wages. Workers, including children, had to compete for jobs, as machinery was doing most of the work.

The changes drastically altered social life. Family members no longer worked together and girls working in factories no longer learnt domestic economy. Infants were neglected and maltreated as parents no longer had time to attend to them. The changes affected children in the past and still do in our civilized world.

Problem Statement: Causes and Attributes of Child Labor in Lebanon

Finding solutions is crucial but first the

causes behind child labor must be studied. "During the 1980s, in many developing countries, government indebtedness, unwise internal economic policies and recession resulted in economic crisis. Structural adjustment programs in many countries accentuated cuts in social spending that have hit the poor disproportionately." (*What Works for Working Children* (Stockholm: Radda Barnen, UNICEF, 1998). Child labor persists despite the present laws against it. Current causes of child labor are similar to its causes 100 years ago, and include the following: 1. poverty 2. limited access to education 3. repression of workers' rights 4. limited prohibitions on child labor 5. family expectations and traditions 6. abuse of the child 7. public indifference about health and to the effects of early work on children, and 8. uncaring attitudes of employers.

The case of Abdullah Younes

In my search for working children on the streets of Lebanon one particular case drew my attention. Abdullah Younes, a boy of seven, was selling flowers next to Saint Anthony's Church, Harissa. He lives with his

parents and four brothers in Tripoli. He has to sell the fifty flowers his father gives him in the morning. His father is an alcoholic and never sober except to collect the money his sons bring home at night. The one who doesn't bring home at least L.p.50 000 gets physically beaten. Abdullah wakes up every morning at 6, leaves home with one of his brothers for Beirut, with no food, and returns home around 11 or 12 at night, sometimes later when there are special occasions or festivities. He and his brother Akram get food mostly by begging, but sometimes pay for it without telling their father. Abdullah is just one example of such injustice. Each child has his own story, hence the questionnaire, but most of the findings indicate points in common.

The questionnaire was answered mainly by children on the Dawra highway, Harissa Street and the Barbir region, and some in Mount

Lebanon. They were selling chewing gum and small gadgets on the highway or were begging. Few children working in rural areas answered the questionnaire and these were mainly working in factories or shops. It was obvious that most working children, mainly street children, were aged between ten and fourteen. This is mainly because such children can negotiate better than those under nine but are still considered children, and can therefore play on people's feelings.

Child Labor Considered an Asset

Working children doubtless appear to be an asset for business managers, especially in companies seeking to compete by low prices. The multinational corporations expand across borders, and countries often compete for jobs, investment, and industry. This sometimes retards child labor reform by encouraging the lowering of labor costs despite international standards. Some international legislation has begun to include labor standards and child labor as criteria for preferential trade and federal contracts. However, international free trade rules may cause neglect of child labor or workers' rights.

Children may be considered assets for companies for many reasons:

1- Cheaper Labor and Abundant Supply:

Children allow companies to compete on cost as they earn much lower wages than adults, not having a family of their own to support. They are unable to negotiate for company benefits and usually settle for less.

2- Skill of Children:

Peter Gaskell states in his text, *The Manufacturing Population of England*: "The fingers of children at an early age are very supple, and they are more easily led into habits of performing the duties of their station." There are actually some duties that children perform much better than adults, due to their small size. In South Lebanon, children roll cigarettes much better than adults, because they have small fingers and make the cigarettes as slim as possible, so employers take on children to obtain better results and not only to exploit the weak and underprivileged

3- Ease of Managing:

Children are easy to control, since they just obey orders without discussing what is better for them or for the tasks they are performing, unlike adults. They do not complain as much as adults and cause fewer problems. But many studies reveal that children often ask themselves questions concerning their situation. Michel Bonnet's writes in his remarkable book on the subject: "A single question haunts these children day and night: - 'Why ? Why do I have to work so hard? Why can't we go to

work for some of the time, and to school for the rest? Why are employers so cruel? Why am I paid so little? Why is life so unfair to poor people?" The author himself provides the answer: "What these children fear even more than their dangerous working conditions and beatings from their employers is to be 'thrown out' - to be excluded from employment in the same way that they are excluded from schools, hospitals, playgrounds - in short, they fear being excluded from life."

Child Labor Shown to be Unprofitable For Business

We have seen why working children appear an asset for companies. But we now want to show that their disadvantages outweigh their advantages. Moreover, most of the advantages when analyzed from a different perspective appear as disadvantages.

1- Boycott and the Nike Case as an example:

Boycotting employers of child labor can be a major threat to the sales of international companies. Nike was boycotted by many developed countries such as the U.S.A., which not only led to a major loss of sales for footballs made by children but also harmed the company image.

About half of the world's soccer balls are made in Pakistan, by child labor. More than 200 children, some as young as 4 or 5, are involved in the production line. "Nike is characterized as making its equipment in countries

which are in the developing phase, having very cheap labor, authoritarian government and lack of human rights appeal and union movement. In doing this, it has made greater margins on the cost of mere cents to its workers. So Nike's success story is not based on good name and advertising alone but also attached to it are the tears of tortured workers and child labor." The response to Nike's actions should be as follows: **"Nike, Don't just do it but do it right!"**

Laws prohibiting the purchase of goods made by children are often violated because many production processes involving child labor are not obvious. There are often many layers of production and outsourcing, making it difficult to monitor who is performing the work at each stage. Extensive subcontracting can, intentionally or unintentionally, conceal the use of child labor. It might once have been profitable to employ children in factories for lower wages and cost advantages, but increasing consumer awareness is making the opposite true.

2- Lack of skills and experience:

While some repetitive tasks are easy for children to perform, they cannot fully grasp what should be done or what makes a good product and what does not. They lack the experience for "non-routine tasks". All of this leads to lower quality products and hence to losses in the long run.

3- Inadequate feedback:

In business, planning feedback is crucial, as are systems allowing corrective action. However, children are

less able than adults on the floor to provide feedback, since children, smart as they may be, cannot properly explain the situation at the production level. This prevents the company from being properly and punctually informed about anything going wrong.

4- Managing working children:

Children have a different psychology than adults and are not mature enough to quickly grasp what should be done. Children need more explaining than adults; they require more time for performing tasks and time is money.

Tobacco Planting and Working Children:

Tobacco is a major crop in Lebanon, located mostly in the South and employing approximately 30,000 farmers. It is regulated by a semi-autonomous government agency, the *Régie*. According to a CRI study, "The government heavily subsidized tobacco cultivation at an annual cost of over US\$ 73.3 million of which 47 percent is a direct subsidy" (1997). The study also reveals that most children working in tobacco cultivation are family aids, not earning wages. Some start at the age of three, but most are 12 to 15 years old. Their tasks vary according to age. The bright side is that these activities are only seasonal, being performed during spring and summer.

Effects of Child Labor

Working children are subject to many hazards. Their immature and still-growing bodies are more susceptible than adults' to systemic damage, and

their inexperience makes them more prone to accidents and work-related sickness. Children are very curious by nature, and many machines in factories could easily mangle a young child. The nature of some tasks harms children on many levels but basically on three, physical, mental and social. Despite this, children get less protection than adults, as health and safety standards now in place have been formulated with adults in mind.

Physical:

Working children are exposed to physical, chemical and ergonomic hazards, and, as their immune system is not yet fully developed they are harmed much more than adults are. Children are not mature enough to evaluate dangers. Children exposed to chemical materials in factories for construction materials, paint, plastics and carpentry are prone to develop lung cancer due to inhaling chemicals in the polluted air. An ILO study of November 2005, *Hazardous Child Labour in South Lebanon*, reveals that around thirty factories employing children have no ventilation systems. The study reveals that over twenty-six operators are indifferent to the temperature levels inside their premises, mostly bakeries and nylon workshops. Children

are exposed to electrical hazards in tasks requiring the maintenance of electrical generators and cars. Children in agriculture face an alarming array of dangers. They may be daily exposed to carcinogenic pesticides, dramatically unsanitary conditions, heat and hazardous equipment, and their physical development is affected.

Mental

A long monotonous workday bores the children, and then they often wander around the factory, putting themselves in danger. Studies have also linked depression in teenage workers to long hours of work. With repetitive high-intensity low-skilled jobs, precisely the kind of labor undertaken by children working in tobacco, children's minds develop much less than if they went to school. These tasks limit their thinking abilities to some extent, and increase their depression, hopelessness and anxiety. They also weaken their memory, attention levels, energy, calculating skills, and reading and writing skills.

Finally, most working children are subject to verbal abuse by employers, which crushes their self-esteem and intimidates them. Abused children display more behavioral and

emotional disorder than others and become aggressive.

Social:

Working children develop inappropriate social habits due to their contact with adults in the workplace. They tend to smoke, drink coffee and tea, and even to use drugs due to the pressure for making money. In conclusion, working children lack social skills for proper conversation, for understanding values and ethics, and for personal development.

Findings and New Results

Studying the presence of child labor in the business world, and analyzing the findings of the questionnaire conducted on Lebanese children specifically, strengthened my stand on the issue. The following points summarize major findings and results:

Financially:

Street children constitute a business sector by themselves in Lebanon. Some people organize such activities as their sole business, taking advantage of poor children.

Many industries in Lebanon rely heavily on working children, mainly due to the lower wages working children settle for. Most children earn under half the minimum wage (49.5%). Child tobacco workers are mainly family aids not earning wages.

But child labor has in fact more disadvantages than advantages for employers, as explained above. I believe

child labor is much more costly, especially that people's awareness concerning ethical standards is increasing and so compromises a company's image.

Socially and Ethically:

Judging by the pilot test conducted on 37 working children in different regions of Lebanon, children's rights are being violated in many respects and the minimum legal age is not respected in most industries.

The high and ever increasing unemployment in Lebanon is forcing poor families to send their children to work. 59% of working children's parents are unemployed.

The worst kind of child work involves children who are exploited. 54.3% of children work for more than 36 hours a week

Poverty is the main reason for the existence of child labor. Economic need drives some families to make their children work as the only solution for survival.

Working children grow up to become poor, illiterate individuals forced to send their children also to work, leading to a vicious circle of poverty and illiteracy.

Most working children on the streets of Lebanon belong to poor families usually with more than five children.

Working children are affected negatively on many levels; physically,

socially and mentally, being harmed in their fragile immature bodies, especially when they are subject to physical abuse.

Recommendations

The following are my recommended solutions.

The public sector should do the following:

- 1- Insist on the application of the rules and regulations concerning child labor and especially the minimum legal age.
- 2- Sanction companies that violate children's rights and regulations concerning their employment.
- 3- Propose a solution for public schooling, with special treatment and consideration for families with limited financial resources.
- 4- Foster awareness programs designed to limit child labor and to highlight its dangers and the importance of education.
- 5- Integrate special programs for unemployed parents, with social security services to remove the main cause for child labor and preserve future generations.
- 6- Allocate a special budget through the responsible ministries (Social Affairs, Interior, Labor, etc.) designed to increase efforts to reduce or even eliminate child labor through financial help to needy families.

7- The Street Children Unit in the Ministry of the Interior should enforce the legal articles concerning working children and should set up national programs with the coordination of public schools to prevent the problems arising. For example, public schools should report children dropping out and the unit should deal with problems instantly. The unit should also set out proper programs ready to receive working children for rehabilitation.

The private sector should do the following:

- 1- Stimulate the contribution of private schools to educating a specified number of students every year.
- 2- Incorporate strict rules within each industry, with unions for the different sectors setting strict regulations concerning child labor which will help limit the phenomenon.
- 3- Seek financial and social help from religious and social institutions, whose main goal should be to eliminate child labor and to ameliorate the condition of needy Lebanese children.
- 4- Increase public awareness concerning children's rights and priorities through pre-marriage and post-marriage courses where individuals are educated about their responsibilities towards their present or future children. A long-term view should be stressed concerning the well-being of children and parents' roles.

5- Increase efforts to stress the importance of the subject so as to reduce delinquency especially that the conditions of Lebanese prisons are appalling.

6- Try harder to communicate the findings of the studies concerning child labor to the Lebanese Government and Lebanese society. Communicating those findings will lead to better solutions, such as establishing organizations responsible for helping needy families and suffering children. Increasing awareness will help educate society about the matter and hence lead to governmental actions.



THREE Papers presented by NDU Students at the Messina Conference

Cyprus, the Troubled Island

○ | Jean Angelopoulo

○ | THE TROUBLED WATERS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

The Mediterranean Sea has witnessed great events, the rise and fall of great empires, the birth of religions, the invention of the alphabet, continuous wars, trade and commerce, colonizations, and pioneering discoveries, giving it a particular place on the world map and giving the region a unique historical, political, and cultural character. Around this sea much of our present civilization has developed. However, its diversity of religions, cultures, and ethnicities has given rise to innumerable conflicts and wars.

I wish to discuss ethno-political conflict in the Mediterranean with Cyprus as focal point, and so I shall also involve two other important Mediterranean countries, Greece and Turkey, who have clashed over the years for several reasons, one of which is the fragile and complex situation on the island of Cyprus.



○ | INTRODUCTION: CYPRUS, THE ISLAND OF LOVE...OR IS IT?

Two sides, two presidents, two nationalities, one island! Welcome to the "Island of Love", as travel agencies and tourist brochures like to call it! However, as inhabitants of the "Island of Love", the Cypriots have certainly not lived up to their country's surname. In fact, ethnic strife between the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot populations has divided the small island into two

republics, the Greek Republic of Cyprus in the South (currently a member of the UN and the British Commonwealth, and soon to join the EU) and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus - TRNC - in the North (unrecognized internationally except by Turkey¹). But first a brief history of the island will help to better understand this troubled spot.

Cyprus, third largest island in the Mediterranean Sea, has a long and turbulent history, primarily because of its strategic location on the main routes between Asia and Europe. Too small to exist by itself, Cyprus was always at the mercy of the dominant power in the region. From Egypt, Assyria, Persia, and Alexander the Great, to Richard I of England, the Knights Templar, the Lusignacs, the Venetians, the Ottoman Turks, and the British, all these powers ruled the small 9251 km² island, bringing diverse influences and contributing to instability and trouble. (Crawshaw, 1973) In 1960, independence from Britain put Cypriots in charge of their own affairs for the first time, but conflict between the Greek and Turkish Cypriots later divided the island into two separate states.

This article is to shed light on the history, reasons and current realities of this conflict, and on how it has affected the traditionally unstable Greco-Turkish relations. It will illustrate how an ethnic conflict can adversely affect the foreign policy of an entire nation-state, in this case the Republic of Turkey, and how its resolution can facilitate the resolution of international tensions.

○ | BRIEF HISTORY OF ETHNIC RELATIONS BETWEEN GREEK AND TURKISH CYPRIOTS

During the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, the situation in Cyprus was quite different from the presently one, as the peasants shared many cultural traits. Turkish Muslims would visit Orthodox Christian churches to pray, and people would go to spiritual leaders or local healers from either side to solve daily problems or be cured of diseases. Some people even practiced both religions at the same time and were called *Linopambakois* (or *Cotton-Linens*). Folk religion and medicine also had much in common. However, these similarities started to disappear as Orthodox Christianity and Sunni Islam became more established. Local dialects were replaced by written national Greek and Turkish.

But it was not until the twentieth century that Greek and Turkish nationalism emerged on the island. Greek Cypriots began striving for union with Greece (*Enosis*²), while Turkish Cypriots wanted the island to remain British or be returned to Turkey. They felt threatened by union with Greece as accentuating their minority status³. This further separated the two sides as they identified more with "their mainland brothers" and with the "history of the mainland" rather than that of Cyprus. (Papadakis, 2001)

○ | THE BEGINNING OF THE CONFLICT

The first major impact of Enosis came in 1931, when widespread support for union with Greece and resentment against British tax policies led to a revolt. The British Government House in Nicosia was burned, 2000 Cypriots were arrested, and 600 others died. (<http://reference.allrefer.com/country-guide-study/cyprus/cyprus>)

1- Unlike the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, international recognition was a major advantage for the Republic of Cyprus.

2- An idea that emerged in the 1820s during the Greek War of Independence from Ottoman Rule (1919-1923), and later developed under British colonial rule.

- 3- In 1960, of a total population of 546,598, 18.3% were Turkish Cypriots compared to 77% who were Greek Cypriots. (Countries and their Cultures, 1999, vol. 1)
- 4- For more details, see Cyprus, a Country Study, (The Foreign Area Studies: the American University, 1980).
- 5- The Zurich- London agreements were signed in 1959 by Greece, Turkey, and the United Kingdom and had given Cyprus its independence in 1960.
- 6 For further information on Cyprus' right-wing and left-wing parties, see Appendix.

On April 1st, 1955, support for Enosis erupted even more violently as bombs destroyed the transmitter of the Cyprus broadcasting station as well as exploding at British army and police installations. This sparked off a guerilla war against the British that continued for four years. The National Organization of Cypriot Fighters (EOKA - *Ethniki Organosis Kyprion Agoniston*), led by Colonel George Grivas, chief spokesman for "Enosis and only Enosis", was the main combatant against British colonialism.

For the Turkish minority Enosis meant that Turkish Cypriots would become an even smaller minority within the Greek nation. Consequently, the Greek Cypriots' call for *Enosis* was countered by the Turkish Cypriots' movement toward partition (*taksim*) (Carpadis, 1998, vol. 3). By the mid-1950's, the Turks' response to EOKA was their own paramilitary organization, *Volkan*, later known as the Turkish Resistance Organization (Turkish *Mukavemet Teskilatu* or TMT). The British authorities even armed a paramilitary force entirely made up of Turkish Cypriots. As a result, the violence which broke out in 1958 created animosity between the two communities and signaled the beginning of friction that would later divide the newly independent island for years ahead. (<http://reference.allrefer.com/country-guide-study/cyprus/cyprus>)

○ | 1963 CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS AND GREEK COUP: CHERRY ON TOP OF THE CAKE⁴

The year 1963 saw disagreement between Greek and Turkish politicians especially concerning the country's new constitution. Instead of easing intercommunal relations, the bicomunal aspects of the Constitution hampered the administration and failed to establish mutual trust. Below are some of the main constitutional provisions that provoked controversy:

1- Greek Cypriots felt that the Zurich-London agreements⁵ had been imposed on Cyprus from outside, the Turkish Cypriots being given disproportionate

privileges open to abuse. But Turkish Cypriots felt that these provisions were vital for their security and identity.

2- A major bone of contention was the 70-to-30 ratio of Greek Cypriots to Turkish Cypriots in the Public Service. The Greeks found this ratio unfair as they constituted 80% of the population, while the Turks complained that it was not really enforced.

3- Another point was the 60-to-40 ratio for Cypriot army units, contradicting President Makarios' desire for integration, but favoring Vice President Fazil's preference for segregated companies.

4- The veto held by the Turkish Cypriot Vice President and Turkish representatives in the Legislative Assembly was also criticized by the Greeks as it had been exercised with respect to income tax legislation, adversely affecting government revenue.

For all these reasons and more, President Makarios proposed thirteen amendments for better cooperation between the Greeks and Turks of Cyprus and for a "spirit of understanding and friendship". They were rejected by the Turkish government and tension increased, leading to more violence, with Turkish Cypriots forced to flee much of the island, with heavy casualties. An international peacekeeping force was established to control the violence.

By 1963, the Turks had withdrawn from their political positions, and in 1964 Turkish Cypriot political participation ended completely, government becoming entirely controlled by the Greeks. Violence continued, finally leading to a coup a decade later by which the Greek military forces on Cyprus replaced Archbishop Makarios by Nicolas Sampson, a former right-wing⁶ terrorist. But for the 1974 Turkish intervention, the coup would have "forced Enosis and dispensed with any semblance of democratic freedom" (Rustow, 1987, p.95).

○ | THE TURKISH INVASION OF 1974 & THE DIVISION OF THE ISLAND

On July 20th, 1974, Turkey responded by a seaborne assault backed by air support on the northern coast of Cyprus. Until a U.N.-imposed ceasefire took effect on July 22, the Turks held a triangle in Northern Cyprus. Turkey's invasion of Cyprus resulted in the collapse of Sampson's coup and of the right-wing junta in Athens. So after seven years of military rule, Greece returned to democracy. In fact, the Turkish landing met much sympathy at first for having ended the militarist regimes in both Nicosia and Athens.

Turkish troops continued their slow advance throughout Northern Cyprus, and later declared a unilateral ceasefire after having occupied 37% of Cyprus (Foreign Area Studies, The American University, 1980). It was this second intervention that exposed Turkey to severe criticisms from Greece and its friends in Europe, America, and the Third World, who no longer saw any justification for its actions (Rustow, 1987). In fact, Turkey's measures in Cyprus were used by its enemies and critics as evidence of the purported aggressive and expansionist nature of the Turkish "Other" (Mayall, 1997).

Turkey's Defensive Argument: Turkey claimed that violence by Greek Cypriots against Turks was a signal for planned genocide, so it invoked its right of unilateral intervention under the Treaty of Guarantee⁷. Turkey had never claimed the island but justified its actions on the grounds of defending the Turkish minority against the Greeks' breach of the London Treaty. In Chirot and Seligman's *Ethnopolitical Warfare*, Peter Suedfeld (2000) describes the reasons behind the Turkish invasion of Cyprus:

"An attempted or feared genocide can be prevented, repelled, or avenged by forces siding with the original target group. This was cited as the reason for the Turkish invasion of Cyprus in 1974." (p.52)

The Turkish intervention of mid-1974 definitively changed the internal balance of power and the nature of political administration on the island. The island has been divided into two entities, the Republic of Cyprus and the Turkish Federated State of Cyprus (known after 1983 as the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus). This division went against the constitutional and governmental provisions in the Zurich-London agreements of February 1959, giving the Cypriots sovereignty over almost all the island⁸.

○ | EFFECTS OF THE INVASION ON TURKISH FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Turkey and Greece: The events of 1974 caused a drastic change of Turkey's traditionally conservative approach, greatly complicating external relations for itself and for its allies. Turkey's actions were used by those hostile to Turkish interests as conclusive evidence that its policies were essentially aggressive and expansionist. Turco-Greek relations had already been damaged by the crisis in Cyprus, but by 1974, they were completely shattered (Mayall, 1997). Greeks regarded the Turkish intervention as a "military invasion", whereas Turks termed it a "preemptive action" (Rotberg, 1999). Moreover, the Cyprus issue opened the way for disagreements between the two countries over various bilateral issues including borders, ethnic minorities, the Aegean islands, oil exploration, territorial seas, and airspace limitations. (Mayall, 1997) Athens proclaimed an extension of its territorial waters around the Greek Isles from six to ten miles, which would have closed Turkish passage from

⁷ The Treaty of Guarantee was signed by Greece, Turkey, and the United Kingdom to ensure the independence and territorial integrity of the island and respect of the Constitution. It gave the three countries the right to station troops on the island and to intervene jointly or separately if the constitutional status quo was violated (Rustow, 1987).

⁸- Only 256 km² were reserved for use as British military bases.

- 9- The Straits, which are bounded on all sides by Turkish territory, are an international waterway whose use is regulated by the 1936 Treaty of Montreux. (Crawshaw, 1973)
 10- The EU was known at the time as the European Community (EC).
 11 Turkey sent its troops to Northern Iraq to thwart Kurdish separatist movements.

the Straits⁹ and its Aegean harbors to the Mediterranean. It also prevented Turkey's search for oil in disputed waters and breached the 1923 Lausanne Treaty signed by the two parties by remilitarizing the island of Lemnos, west of the Turkish Straits (Rustow, 1987).

Turkey argued that any Greek attempt to extend its territorial waters would turn the Aegean into a "Greek lake" (Plattias, 2000). Ignoring Greek protests, Ankara continued mineral exploration of the Aegean Sea with warships escorting the vessels. According to Plattias (2000), "this has resulted in a protracted war of nerves characterized by naval incidents with great escalatory potential." Plattias referred to the example of March 1987, when the two countries were on the brink of war.

Turkey and the United States of America: "As it turned out, the biggest shadow over U.S. Turkish relations came to be cast not by any developments in the Middle East or disagreements over missiles and opium," but by the Cyprus issue (Rustow, 1987, p.93). After the Cyprus invasion, Turkish-American relations were strained, and by October 1974 the United States imposed a three-year embargo (from 1975 to 1978) on all American military aid and weapons sales to Turkey. Turkey's American critics were not concerned with the Treaty of Guarantee but referred to a 1947 U.S.-Turkish agreement, which "limited Turkey's use of American military equipment to self-defense, collective action under the U.N. charter, or other purposes specifically approved by the U.S." (Rustow, 1987, p.98). In June 1975, Ankara responded by suspending a number of U.S. military installations. However, by 1978, the embargo was lifted and Turkey resumed its special relation with the U.S. government, which would not have benefited from endangering good relations with a strong strategic ally such as Turkey (Rustow, 1987).

Turkey and the European Union: Even though its application for full EU membership dates from 1987¹⁰, it was not until December 10, 1999, that an EU summit in Helsinki recognized Turkey as an applicant, thus producing a breakthrough in Turkey-EU relations (Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs Website). In

December 2002, during the EU summit in Copenhagen, European leaders said they would evaluate Turkey's progress in fulfilling criteria required for EU membership at the end of 2004 before making a decision about opening accession talks. Ankara therefore had twelve months to prove to the EU that it could bring its laws and systems up to European standards. How realistic is this prospect in the light of the EU strategy for Turkey, Turkey's human rights record, the country's economic situation, the Cyprus issue, and relations with Greece?

On November 5, 2003, the European Commission and member states declared that Turkish membership could face a "serious obstacle" if Cyprus was not reunited before May. With Cyprus due to join the EU by May 2004, the European Council repeatedly underlined its strong preference for accession by a united island. The warning to Turkey increased pressure on Ankara to persuade the Turkish Cypriot government to reach a peaceful settlement. Turkish foreign minister Abdullah Gul replied that Turkey would make a great effort to resolve the issue (Ian Black, November 6, 2003). In addition, the Thessaloniki European Council declared the Union's willingness to help find a speedy solution in line with EU principles.

Nonetheless, Turkey criticized the EU's attempts to introduce new conditions to Ankara's bid and is uncomfortable with "some circles using the Cyprus and the Northern Iraq issues¹¹ as elements of threat and blackmail," as was expressed by Turkish President Ahmed Necdet Sezer. (AFP, April 9, 2003).

○ | CONCLUSION: CURRENT GRECO-TURKISH RELATIONS IN LIGHT OF THE CYPRUS ISSUE

According to Maria Kurop (2003), U.N. correspondent for the *Christian Science Monitor*, relations between Greece and Turkey may improve because of positive developments on both sides. On one hand, the Greek side is adopting a more internationalist outlook and becoming increasingly aware of the benefits of European integration, while the Turkish side is adopting various confidence-building measures consistent with this purpose. Nine agreements on promoting cooperation in

fields ranging from the environment to combating terrorism were concluded in January and February 2000.

Rapprochement between Turkey and Greece was strengthened after the devastating earthquakes that hit both countries in 1999. The endorsement of Turkey's candidacy to the EU at the Helsinki Summit can be seen as additional proof of the progress achieved by both countries. (Turkish Embassy of Washington D.C., 1999)

Turkey has declared its determination to "widen the scope of cooperation and dialogue with Greece and dwell on the issues of conflict." (Turkish Embassy of Washington D.C., 1999).

With Cyprus on the brink of joining the EU and Turkey

waiting for the possible beginning of accession talks, Ankara is pressured to contribute to a peaceful settlement on the island. Peace in Cyprus would bring a united island to the EU and significantly increase Turkish hopes of becoming an EU member.

In conclusion, the case of Cyprus convincingly illustrates that ethnic conflicts do have significant negative repercussions. The international community ignores them at its peril. Had Greece and Turkey, as well as the European Union and United States, attempted to deal with the budding nationalist and ethnic hostilities on the island before they got out of hand, decades of human suffering and developmental stagnation could have been avoided.

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o | APPENDIX

THE POLITICAL PARTIES OF CYPRUS:

The right-wing parties on both sides are nationalistic with strong links to ex-freedom fighters' associations, and advocate links with the two motherlands. The most important are the Democratic Rally on the Greek side and the National Unity Party and Democratic Party on the Turkish side.

The left-wing political parties of the country are anti-nationalist and progressive. They support "the Cypriot thesis", considering people as Cypriots rather than as Greeks or Turks. The largest are the Progressive Party of Working People AKEL (*Annorthotikon Komman Ergazomenou Laou*), the strongest advocate of a distinct Cypriot identity, and the Turkish CTP. Mainly composed of communist supporters, these two parties have a strong antinationalist stance and support links between the people on the two sides rather than with Greece or Turkey. Because of their ideology, supporters of the AKEL in the past were treated as unpatriotic traitors by nationalist right-wingers (Countries and their Cultures, 1999, vol. 1).



Arabs in Israel

○ | Bechara Malkoun

Introduction

This paper (given at the 2004 Messina Conference -Ed.) investigates the condition of the Palestinian Arab minority in Israel, conflicting components of their identity and their struggle against "Israelization", which undermines their national cultural rights as a community and rights as individuals to full citizenship. It attempts to envisage future political behavior by positing the current crisis factors. Addressing these factors is necessary to prevent degeneration into ethnic mobilization and conflicts; there must be a concern with defining possibilities for peaceful coexistence based on equality and democratic pluralist exchange in an ethnically structured state such as Israel.

In 1948, Arabs who remained in Israel constituted 10% (105,000) of the Palestinians who lived in what is now Israel (940,000). (Goldscheider 2002, 1) Now, they constitute 20% of the Israeli population and live in Galilee in the north, the Triangle in central Israel and the Naqab Desert in the South. (Kobeissi 2003, 17)

Their history is usually divided into two major periods: 1948 until 1966 and 1967 until the present. In 1948, they were officially declared citizens of the state of Israel. They were ruled by a military government, which meant restrictions on movement, censorship of publications, banning of political organization and land expropriation. (Kobeissy 2003, 20) The military government was officially abolished in 1966 but the Emergency Defense Regulations remained.

The Arabs' situation and role within the Israeli system

changed with the changes of the political agenda in Israel. This paper traces their situation, mainly after the year 1966 until the present.

I-Israelization

According to the Israeli discourse, Israelization is a democratic process aimed at integrating the Arab minority by giving them full rights to citizenship in a democratic state. This process of integration still faces difficulties due to the particular nature of the state of Israel and of the Arab minority. The two explanations for those difficulties favored by the Jewish Israeli establishment are the fact that peace with Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza and many Arab countries has not been achieved yet, and a "gap in modernization" between the Arabs and Jews in Israel.

As Arab intellectual and Knesset deputy Azmi Bishara argues, these two interpretations are valid as they explain why integration and equal citizenship are not the case at the present moment, but they fail to say why it is not possible in the future.

What makes Israelization an inevitable case of marginalization for the Palestinian Arab minority is the simple fact that Israel is not the state of Israelis but that of the Jewish people. The significance of the "Jewishness" of the state of Israel is translated into political, economic and social practices that will be the subject of the following.

The Socioeconomic Status of the Arabs in Israel

Since 1948, the socioeconomic life of the Arab minority has been stymied by the Israeli establishment through the total absence of local forces to promote the evolution of the community. (Kobeissi 2003, 71) Its situation in Israel has been characterized by -

Continuous land expropriation, especially in the 1950s;

- ▽ Problems of access to natural resources, notably land and water,
- ▽ Difficulties in developing industrial bases that can compete with their Jewish counterparts;
- ▽ Job discrimination in the form of segregation in different occupational categories and concentration of Arab employees in low-status jobs. (Khalid 88, 03)

While discrimination based on nationality and religion is prohibited by Israeli law, it is made possible by rules of "local preferences" of employers and by application of "security considerations" in hiring practices. (Epstein and Semyonov 93, 151) This discrimination is not only frequent but, say Epstein and Semyonov, it is legalized and institutionalized as reflected in the legal system, state agencies, economic enterprises and the labor market.

The following figures give an idea of the major areas where Arabs subject to discrimination.

Occupation of Employed Persons by Population Group (1995)

	Arabs	Jews
Scientific\Academic	5.6%	12.5%
Professional\Technical	8.6%	15.5%
Administrative\Managerial	1.3%	5.5%
Clerical	6.4%	18.2%
Sales and Services	12.3%	17.7%
Skilled Workers	47.1%	21.5%
Unskilled Workers	15.3%	8.0%

Percentage of Population by Economic Sector

	Arabs	Jews
Construction	21.1%	3.4%
Finance\Businesses	4.4%	10.5%
Public\Community	19.5%	30.4%

Source: Facts and figures <http://www.abrahamfund.org/>
Accessed on 16/12/2003

Unemployment Rate by Population Group

	1987	1995
Arabs	7.9%	13%
Jews	5.8%	9.5%

Source: Israel's central Bureau of Statistics 1996.
www.arabhra.org/article26/statistics.htm. Accessed on 16/12/2003

The Percentage of Arab Employees in Israeli Ministries

Ministry of Health	0.6%
Ministry of Justice	1.7%
Ministry of Interior	2.8%
Ministry of Industry and Trade	0.76%
Ministry of Media and Communication	0% (out of 180)
Ministry of Religious Affairs	7%

(FIDH 2001, 15 cited by Kobeissy 03, 71)

The hourly salary of the Jewish woman is 28% more than that of her Arab counterpart. The salary of the Jewish male is 33% more than that of the Arab male (FIDH 2001, 15 cited by Kobeissy 03, 71). This institutionalized discrimination against the Arab community is reflected in the proportion of the total national budget allocated to Arab municipalities and local councils. According to 1998 Interior Ministry data, cited by Kobeissy, Jewish settlements received 2,910 NIS, Jewish development towns 2,100 NIS, Arab towns 1,540. (Kobeissy 2003, 73) Furthermore, Arab communities have been excluded from the National Priority Areas Program, which affords educational, tax, mortgage and housing loan benefits. (Kobeissy 2003, 74)

Olzak, cited by Semyonov and Lewin-Epstein, argues

that "(...) as groups come to compete in the same labor markets and increase their access to similar sets of political, economic, and social resources, ethnic mobilization will occur." It is the common belief in Israel that the more the Arabs are given their rights the more dangerous they will become and the more the potentials for conflicts and separationist initiatives will increase. This underlies the government regulations as well as individuals' practices vis-à-vis the Arab community. (Epstein and Semyonov 93, 153)

Is competition over resources in itself the recipe for crisis and conflicts or is it the very set of rules that govern such competition? Epstein and Semyonov answer that "competition is likely to result in strife when it is perceived as outrageously unfair." (Epstein and Semyonov 93, 154)

Behind this fear of the Arab minority in a strong, rich state like Israel is an exclusive Jewish ethnic conception of the state: heterogeneous Arabs in Israel represent a threat to Israel as it is now, i.e. by merely being non-Jewish. The fear of them as a threat would be unjustified in a secular and pluralistic Israeli state.

Of course fear is not the only explanation for discrimination. Many if not all of the Jewish superordinate community benefit from discrimination against Arab workers; those at the top of the economic ladder being those who benefit most from cheap Arab labor. "This competition process appears to be detrimental not only to the earnings of Arabs but also to the earnings of some members of the Jewish community." (Epstein and Semyonov 93, 150) But the extent to which such contradictions can affect Israeli policy towards Arabs is highly debatable. But for how long can subordination and discrimination last, and be maintained other than by oppression? What is oppression other than the "limits of power", which induce resistance and conflict?

On Israeli Democracy

Here my intention is not to deny the existence of democracy in Israel as many like to do but to show that some aspects that touch upon the superstructure,

ideology and general goals of the state are imposed on the Arab citizens and exclude them from being equal partners in it; also, to challenge the claim that citizenship as proposed by Israel entails the full individual and collective rights of the Arab minority.

Arabs do benefit from many of the democratic rights that Israeli democracy offers; they have the right to vote in all elections on an equal basis with the other citizens, complete freedom of worship and a freedom of expression which is largely tolerated. (Rouhana 97, 45) But beyond this general view, equality between the Arab and Jewish communities is still far from being the case.

In 1948, the Arabs were officially declared citizens of the state while at the same time the state was defined through its constitution and laws as a state of the Jewish people. This term is used in the state's Declaration of Independence where it says, "It is the natural right of the Jewish people, like any other people, to control their own destiny in their sovereign state." Later, it proclaims, "The establishment of the Jewish state in the land of Israel." (Rouhana 97, 29)

Despite the Israeli claims of democracy and pluralism, Israel did not succeed in differentiating itself completely from what is called the Jewish Polity, which is necessarily exclusive and rooted in a Jewish particularism. How does Israel, through its constitution and laws, give meaning to the term "the state of the Jewish people"?

The arguments for stating the exclusive Jewish Nature of the state of Israel are:

(A) The Nationality Law and "law of Return": This law states that every Jew has the right to the Israeli citizenship. Jew is defined in religious (*halachic*) terms. This citizenship is denied to the Arab individuals who left or were obliged to leave their homes in 1948.

(B) The 1985 Amendment: The introduction of the 1985 amendment to section 7a of the Basic Law regarding the Knesset defines three conditions for disqualification from an electoral list, the first one being, "The denial of the existence of the state of Israel

as the state of the Jewish people." It could be argued that item (a) clearly defines the exclusive constitutional meaning of the Jewish state. When a Communist Knesset member of the Knesset demanded that the term "state of the Jewish people" be removed to leave the "state of Israel" alone, his demand was rejected by the Knesset. (Rouhana 97, 34)

(C) The Policy of Land Expropriation: This is conducted by the state and the Jewish National Fund which together own 90% of the land in Israel. The JNF's goal is "acquiring [...] immovable property [...] for the purpose of settling Jews"; the state placed in its hands "about two million dunams expropriated from Arab owners, many of whom are citizens of the state. (Rouhana 97, 53-54) One of its most detrimental activities is the lease of cultivable land for Jewish use after being expropriated by the state. (Bishara 98, 52) This process used to result in subleasing land to Arab farmers, but a law of 1966 made it illegal. (Rouhana 97, 54)

(D) The Status of Jewish National Institutions: National institutions in Israel such as the Jewish National Fund, the World Zionist Organization and the Jewish Agency, are quasi-governmental institutions. Their activities cover the following:

Monopolistic right of planning and settlements,

- 1- Funding of new settlements, including preparation of infrastructure and support for public buildings and the economic foundations of the settlement;
- 2- Financing the developing of agricultural plants, and
- 3- Support for the industrialization of the settlement. (Rouhana 97, 54)

The nature of those organizations, their activities and their relation to the state, reflect the tendency to discrimination and exclusive allocation of resources and services. Hundreds of settlements have been established by those organizations; none of which are Arabic, although over one hundred Arab communities have "no municipal status and receive no electricity or healthcare, education or access to roads from the state." (Rouhana

97, 55) The activities of Jewish Agency are not only recognized by the government but are "sometimes utilized in order to realize policies that may not be adopted by the government agencies bound by the equality principle." (Rouhana 97, 56)

One argument for the exclusion of Arabs from the services of WZO and Jewish Agency is that the funds come from the World Jewry. Rouhana's response is that there is no evidence that those who fund those institutions are aware that their contributions do not benefit all the Israeli citizens but only the Jewish population in Israel.

In that sense, Israelization or integration, seen as "democratic" participation through elections and other political activities, is susceptible of assuring amelioration in the civic status but cannot lead to equality; its limit, for Arabs, is assimilation in a democracy that is not theirs, an equality that involves renouncing their national identity; or equality within a system that is exclusive in essence! Maintaining exclusion from the real centers of power and the decision-making process, means a dangerous and unpredictably delicate balance of contradictions.

On a Crisis of Identity

The collective identity as defined by Rouhana constitutes "the shared psychological attachment and allegiance, social and cultural values and traditions, historical experiences, national heritage political views and aspirations." (Rouhana 97, 14) Rouhana defines three general titles for the forces shaping the collective identity of the Arabs in Israel:

- (1) Regional developments including Arab nationalism, Palestinian revival, Islamic revolution and the Middle East peace process;
- (2) Israel's laws, structure and politics as those of the state of the Jewish people, with its democratic procedures, security measures and inclusion or exclusion of Arab citizens;
- (3) Changes within the group: demography,

socioeconomics, education and political culture. (Rouhana 97, 15)

For the Arabs, the Israeli identity does not comprise essential structuring elements, the affective and sentimental values mentioned above. Their Palestinian identity lacks political dimension since, being Israeli, they cannot share the political views and aspirations of their Palestinian brethren.

Researchers argue that the Arabs in Israel are undergoing a process of "Palestinianization" of their identity that started in 1967 with the start of the Palestinian resistance movement and has been emphasized mainly by the increasing awareness of the discrimination against them and the attitude of the PLO and the Arabs towards them. (Bishara 01, 51)

The Arabs' refusal of Israeli identity has been reflected in their refusal to raise the Israeli flag during Independence Day, Land Day demonstrations in 1976, and the 2000 (*2nd Intifada*) protests. Yet Arabs in Israel stay attached to their "Israeliness," which provides them with many material and civic advantages, an instrumental attachment.

Equality or the right to a national identity in multiethnic states involves the participation in the decision-making process, in the national and governmental institutions, in shaping the states' main goals and ideology, all of which are denied the Arabs by means of a set of exclusion laws. Without these components an instrumental attachment is unlikely to develop into identification with the state.

A flagrant illustration of the state's categorical refusal to revise its Jewish character and its exclusion of Arab community is the way it dealt with the Land Day demonstrations, causing death to six persons and injury to more than a hundred others, and with the Al-Aqsa demonstrations, also causing death to several citizens. The government did not refrain from shooting at its own unarmed proclaimed citizens with live ammunition when they dared to challenge the boundaries of the political maneuvering space allotted to them by the Jewish/Zionist framework.

Both components of the identity of the Arabs in Israel stay incomplete. Whether these components might subsequently clash depends on the extent to which each excludes the other, as happens to be the case.

Israelization or Modernity

Bishara draws a parallel between the relations, in the modern, consumerist, capitalist world, of the Third World to the industrial world on one hand and the relation of the Arab minority to the Jewish majority on the other. But in the case of Israel the main difference is the fact that Arab labor power is fully integrated in the Israeli production process, while the national, cultural and political institutions, which are supposed to manage consumerism and its effects, are absent. Development in the Israeli economy, as it is now, results in an amelioration in the economic status of the Arabs in Israel and their capacity to consume due to the accessibility to the labor market, i.e. an intensification of the culture of consumption. But as this is not accompanied with real participation in the decision-making process or the development of local productive forces and cultural and media institutions, it is leading to a culture of consumption outside the political and cultural sphere, i.e. a form of stark political economic and cultural alienation. (Bishara 98, 194)

This culture of consumption in the Arab community does not develop according to the local needs or the development of the productive forces, the community being disconnected economically, politically, socially and even physically from the rest of Israeli society. The effects of this consumerism outside culture and politics are very well depicted in comparative studies of the black ghettos of the U.S. or in Elia Suleiman's films, where boredom and disrespect for public space are the major aspects of social life. The danger of this type of consumerism is that it leaves no place for the socio-political life of the community, where every individual is seeking the fulfillment of the never-ending new needs of the society of consumption.

The threats of consumerism on the social and political public space can only be balanced by the development of national educational and productive institutions which Arabs can relate to and identify with. Arabs

contribute in funding such institutions through taxes, but their national representation in them is denied. This national representation differs from the acceptance of individuals in the sense that it stays indifferent to the needs of the community as a national collective entity. Here, the Arabs' right to their national identity equals their right to socio-cultural development.

This lack of concern in politics is a "susceptible stamp for the growth of ethnic and confessional antagonism." (Bishara 98, 194) Being of different religious and ethnic groups, the Arab community in Israel faces the danger of going back to tribal conflicts; especially as the state is accused of fostering internal divisions within the community through "separate educational curricula, disparate employment and academic opportunities" and the "selective conscription of Druze and Bedouin members for military service" as an attempt to suppress the Palestinian Arab identity. (Kobeissy 03, 24) In that sense, phenomena such as Islamization or radicalization within the Arab community can be viewed as effects of this crisis of identity, the denial of their national identity promoted by the state. An alternative is a national progressive agenda regulating the life of the community.

Conclusion

All of the above-mentioned contribute to what Kobeissy calls the perceived illegitimacy of the state of Israel by the Arab Palestinians. Opinions differ on what will be the implications of such perception; will the Arabs in Israel continue to adopt the normal development path approach, or will they seek actions outside the Israeli political framework? There is no doubt that Israel will have to alter its policies in the direction of less discrimination. But as argued above, this negative conception of equality as nondiscrimination is not a real solution. According to Rouhana, the actions to be taken by each party are, for the state, the cessation of all discriminatory practices, its "Jewishness" thereby becoming a cultural term, and for the Arab Palestinians, the redefinition of their Palestinian identity, underscoring its historical and cultural dimensions and de-emphasizing its political dimension.

To what extent is this possible while the Arab/Palestinian conflict stays unresolved? The Palestinian identity of the Arab minority in Israel, as argued above, is not only shaped by the state's internal policies but also by its external policies and other regional forces. A way out of this vicious circle could be what Bishara proposed: a form of territorial and political autonomy. But what if it leads to separatist initiatives?

In conclusion, to maintain its integrity and stability as a democracy Israel has to overcome the contradictions between its democratic character and its ethnocentric policies vis-à-vis the Arab minority. The chances for peace become a choice between two alternatives: (1) ethnic cleansing or what is called in the Israeli right's discourse the "Transfer Policy" and (2) an elaboration of a new meaning for Israeli citizenship that reflects an inclusive state structure that redefines Israel's goals and priorities, both internally and externally.

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The Water War The Litani River and Lebanese-Israeli Relations

○ | Alya Chehab

Since the beginning of time, water has been shaping the face of the Earth, not only as a geologic agent, cutting valleys and canyons and sculpting rock formations, but also as a major factor in the rise and fall of great civilizations and in conflict and tension between nations. The first great civilizations arose on the banks of great rivers – the Nile in Egypt, the Tigris-Euphrates in Mesopotamia, the Indus in Pakistan, and the Hwang Ho in China. All these civilizations built large irrigation systems and made the land productive. By the same token, civilizations collapsed when water supplies failed or were improperly managed. The decline of the Sumerian civilization of Mesopotamia, for example, is believed to have been due to prolonged droughts and poor irrigation practices resulting in salt build-up in the soil. Similarly, the abandonment of Roman aqueducts, canals, and reservoirs in North Africa helped return the region to desert conditions.

Water sustains human life, our environment, and our cultures. But the global demand for water is increasing and the destruction of water-dependent ecosystems has accelerated.

About 70% of fresh water goes to irrigation but in some places half or more never reaches the fields because of leaks and evaporation. Since irrigation increases yields of most crops by 100 to 400 percent, irrigated land in the developing world is expected to increase by 20% and water withdrawals for irrigation by 14% in the next 25 years. It takes 1,000 times more water to grow food for an individual than to meet his needs for drinking. It takes one cubic meter of water to produce a kilogram of

wheat. It costs 90 US cents to desalinate a cubic meter of sea water, making it an unlikely alternative for food production. In Asia, where more than half of the farmland is irrigated, agriculture faces the severest water problems of any continent.

The need for water is most evident where water is scarce, as in the Middle East, one of the world's most arid and water-scarce regions, where water-related conflicts date back 5000 years. Control, use, sharing, and management of water produce great tensions and underlie conflicts between sovereign states and peoples of the region. This is illustrated by the violent conflicts over waters in the region, the struggle between Lebanon and Israel to control the Litani is a case in point.

When we look at international river basins, we face questions of competing national interest: Who owns the water? How should it be apportioned? How can downstream riparian regions protect themselves from upstream pollution? How should disputes be resolved?

In the following, the conflict over the Litani water will be used to illustrate how control of this scarce natural resource has led to tensions in the past, but how cooperation, based on just allocation among all the region's peoples, could led to a collective solution of the problem in the future.

The Roots of the Conflict

Some "8% of the world's freshwater supplies are used for [sanitation]. We need adequate supplies of water

- 1- Serageldin, Ismail. *Toward Sustainable Management of Water Resources*. (Washington, DC: The World Bank, 1995), 1.
 2- Naff, T., and R.C. Matson. *Water in the Middle East: conflict or cooperation?* (Boulder, Colo. Westview Press, 1984) 33

[also] to feed ourselves. Agriculture accounts for some 63 percent of the world's use of freshwater."¹

The Litani River

The entire Litani River basin is located within Lebanon. The river rises in the central northern Beqa'a Valley, a short distance west of Baalbek, and flows between the Mount Lebanon range to the west and the Anti-Lebanon mountains to the east, running south and southwestward. It enters a gorge at Qarun, flows through it about 30 kilometers and, near Nabatiya and Beaufort Castle, abruptly turns right to the west, to break through the mountain range and flow through the hilly terrain of the al-Amal region. North of Tyre, it empties into the Mediterranean.

The Litani flows not far from Israel. The Litani is nearest to Israel where the river turns by Nabatiya, four kilometers from Israel's border. Its proximity to Israel makes it even more tempting for Israel to exploit. The Litani is 170 kilometers long, with a basin of 2,290 square kilometers. A ridge about 5 kilometers wide separates the Litani from the Hasbani, a tributary of the Jordan.

The Litani discharges approximately 580 million cubic meters per year (this is based on 25 years of measurements, from 1941-1971.) Its flow varies from year to year. The minimum was in 1970, at 184 million cubic meters, and the maximum in 1954, at 1020 million cubic meters. The estimated average annual flow of the Litani is 920 million cubic meters. The Litani has a smaller flow than the Jordan but has high-quality water, with a salinity of 20 parts per million, compared with 250-350 parts per million for the Sea of Galilee.

Lebanon finds that the binding of the Litani is essential to its industrial and agricultural development. Therefore, the Litani was partially dammed at Qarun. The Litani

also passes through tunnels of hydro plants to the coast, for use for irrigating areas south of Beirut.

Israel's Interests

Most of Israel's immigrants came from developed countries, mostly Europe and North America, and to a lesser extent Australia and South Africa. These predominantly Western settlers "had different (higher) water consumption habits than the indigenous population²." Labor statistics from 1950 show that 30% of Israel's civilian work force, mostly made up of Ashkenazi immigrants, had technical and industrial skills. Most of the remaining population, placed in already established villages and in new agricultural settlements, were given on-the-spot training as farmers. So the early Jewish immigrants were able to lay the foundations of a rapidly developing industrial Israel, hence creating a higher standard of living than that of neighboring Arab countries or of local native communities. This, with the large number of farming immigrants, translated into a greater demand for water.

As shown in the Table below, Israel's total water consumption as early as the 1980's was three times that of Jordan and twice that of Lebanon, thus laying the foundation for disproportional allocation. Both political and socio-economic factors can explain this screwed use of the regions water, as indicated above.

**Table: Comparative Water Consumption
(in million cubic meters per year MCM/YR)**

Sector	Israel	Jordan	Lebanon
Irrigation	1250	465	670
Domestic	332.5	60	135
Industrial	122.5	30	65
Total	1750	555	870

Source: Naff and Matson, 1984

The Israeli newspaper Davar (26 November, 1982) reported a wide gap between the per capita water consumption of Jewish settlers on the West Bank and that of the Arab population in the same region, with the former consuming 100m³/year. In 1977, on the occupied West Bank, 17 wells supplying Jewish settlements (then inhabited by less than 30,000 Israelis) extracted 14 MCM/year (million cubic meters per year), while 88 Arab wells (Palestinians then numbered 600,000) were permitted only 9.9 MCM/year³.

Although occupation of Arab land in 1967 augmented Israel's water supply by about 40%, the Jewish state is utilizing almost all of the renewable water resources available. As water demand rises, its supply is becoming ever more finite. "History reveals that water has frequently provided a justification for going to war: It has been an object of military conquest, a source of economic or political strength and both a tool and a target of conflict⁴."

If the demand or need for water in the riparian region is much greater than the supply, conflict over the relatively scarce water is more likely. This conflict may be military.

Israel is a riparian state, having to share much of its surface water resources with neighboring countries. Control of water may be seen as integral to Israel's sovereignty, a need that Israel might easily go to war over⁵. Historically, Israel has been keenly interested in the Litani, so conflict with Lebanon over the Litani is more likely. Control of the Litani has long been a dream of Israel for establishing a greater Zion from Sinai to ancient Babylon⁶.

Captured water is one of the most important parts of Israel's total water supply. The four most important

sources of Israel's water are "ground water; the Jordan watershed; lesser surface waters and water from desalination plants" for a total of just less than 2,000 MCM per year⁷.

Israel's water resources are now fully exploited. Thus the only other source readily available is the Litani, which, in order for Israel to use it, would have to be in Israel's possession, and this could only happen under current circumstances through military seizure. The only other alternative source of additional water would be further highly expensive recycled water projects⁸. Also underlying tensions between Lebanon and Israel is the relative ease with which the Litani River could be diverted into the Israeli water system. Complete control over the Litani could augment Israel's supply of water by up to 800 MCM/yr, a 50% increase.

Lebanon's Interests

Water is scarce in Lebanon, especially in the provinces of the Beqa'a and the South, which are almost solely dependent on the Litani River and its tributaries. These provinces, Lebanon's largest, share common attributes, being the country's most rural provinces and its principal agricultural regions. Lebanon appears to "have renewable supplies adequate relative to population but even these face major problems of adjustment" and the need of reservations. Thus, the Litani River remains important to Lebanon for agriculture and industrial development⁹. "35% of Lebanon's total production of electricity comes from the Litani waters directly or from the Markaba-Awali diversion." There is a diversion of 236 MCM annually from the Litani to the Awali River, used to supply Beirut and other coastal areas with hydroelectric generation¹⁰. Lebanon is definitely making good use of the Litani River.

3- Kubursi, 1982; 82

4- Lee, James R, and Maren Brooks. "Conflict and Environment: Lebanon's Historic and Modern Nightmare." Paper for Conference on Environment and Sustainable Development in Lebanon, NGO-Private/Public Sector Partnerships Rene Mouawad Foundation,,Dec, 1996.

5- Amery, Hussein A. "The Litani River of Lebanon." *The Geographical Review*, VI. 83, No. 3, July 1993, 233.

6- Stauffer, Thomas R. *Water and War in the Middle East: The Hydraulic Parameters of Conflict*. Information Paper Number 5. (Washington, DC: The Center for Policy Analysis on Palestine, July 1996), 11.

7- Ibid

8- Ibid, 12

9- Amery, 229

10- Ibid, 235

Reasons for conflict

In this region, "oil is abundant, water is not." Although water is the "renewable resource", it is in short supply. "Scarcity, obviously, means conflict; oil wars are less likely than water wars¹¹." Water is a source of conflict between Israel and Lebanon because both countries have less than they want, and there is a tug-of-war over what is available.

Israel's reasons for wanting the Litani

As was stated above, Israel could increase its annual water supply by 800 MCM by access to the Litani through permanent occupation of southern Lebanon¹².

Chaim Weimann, head of the World Zionist Organization, wrote (around 1919-1920) to Prime Minister David Lloyd George that Lebanon was "well-watered" and that the Litani was "valueless to the territory north of the proposed frontiers. They can be used beneficially in the country much further south." He concluded that the Litani was "essential to the future of the Jewish national home." Yet the British and French mandate powers kept the Litani entirely in Lebanon¹³.

To justify its use of the Litani, Israel says that Lebanon is not fully utilizing it, citing Lebanon's "Litani Project", of which only a third has been realized. Lebanon argues that without control over its water and land it will not be able to use them fully.

Lebanon's Reasons

Some in Israel believe that Lebanon has relatively more water than Israel and does not need all of its water. Yet it is because Israel occupied part of the land containing the Litani that for many years Lebanon could not use and develop it. Twenty-two villages immediately north of the Litani springs in the Beqa'a lack domestic running water. In the South, 36 villages lack domestic running water.

If Lebanon gave Israel the Litani and denied it to the Shi'a Muslims predominant in the area for agriculture and domestic purposes, they would be increasingly at loggerheads with the Lebanese government. In 1974 there were rumors that Litani water was being diverted to Beirut to meet predicted shortages which caused wide anti-government demonstrations¹⁴. If Lebanon allowed Israeli diversion of the Litani, much of southern Lebanon would become desert, and irrigation become nearly impossible.

Proposed Solution

Elmusa proposes the following domestic solutions for Israel's water crisis.

Israel, if it can muster the requisite attitude and political will, is in a position to end the water conflict by ceasing its unilateral taking away of the common water resources and yielding to the Palestinians their fair share in accordance with international water law. Israel would not suffer appreciable harm or play a zero-sum game. It already possesses greater quantities of water than the Palestinians from its endogenous and other international resources to meet its baseline needs. It also has greater economic and technical capabilities to tap the rich alternative water resources it has. It can considerably gain in the water sector and trade in water-related technologies in the wake of a peaceful settlement¹⁵.

Elmusa also asserts that the Israeli-Palestinian water conflict is complex, and that the key to its resolution is an equitable apportionment regime, with joint management of the common water resources in accordance with international law. He recommends that "the Palestinians must repossess their endogenous water resources. This is the issue that negotiations must tackle at the outset, if rapid progress is to be made¹⁶."

11- Stauffer, 1.

12- Amery, 235

13-Ibid, 233

14- Ibid, 235-236

15- Elmusa, Sharif S. The Water Issue and the

Palestinian-Israeli Conflict. Information Paper Number 2.

(Washington DC: The Center for Policy

Analysis on Palestine, 1993) 14.

16- Ibid, 14

According to Elmusa, Palestinians are entitled to a much larger share than Israel, much larger than their presently imposed share, because Israel has access to greater quantities from other sources than those held in common with the occupied Palestinian territories (OPT's) with which it can satisfy its basic water needs. "It also possesses much larger quantities of, and greater economic and technical capabilities to tap, yet untapped resources. (...) In addition, Israel has a broad sea front on the Mediterranean, which affords it practically limitless amounts of water for desalination technology, which it sells worldwide¹⁷."

Lebanon as well could, if need be, deal with its water needs domestically. One argument for Lebanon enjoying exclusive rights to the Litani is that lack of water is one reason for its economic underdevelopment in Lebanon. Water is not only essential to the economic development of Lebanon; it is also vital for its improvement of health and quality of life¹⁸.

If there is a conflict over water, the answer is recycling and other programs to conserve water. This involves the most efficient use of water, which, according to Lee and Brooks, the Israelis have mastered out of necessity. Under different circumstances, cooperation with Israel would enable it to share its water technology with the Lebanese and possibly even develop joint projects. For instance, the Israelis could assist the Lebanese in the most efficient use of the Litani, with a modern water infrastructure in Lebanon. Such confidence-building measures are needed; the water saved could be used to the benefit of all.

Much more water is needed to meet future demands than can be met by existing water supplies. Increasing supply without depleting finite ground reserves will be difficult. Desalination seems to be only one answer, a very expensive but necessary one, less costly than maintaining armies. In fact, money could be diverted from the military of both countries in order to find technical means of securing water. These might include improved desalination, preservation, enhanced efficiency and research into other non-military ways of securing and obtaining water. Countries like Lebanon

could actually develop surpluses, to be sold to neighboring countries on an amicable basis, just as "Lesotho is selling water to South Africa"¹⁹.

Current solutions are far from satisfactory. Desalination is a possible but expensive response to the dearth of water. It would cost about \$2.5 billion to desalinate enough water (500-600 MCM) to secure peace, Professor Dan Zaslavsky, Israel's water controller, stated in 1992²⁰.

Cooperation, based on just allocation, is much cheaper, but it must be seen as just one aspect in the larger context of water security and the Arab-Israeli conflict. Any solution must be reciprocal. This involves deciding who may claim and exploit existing water resources such as the Litani. Currently the Litani is not of optimal use to either Lebanon or Israel. Full Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon could lead to the technical cooperation that is necessary to fully develop the region's scarce water resources to the benefit of all.

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17- Ibid, 12
18- Ibid, 15

19- Lee and Brooks, 23
20- Ibid

Thomas Gray

o | K.J. Mortimer



It would be hard to find any anthology of English poetry whose pages were not adorned by the *Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard* by Thomas Gray, 1716 - 1772. He was born in London and went to school at Eton, where he formed a friendship with Horace Walpole, son of Sir Robert Walpole, considered to be Britain's first "Prime Minister". In 1739 the two companions embarked on a tour of the Continent, but finally fell out with each other, so in 1741 Thomas returned home alone. In 1744 he took a degree in civil law and then studied Greek literature at Peterhouse, Cambridge, as well as engaging in diverse literary activity. In 1745 he was reconciled with Horace and sent him his famous ode on the death of his friend's cat. Other works of this time included *Ode to Spring* and *Ode on a Distant Prospect of Eton College*. Fame came in 1751 with his work first published as *Elegy Write (sic) in a Country Church Yard*, generally supposed to refer to the cemetery of Stoke Poges. He moved to Pembroke College, Cambridge, and as an able scholar and critic became professor of history and modern languages.

Thomas Gray stands between the

classical and romantic traditions. Since the decline of the Middle Ages, poetry and art had concerned themselves almost solely with great heroes and persons of royal or noble blood, but Gray showed a profound moral interest in common people while keeping a smooth classical style - it will be remembered how Bizet's opera *Carmen* was to be derided later largely because its lead characters were a gypsy working in a cigarette factory and a gendarme. The *Elegy* also marks Gray as one of a group of poets whose interest centred on death and destiny. His particular concern here was about humble village people who had they been born under other circumstances might have achieved greatness by their virtues. They are accepted in their shabby state, whereas previous descriptions of shepherds and shepherdesses had idealised them in a Grecian Arcadia.

The opening lines, with a foretaste of the coming Romanticism, evoke the mood of the author as light turns to darkness while he is seated among the mounds that mark the last resting-place of people whose lives have been spent in obscure labour.

The curfew tolls the knell of parting day,
 The lowing herd winds slowly o'er the lea,¹
 The ploughman homeward plods his weary way,
 And leaves the world to darkness and to me.

Now fades the glimmering landscape on the sight,
 And all the air a solemn stillness holds,
 Save where the beetle wheels his droning flight,
 And drowsy tinklings lull the distant folds.²

Save that from yonder ivy-mantled tow'r,³
 The moping owl does to the moon complain
 Of such as wand'ring near her secret bow'r⁴
 Molest her ancient solitary reign.

Beneath those rugged elms, that yew-tree's shade,
 Where heaves the turf in many a mould'ring heap,
 Each in his narrow cell for ever laid,
 The rude Forefathers of the hamlet sleep.

Further on, the poet meditates on the lives of sweat, as noble in their way as lives spent in pomp and splendour.

Oft did the harvest to their sickle yield,
 Their furrow oft the stubborn glebe has broke:
 How jocund did they drive their team⁵ afield,
 How bow'd the woods beneath their sturdy stroke!

Let not Ambition mock their useful toil,
 Their homely joys, and destiny obscure,
 Nor Grandeur hear with a disdainful smile
 The short and simple annals of the poor.

The *Elegy* (often simply known as *Gray's Elegy*) has many verses but there are some that, once read, are never forgotten. Gray here considers not only what potential for great achievement lies lost beneath the turf but also what guilt of great crime their humble state has spared these tillers of the soil. Made at a time of great parliamentary oratory when men's

education consisted of the study of Latin and Greek, there is implicit allusion to an idealised Rome which, with Athens, was taken as an august model for the forms of government taking shape. Here we still have not reached the romantic classicism of Goethe or Swinburne, yearning for passion and freedom in sunnier Mediterranean climes.

Full many a gem of purest ray serene
 The dark unfathom'd caves of ocean bear:
 Full many a flower is born to blush unseen,
 And waste its sweetness on the desert air.

Some village Hampden that with dauntless breast
 Some little tyrant of his fields withstood,
 Some mute inglorious Milton, here may rest,
 Some Cromwell guiltless of his country's blood.

Th' applause of list'ning senates to command,
 The threats of pain and ruin to despise,
 To scatter plenty o'er a smiling land,
 And read their history in a nation's eyes.



In times of stress, these rural souvenirs
 of placid times bring calm and peace
 to the soul.

- 1 Lea: a meadow or grassy field.
- 2 Fold: a sheepfold or small enclosure where sheep are penned at night. One hears the gentle melody of their bells.
- 3 Tower: the massive belfry tower typical of medieval churches.
- 4 Bower: a shady retreat, usually among trees and vines.
- 5 Team: two horses or two oxen to draw the plough.

Inter alia (K.J.M.)

Junk mail received 7th May, 2007: "Do you want a prosperous future? GET YUOR (sic) UNIVERSITY DIPLOMA..." There's nothing like Higher Education!

Reader's Digest, October 2000: "DO YOU LIKE FUN & GAMES? PLAY HANGMAN ONLINE Visit readersdigest.com " (Gruesome games!)

Mole Under the Fence: Conversations

with Roland Walsh by Ron Ferguson, Saint Andrew Press, Edinburgh. The author refers to "pilgrims" visiting a place in Scotland referred to in the preposterous novel *The Da Vinci Code*, discredited by all responsible historians, as on TV Discovery Channel. He says that "When people believe in nothing, they end up believing in anything." How true!

Answer from Taize to Dr. Ziad Fahed's request for permission to reproduce part of Letter from Calcutta in NDU Spirit, issue 39.

From: Secretariat

Sent: Mon, March 26, 2007

To Ziad Fahed

Bien sûr, cher Ziad, il n'y a pas de problème pour publier la Lettre de Calcutta, en entire ou en extraits, dans la revue de Notre Dame University. Au contraire cela nous fait plaisir que cette letter soit connue au Liban. Nous sommes à Rome, en ce moment, frère Alois a eu ce matin une audience avec le pape, ce fut un très beau moment de communion. Et nous rentrons vendredi à Taizé, pur les celebrations de la semaine sainte. Il y aura beaucoup de jeunes qui seront là.

Cher Ziad, nous restons tous proches dans l'affection profonde.

Charles-Eugène

(Email)

Inequality in Lebanon and the Arab Region - Why worry?

Dr. Louis G. Hobeika¹

Great inequality of income and wealth in any society implies deep poverty and discontent among a significant portion of the population. Perfectly equal societies do not exist and may not be desirable. Some degree of inequality may be necessary as a stimulant to production, achievement and growth. The role of government is to improve the distribution of income and wealth through fiscal tools (e.g. taxes and grants) and financial policies (e.g. negative taxation and subsidized loans to the poor). Empowering a poor man to own a house or a small shop will bring him into the official economy and contribute to reducing crime and all underground activities. Peruvian economist Hernando de Soto recommends giving property rights to the poor as

an effective policy to fight poverty, hunger and insecurity. Although correct and transparent statistics are not available, it is widely believed that Arab societies, including Lebanon, suffer from a high degree of inequality in income and especially in wealth. Public resources, unless combined with the reform of governance and improvement in poverty targeting, will be insufficient to reduce inequality. Public policies in this domain remain quite weak in the region, implying a significant level of poverty in urban and rural areas. It is widely believed that 16.8% of the Arab population is living in poverty. 14% of the child population in the Arab region is severely or moderately underweight. 20% of children of primary school age are not enrolled and some 44 million adult women cannot read or write. 9.5% of the population of the Arab region is undernourished.

Economic growth during the past twenty years has been closely associated with three phenomena: trade liberalization, technological

change and the emergence of new organizational structures. Technical change is the most important factor since both trade liberalization and organizational change affect inequality through technology. Technological change explains the recent upsurge in wage inequality, as poor countries have not been able to integrate it successfully into their economies. Inequality of income and wealth is a serious matter not only for social and humanitarian reasons, but especially for its negative impact on economic growth.

Among market economies, statistics show that the less favored grow more slowly. Redistribution can foster growth and the growth process will affect inequality. In the Philippines, the ratio of the income share of the top 20% to the bottom 40% of the population has been almost twice as large as that in South Korea. During the last 30 years, fast growth in South Korea has resulted in a fivefold increase in the output level, while that of the Philippines has barely doubled.



Overall, the nature of the relationship between inequality and economic development is quite complex as it involves numerous variables and economic actors.

Nobel Prize laureate Simon Kuznets said that income inequality increases during the early stages of development and decreases later on. It shows the existence of a virtuous cycle meaning that lower inequality will foster growth, which in turn will reduce inequality. According to World Bank and ESCWA studies, the negative impact of inequality on growth can be reduced by redistribution. When looking at the effects of inequality on growth, we are interested in the ways in which distribution of wealth can affect aggregate output and growth through its impact on individual investment in human or physical capital. When looking at the effect of growth on inequality of wages, we distinguish between changes in labor earnings and the sources of income.

Anyway, there are at least three reasons why inequality may have a negative effect on growth. Inequality

decreases investment opportunities for the poor and consequently for the whole economy; it adversely affects borrowers' incentives as profitable opportunities diminish; and generates macroeconomic volatility due to insecurity and stressful social life. Consequently more equal income and wealth are beneficial to growth for the following reasons:

1- They imply greater credit availability for all economic agents. When capital markets are imperfect, which is the case in the Arab region, there is not necessarily a trade-off between equity and efficiency and therefore both variables can be improved.

2- They imply lower macroeconomic volatility as the general social and political climate improves. The Arab middle class and the poor will feel more secure about their future.

3- They imply lower volatility of the growth rate due to generous and continuous investment in physical and especially human capital. The Arab Region needs continuous and stable growth to improve its standing on the general international economic map.



A Causal Analysis of Governance & Economic Development: Is there a Sustainable Virtuous Circle in the Mena Region?*

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Notre Dame University - Lebanon
- | Youssef Yazbeck
Central Bank of Lebanon

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Introduction

This paper investigates the causal relationship between governance and the level of economic development on a sample of 25 countries in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.¹ Despite its wealth in oil, the MENA region is distinguished by its low rates of economic growth, income disparity between oil rich Gulf countries and, for instance, Yemen, in addition to a weak political and judicial governance. Since the tragic events of September 11th, 2001, the MENA region has been facing pressures from international agencies to implement the global standards of governance towards making it "virtually independent" as the need for political and economic reforms became a necessity. Subsequently, the governance-economic development nexus is a timely and significant issue that deserves to be scientifically studied, especially in this sensitive region.

Despite its crucial implications from an international policy perspective, this issue of reverse causality has known little empirical and theoretical scrutiny. While some studies depict the presence of a virtuous circle between governance and economic development (Chong and Calderon, 2000; etc), others argue that a phenomenon of grand corruption (or state capture) renders this virtuous circle non-existent (Kaufmann and Kraay, 2002).

The main purpose of this paper is to test the presence of a sustainable virtuous circle between governance and the level of economic development, while controlling for oil among MENA countries.² This is the first study that addresses the timely issue of governance-economic development nexus in the MENA region. Unlike other studies that focus on colonial and geographical determinants of governance, this paper extends the analysis to study the impact of "country's independence", a proxy of country's maturity, on the quality of governance. Modifying the Acemoglu, Johnson and Robinson (2001) and Kaufmann and Kraay (2002) level accounting approach, this study employs the generalized method of moments estimation technique on a sample of 25 MENA countries to examine, for the year 2004: (1) the impact of governance on the level of economic development, while controlling for the oil factor and using the principle of parsimony; and (2) the reverse causality (i.e., impact of the level of economic development on governance), while controlling for country's independence and oil.³

This paper argues that entrenched political and private elites would benefit from the status quo of misgovernance to capture state resources in the MENA region, especially in oil-exporting countries, hindering, consequently, the sustainability of the virtuous circle in the long run. Therefore, countries in the MENA region should engage, promptly, in institutional reforms along with economic reforms which stimulate economic development and accelerate the institutional convergence. Reforms in the



mode of governance are endogenous to a greater maturity of countries. The second section synthesizes the literature on the causality between governance and economic development. The third section offers the specification of the model, and the fourth one analyzes the econometric results. The last section concludes the study and provides some pertinent policy implications.

Background

There is a general consensus among economists that governance is a sine qua none for economic development (Acemoglu, Johnson and Robinson, 2001; Rodrik, Subramanian and Trebbi, 2004; etc). Despite its crucial implications, the issue of reverse causality has known little theoretical and empirical scrutiny. The study of this topic would assist governments as well as international agencies in their choices between prioritizing pro-growth policies or institutional reforms.

Posner (1998) considers that minimal investment in governance reform, especially in the legal sector, causes income growth perpetuating the willingness of the society to implement further reforms. Furthermore, Gradstein (2003) argues that full governance reform would take place in affluent countries. A country would be entrapped in underdevelopment if both the level of income and the governance structure are sufficiently low. If the initial level of income is moderate or high, the dynamic evolution of the economy would lead to a full governance reform and high-income steady state. The sustainability of the virtuous circle is conditional upon the absence of rent-seeking behavior.

Using different institutional measures, Treisman (2000) and Chong and Calderon (2000) provide empirical evidence for the presence of the virtuous circle between governance and economic development. According to Chong and Calderon (2000), the causal relationship between economic development and governance has a higher contribution to the linear relation between the two variables. The

importance of institutions to economic development increases over time especially in developing countries. This explains that international agencies may have to place more emphasis on development promotion strategies rather than pressing for improvement in the quality of existing institutions.

On the other hand, Kaufmann and Kraay (2002) provide empirical evidence for the absence of virtuous circle between governance and economic development in Latin American countries. Economic development has a weak and even a negative impact on the quality of governance. This result could be explained by the phenomenon of state capture (see Hellman and Kaufmann, 2001). Powerful political and private oligarchies in a country benefit from the status quo of misgovernance, capture the resources, and resist demands for institutional change. This encourages more emphasis on institutional reform and dilutes the power of these oligarchies to reestablish a powerful link between economic development and governance.

Methodology

Borrowing the level accounting approach from Acemoglu et al. (2001) and Kaufmann and Kraay (2002), this study employs the generalized method of moments (GMM) to estimate the governance-economic development nexus on a sample of 25 MENA countries in year 2004. Accordingly, the following models [see Equations 1 through 2] attempt to encompass the endogenous and exogenous determinants of the level of economic development and the quality of governance, respectively:

$$\text{LogGDP}_{c2004i} = \alpha_1 + \beta \text{GOV}_{2004i} + \lambda \text{DUMOIL}_i + \varepsilon_i \quad (1)$$

$$\text{GOV}_{2004i} = \alpha_2 + \mu \text{LogGDP}_{c2004i} + \eta \text{INDEP}_i + \lambda \text{DUMOIL}_i + \varepsilon_i \quad (2)$$

where β , μ , η and λ denote the estimated coefficients of governance (simple average of Kaufmann, Kraay and

Mastruzzi (2005) governance indicators), level of real *per capita* gross domestic product (logged), independence (measured by the number of years of independence), and dummy for oil-exporting countries (members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and/or the Organization of the Arab Petroleum Exporting countries), respectively.⁴ The constant term α_1 captures several other exogenous determinants of the level of economic development, such as geographic variables (e.g., latitude, etc.) and some other social determinants (e.g., life expectancy, etc) not included in the model. The constant term α_2 captures several exogenous determinants of governance, such as historical variables (e.g., colonial origin, legal origin, etc) not included in the model. ε_i denotes the stochastic error term for country *i*.

Data are borrowed from the United Nations Statistic Division (i.e., national accounts main aggregates), the World Bank, and the CIA World Fact Book (2006). Governance indicators are selected from Kaufmann, Kraay and Mastruzzi (2005). Based on casual observation, which signals the low level of economic development (relatively to the world) and the weak quality of governance in the MENA region, this study hypothesizes that entrenched political elites and private oligarchies would benefit from the status *quo* of misgovernance to capture such resources as income increases and resist investments in governance reform, thus hampering the causal relationship between the level of economic development and governance, especially in oil-exporting countries. Following the literature overview, it is expected to see a positive effect running from governance to the level of economic development and a weaker effect running in the opposite direction, crystallizing the presence of the capture phenomenon.

Needless to say, institutions need time to evolve. Hence, it is expected that "country's independence", which is a proxy for country's maturity, has a positive impact on the quality of governance; therefore, contributing to the "learning by doing" phenomenon. The resource curse theory (Sachs and Warner, 1995) suggests that economies rich in natural resources (such as oil) have lower growth than countries not abounding in natural resources. Since our sample covers only the countries in the MENA region and since our dependent variable is the level of economic development, it is expected that oil-exporting countries will have higher level of economic development than non-oil exporting ones. Following Ross (2001) and Isham et al. (2005), it is possible to predict that oil-exporting countries will have weaker quality of governance than non-oil-exporting countries.

The study employs the GMM estimation technique to

examine the causality between governance and economic development. This estimation technique provides more robust estimators, while resolving the problem of endogeneity between variables. Following Kaufman and Kraay (2002), the level of economic development in 2004 reflects different growth strategies across countries in the long run. Indeed differences in growth rates are transitory. Jones (1995), as well, questions the empirical relevance of endogenous growth and considers that government policies are associated with differences in levels n/ot rates. Governance indicators do not vary much across time. Subsequently, the steady-state governance indicators are good proxies for initial values. We employ the (log) predicted trade share, which reflects the natural openness of countries, as an instrument of the quality of governance (Hall and Jones, 1999); more naturally open countries have a better quality of governance. This instrument is consistent with the orthogonality conditions required to provide efficient estimators. Additionally, we instrument the level of per capita income by its lagged value; lagged endogenous variables are uncorrelated with the disturbance term (limi and Ojima, 2005). The problem of heteroskedasticity is addressed following White's procedure, which gives robust-heteroskedasticity estimates for the variance-covariance matrix of the estimated regression coefficients (1980).

Table 1. Causality between governance and economic development, testing for the sustainability of the virtuous circle

Variable	Model 1	Model 2
CONSTANT	7.688795*** (30.42053)	-4.362756*** (-8.415924)
GOVERNANCE ₂₀₀₄	1.343825*** (4.967223)	
LogGDP _{c2004}		0.539601*** (7.254208)
INDEPENDENCE		0.001287** (2.509692)
OIL	1.023615*** (3.553585)	-0.567220** (-2.578677)
Adjusted R-squared	0.768765	0.673114
J-statistic	1.60E-28	1.33E-28
DW	2.229997	0.832373

Note: Valid sample size is 23 observations in model 1 and 25 observations in model 2; Lebanon and Libya are excluded for data unavailability from model 1. The dependent variable is "Log GDP_{c2004}" in model 1 and "Governance₂₀₀₄" in model 2. "Log predicted trade share" is used as an instrument for governance in model 1; oil

is considered as an exogenous variable. Log GDP_{c2003} is used as an instrument for Log GDP_{c2004} in model 2; independence and oil are considered as exogenous variables. * less than 0.1; ** less than 0.05; *** less than 0.01. t-statistics are reported between parentheses. Estimates are White robust-heteroskedasticity estimates for the variance-covariance matrix and are reported in the above table. Convergence is achieved after 2 iterations in both models.

Discussion

Table 1 reports the regression results of models 1 and 2. The regression results of model 1 show that governance is a primary and fundamental determinant of *per capita* income. Other things being equal, a one-unit increase in the measure of the quality of governance is associated with a 134% difference in per capita income, on average. As expected, oil-exporting countries exhibit a statistically higher level of per capita income than non-oil-exporting countries.

Model 2 shows the reverse causality between governance and economic development, while controlling for independence and oil among countries in the MENA region. The coefficient of economic development is significantly positive but lower than the coefficient of governance in model 1 (once we use a standardized 1 to 5 ordinal scale for both dependent variables to address the issue of different dependent variables with different measures). As expected the coefficient of oil-exporting dummy is significantly negative at the 95% level of confidence, implying that oil-exporting countries exhibit lower quality of governance than non-oil-exporting countries, *ceteris paribus*. This result is in line with Ross (2001) and Isham *et al.* (2005) and suggests that oil acts as a resource curse, where oil revenues tend to hamper the quality of governance through a "rentier effect". The positive and significant coefficient of independence suggests that governance is endogenous to a greater maturity of countries. People would become more mature and learn how to implement governance reforms. Endogenous governance reforms would avoid exogenous implementation of the global standards, and eventually by force, undermining the quality of governance.

Finally, the results of models 1 and 2 confirm our main hypothesis. The substantially lower impact of economic development on governance, especially in oil-exporting countries, implies that countries relying on point source products are dominated by political elites and monopolistic private powers that capture resources rather than diffuse them. This affects, consequently, the sustainability of the virtuous circle between governance and economic development in the long run.

Conclusion and Implications

Econometric results substantiate our hypothesis and show that the impact of the level of economic development on governance is weaker than the impact of governance on economic development, especially in oil-exporting countries, implying the presence of entrenched private and public elites who resist substantial institutional reforms.

These results suggest that countries in the MENA region should engage in reforming institutions in order to fight grand corruption and seizure of the state that lower the impact of the level of economic development on governance. In this context, it is worthwhile to separate between oil- and non-oil-exporting countries to take into consideration income disparity in the MENA region. Affluent oil-exporting countries should engage in big investments in the legal system to increase its independence and credibility in implementing the rule of law. The creation of special courts whose mission is to restrain political powers should be in line with a progressive political reform through the decentralization of the process of decision-making and encouraging the implementation of participatory governance. Competition law is also a means to fight state capture from private oligarchies (Hellmann and Kaufmann, 2001). Non-oil-exporting countries could engage in small institutional reforms that stimulate the economic development via the trust-increasing channel, perpetuating in consequence the willingness of people to implement ambitious reforms. International agencies should promote campaigns that propagate the culture of good governance among citizens and help in financing programs to reform institutions, in particular judicial ones.

These governance reforms should be in line with economic and social reforms that promote directly the level of economic development. MENA countries should rely more on the private sector, which ensures an efficient utilization of resources. Improving the quality and the level of human education would accelerate institutional change and the convergence of the countries in the MENA towards high level of economic development.

Finally, regressions are not completely satisfactory in solving the symptoms-versus-syndromes problems, especially if such indicators as governance indicators suffer from being subjective on one hand, and inefficient in tackling the syndromes on the other one. Hence, better microeconomic institutional measures are needed to highlight the relationship between governance and economic development.

Notes

- 1- The level of economic development is measured by the level of real per capita income (per capita GDP).
- 2- Unless otherwise mentioned, the definition of MENA followed in this paper includes: Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.
- 3- Acemoglu, Johnson and Robinson (2001) estimate the impact of institutions on the level per capita income while controlling for exogenous determinants of the level of economic development such as country's latitude and regional dummies (i.e., Asia, Africa and other continent dummy). Kaufmann and Kraay (2002) use the parsimony rule to estimate the impact of governance on the level of economic development as well as the impact of the level of economic development on governance. The overall governance index used in this study is computed as the simple average of the Kaufmann, Kraay and Mastruzzi (2005) governance indicators which are voice and accountability, political stability and absence of violence, government effectiveness, regulatory quality, rule of law, and control of corruption. Its standardized measures vary from -2.5 (weakest governance quality) to 2.5 (soundest quality of governance).
- 4- The MENA countries members of the OPEC are: Algeria, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and United Arab Emirates. The MENA countries members of the OAPEC are: Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, and United Arab Emirates.

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○ | Book-signing

At 6.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 9th May, 2007, Dr. Rock-Antoine Mehanna signed copies of his book *Growth and Stability: How to increase people's wealth?* in a ceremony in Issam Fares Hall, NDU Main Campus.

Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence*

○ | Dr. Hratch Hadjetian

○ | "While learning has many ends, teaching has only one: enable or cause learning."

K. Patricia Cross

○ | "We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit."

Aristotle

○ | "Good teaching cannot be reduced to technique... Good teaching comes from the identity and integrity of the teacher."

Parker Palmer

Introduction

Quality teaching and effective learning rest on three complementary pillars: quality faculty, quality students and quality administration. If one pillar fails, the quality of education suffers. So many universities in the USA, UK and Canada have established on their campus a specialized center for teaching and learning excellence. Such centers also contribute to the accreditation of the universities. We believe that the establishment of such a center at Notre Dame University also could improve teaching, learning and research, and serve for accreditation. The purpose of this paper is to elaborate the structure of such a representative Center.

Vision, Mission and Motto

The vision of the Center is to make the university a leading institution of higher education with high standards in teaching, learning and research. Its mission would be a) to promote, recognize and reward excellence in innovative and effective teaching, b) to provide state-of-the-art instructional technology to enhance student learning, and c) to develop an academic environment conducive to excellence in teaching and learning.

The motto of the Center is *Effective learning through effective teaching.*

Goals

The Center pursues its mission and goals by -

- | Supporting and promoting the development of effective teaching skills and the application of advanced instructional technology;
- | Developing and maintaining a culture of excellence in teaching and learning, and encouraging research;
- | Connecting faculty to share information and experience by forming teaching circles;
- | Providing consulting services for individual faculty, departments and administrators ;
- | Rewarding excellence by awards and grants;
- | Undertaking research on the different aspects of university teaching and learning;
- | Evaluating programs, curriculum, courses and making recommendations;

- | Serving as a resource center and providing material support;
- | Organizing campus-wide roundtables to discuss issues of value, religion and ethics on campus;
- | Offering special programs of teaching development for new faculty; and
- | Promoting and supporting use of advanced instructional technology.

Organization and Staff

Organization

The Center is a Division of the Office of V.P. for Academic Affairs. To accomplish its mission and goals, the Center is organized in the following six units:

- | Transition Program, and Development of Study, Learning, and Coping Skills/Strategies
- | Development of Teaching Skills, Strategies, and Knowledge
- | Curriculum Development, Evaluation and Assessment
- | Instructional Technology Development and Services
- | Publications
- | Library and Resource Center

The Center has a Director, appointed by the V.P. for Academic Affairs, to whom he reports directly. The Center also has an Advisory Board composed of representatives from all Faculties, important related Offices, Units and Centers, and a student representative. The Board advises the Director on matters related to the Center, supervises and evaluates the activities of the Center and recommends improvements, advises on policy decisions and on the appointment of the Center's staff, approves the proposed annual report and the budget before they are submitted to the V.P. for Academic Affairs, and promotes the Center and its programs. Board members are appointed by the Director of the Center in consultation with the current Board members. On faculty development issues, the Director consults department heads and other academic administrators.

The V.P. for Academic Affairs (or his representative), Faculty Representatives, the Director of the Center, the Librarian Associate and the Administrative Assistant are *ex-officio* members of the Advisory Board.

Staff

Full-time staff: Director of the Center; Program Coordinator; Administrative Assistant; Librarian Associate.

Part-time Consultants: Research and Measurement Specialist; Faculty Development Specialist; Instructional Technology Specialist; English Editor; Assessment and Evaluation Specialist; Curriculum Development Specialist; Statistician.

These specialists work partly at the Center and partly at their departments or centers. In addition to the above-mentioned staff, the Center invites experienced and highly qualified University faculty and well-know personalities to offer courses, workshops, seminars and consultancy services. Sometimes consultants get release-time from their departments or join when classes are not in session. The Center collaborates with other University service units and outside campus institutions. Student assistants also contribute to the programs of the Center.

Detailed Functions of Center Units* Development of Teaching Skills, Strategies, and Knowledge

* The functions of the Transition Program and Development of Study, Learning and Coping Skills and Strategies are discussed in the NDU Spirit, Issue No. 38, 2006.

Faculty development is achieved through -

- | Seminars, conferences, workshops, courses for faculty and departments;
- | Consultations for faculty and departments; and
- | Grants, awards and, fellowships.

All the above also help junior faculty retention, promotion and tenure.

Seminars, workshops, courses, and seminars

One can be very knowledgeable in a certain discipline. To communicate this knowledge, however, requires special skills, strategies, and knowledge. Teaching excellence is not innate; it is acquired. Here are some subjects of workshops, courses, and seminars that can enhance and update faculty development and raise quality of teaching and learning:

- | New trends in higher education and the changing nature of the professorate;
- | General principles of pedagogy;
- | Ethics in university teaching and research;
- | Effective teaching skills and strategies to reach all students;
- | Modern theories of learning;
- | Critical and collaborative skills development;
- | Problem-based learning;
- | Case-method teaching;
- | Leading effective in-class discussion;
- | Teaching with academic journals (for graduate courses);
- | Teaching students with special needs and disabilities;
- | Part-time instructor professional development;
- | Engaging students in a learner-centered classroom and creating a learning atmosphere;" Teaching international students;
- | New faculty teaching/orientation program;
- | Teaching large classes;
- | Effective lectures and presentations;
- | Improving advising;
- | Relating to students;
- | Motivating students;
- | Giving interesting and challenging assignments;
- | Role of the teacher as mentor;
- | Giving effective class-notes to maximize learning; and
- | Preparing effective syllabi;

Other aspects of faculty development are dealt with by the Curriculum Development, Evaluation, and Assessment and Instructional Technology Development and Services Units.

Consulting Services

Personalized assistance or consultation has been proved to be more effective than group activities (e.g., conferences, seminars, etc.) for solving teaching problems and enhancing the academic development of faculty. Hence, to complement and support the above-mentioned programs, the Center offers a range of consulting-advising services on teaching and learning issues such as the following:

- | Designing effective syllabi and instructional materials;
- | Dealing with problematic students;
- | Teaching portfolio-dossier preparation for promotion and tenure;

- | Preparing for academic interview and negotiating an academic offer;
- | Motivating students;
- | Using interactive teaching strategies;
- | Planning student projects and writing assignments;
- | Helping faculty start new projects, publish their theses and write academic articles;
- | Deterring and combating plagiarism (Turnitin "is a commercially available online product that detects and reports instances of plagiarism in student papers, reports and essays bought or obtained through the Internet".)

Group and departmental consultations (offered upon request) are free and confidential.

Awards, Grants and Fellowships

Awards

To stimulate, recognize, appreciate and stimulate excellence in teaching, significant contribution to the quality of student learning, and contribution to student education and development, the Center grants individual, unit, and departmental awards. These awards are put in faculty members' files to be taken into consideration for promotion, merit salary increase and appointment renewal.

Distinguished Teaching Awards: these are awarded to faculty members for outstanding achievement in teaching, research and services to the University, the Center mission, and the community at large.

Teaching Unit Awards: These are granted to a department or group of faculty for their distinctive contribution to a program that has greatly improved teaching and learning.

Teacher of the Year Award: This is awarded annually to the full-time faculty member who has demonstrated excellence in teaching, mentoring and advising, showing genuine interest in students' academic performance and personal growth.

The Center has a Teaching Award Selection Committee. The Committee takes into consideration nominations advanced by students too. All awards are presented at the end of the academic year, on the Celebration of Teaching Day.

Grants and Fellowships

To encourage and support improvement in the quality of teaching and learning, the Center awards grants and fellowships to full-time faculty.

Teaching Development Grants: These grants are intended to develop new programs, teaching materials or teaching skills.

Teaching and Learning Grants: These are awarded to full-time faculty members for professional development activities: attending seminars, workshops and courses; developing courses; research; improving technological skills; integrating instructional technology in their teaching methodology; developing interdisciplinary courses; etc..

Release-time Teaching Fellowships: These allow full-time faculty members to improve their teaching and develop new courses when burdened with a full-time teaching load.

The Director of the Center administers these awards, grants and fellowships in close collaboration of the Office of V.P. for Academic Affairs. Some of the above-mentioned awards, grants, and fellowships are funded by individuals and business or industrial organizations, and others by the Office of the V.P. for Academic Affairs.

* "In the USA, the term evaluation is used to encompass a broader picture of examining effectiveness, and assessment to examine student learning outcomes. Some, to avoid confusions, use "student-learning assessment" in combination."

Curriculum Development, Evaluation and Assessment*

The University has an educational mission and vision and the Administration must know whether or not they have been realized and what are the reasons for failure, if any. The Centers, Offices and Units operating on the campus have each its own specific goals and objectives and they also must have the means for measuring the degree of success and the reasons for shortcomings. Faculties and departments must have the means of knowing whether their students have come up to expectations.

Faculty members set specific objectives for their courses. How do they know whether

these objectives have been achieved and what are the reasons for any failure? Faculty members teach, but do students learn? Are faculty members of high caliber? On what basis are goals and objectives determined? Programs, course contents, co-curricular activities change with time but have the University programs kept pace with time? Do the graduates respond to the needs of the social, political, economic, and business communities? What sort of information does the Administration rely on when drawing up policies and making decisions? Are students happy with their undergraduate and graduate experience at the University? If not, what can be done about it? Why do students drop a certain course? Are faculty members happy? If not, what are the reasons?

This Unit tries to answer to all these and other questions and find appropriate solutions to improve the quality of learning and teaching at the University. The goals of this Unit are as follows:

- | To develop a methodology, procedure and guideline for–
- | Determining interconnected goals at institutional, program and course levels;
- | Defining clear, meaningful and operational goals;
- | Preparing formalized and standardized evaluation and assessment forms;
- | Collecting relevant information for each type of goal;
- | Choosing appropriate types of assessment and evaluation methods;(quantitative and qualitative), for each type of goals.
- | To develop a plan for the assessment of student learning outcomes at the program and course levels, and a plan for institution-level assessment. These plans are interconnected and are part of the University's strategic planning. The program-level evaluation can be conducted by the Unit on behalf of the Administration, and/or by the Faculty to detect weaknesses of the programs.
- | To evaluate current pedagogy and academic programs to see how far their educational and learning goals are achieved, and to make recommendations, if necessary.
- | To evaluate proposed programs and make recommendations.
- | To research on non-academic aspects of the University, make diagnoses, pinpoint problem areas, draw the attention of the Administrators to them, and propose improvement.
- | To evaluate faculty for their teaching effectiveness for personnel decisions as well as for their own improvement.
- | To provide technical assistance for faculty in conducting educational research (i.e. conducting research on their teaching and students' learning): designing the research, collecting data, scanning survey data, making statistical analysis, interpreting, and reporting.

The Unit achieves its mission, goals and objectives by workshops, seminars, consultation, training, providing resource materials, etc. Services offered by the Unit include -

- | Classroom observation by Unit experts, discussion, and suggestions;
- | Mid-semester feedback analysis, discussion, and suggestions;
- | Video taping a lecture of an instructor, for the Unit experts to analyze the results;
- | Providing academic administrators with information on faculty teaching effectiveness for personnel decision;
- | Providing summative evaluation for administrative purposes;
- | Providing formative evaluation for diagnosis and development;

- | Helping Faculties and departments to review their programs and assess student learning;
- | Conducting research to assess institutional problems and needs;
- | Constructing effective tests;
- | Grading essays and term papers;
- | Testing and grading;
- | Conducting early course evaluation;
- | Assessing online and anonymous ongoing courses;
- | Classroom Assessment Techniques (CAT);
- | Examination scoring, grade curving, and reporting;
- | Assessing instructors and institutions;
- | Planning new courses and revising existing ones;
- | Helping individual faculty to design, plan and evaluate their teaching and student learning;
- | Evaluating graduate programs and quality of dissertations/theses;
- | Conducting course-instructor surveys;
- | Providing quick scoring and analysis of multiple-choice questions and reporting results;
- | Introducing the principles of assessing and learning;
- | Helping faculty and departments to use Teaching Questionnaire (TQ) Program (a program to help faculty members or departments to design questions for use in evaluating teaching effectiveness and student learning.)
- | Helping faculty conduct and analyze information about their teaching and their students' learning
- | Conducting annual exit study of faculty who leave the University of their own accord.

Instructional Technology Development and Services

New instructional technologies present exciting challenges and have a great potential to improve teaching and learning. More and more faculty show interest in integrating new instructional technology into their traditional teaching and student assessment. To get maximum advantage from these computer-aided tools and programs, however, faculty need well-organized and professional assistance and training.

The goals of the Unit are -

- | To provide assistance in finding, selecting and integrating new instructional technology;
- | To provide classroom support services related to new instructional technology (e.g. install, maintain, replace, repair classroom equipment, etc.)
- | To plan and coordinate the University's academic technology

The goals of the Unit are achieved through training, workshops, consultation, online tutorials, seminars, courses, demonstrations, etc.

Services offered to faculty by the Unit include guidance in the following:

- | Designing and developing interactive online resources for courses;
- | Faculty use of classroom presentation equipment, such as Powerpoint;
- | Use of new instructional tools and software;
- | Installation of computer-aided classrooms and halls for general use;
- | Building Webs;
- | Teaching with Blackboard;
- | Use of the eGradebook;

- | Use of Media Console;
- | Introduction of the Classroom/Student Response Systems (e.g., Clicker Technology);
- | Use of the Web to deliver courses;
- | Provision of educational media technology resources;
- | Use of new technology to conduct research; and
- | Solving classroom equipment problems.

The Unit collaborates closely with the Computer Center and the Information Technology Department of the University. It also has alliances with institutions outside campus.

Below are some of the publications of the Unit that contribute to the quality of teaching and learning:

Newsletter: this contains information about teaching, learning and Center activities and programs, announcements, names of outstanding campus teachers, etc.)

Survey Reports: these are the survey reports of the Curriculum Development, Evaluation, and Assessment unit.

Occasional Paper Series: this contains academic papers on excellence in teaching, results of longitudinal studies of student experiences at the University, faculty experiences at the University, etc..

Teaching Resource Manual. - Faculty Handbook. - Information for New Faculty. Guidelines for Preparing Teaching Portfolio. - Guidelines and Forms for Faculty Evaluation. - Readings on Teaching and Learning. - Guideline for Peer Observation and Forms - Plagiarism and Cheating.

Handbook for Assessment and Evaluation Procedure. This is prepared by the Curriculum Development, Evaluation, and Assessment Unit.

Guidelines for Developing Evaluation Plans. This is prepared by the Curriculum Development, Evaluation, and Assessment Unit.

Orientation Program for New Students.

Publications

Library and Resources Center (LRC)

"Knowledge is of two kinds. We know a subject ourselves, or we know where we can find information upon it."
Samuel Johnson

To support and promote the mission of the Center, the Center houses a collection of specialist books, journals, periodicals, magazines, films, videos, CD-ROMs related to university-level teaching, learning, assessment, evaluation, and instructional technology.

In addition to these print materials, the Center provides online articles, books, journals on issues related to teaching, learning, pedagogy, instructional technology, etc.

The Center also provides connections to other university libraries, teaching and learning centers worldwide, educators, research centers in the field of higher education, and academic societies.

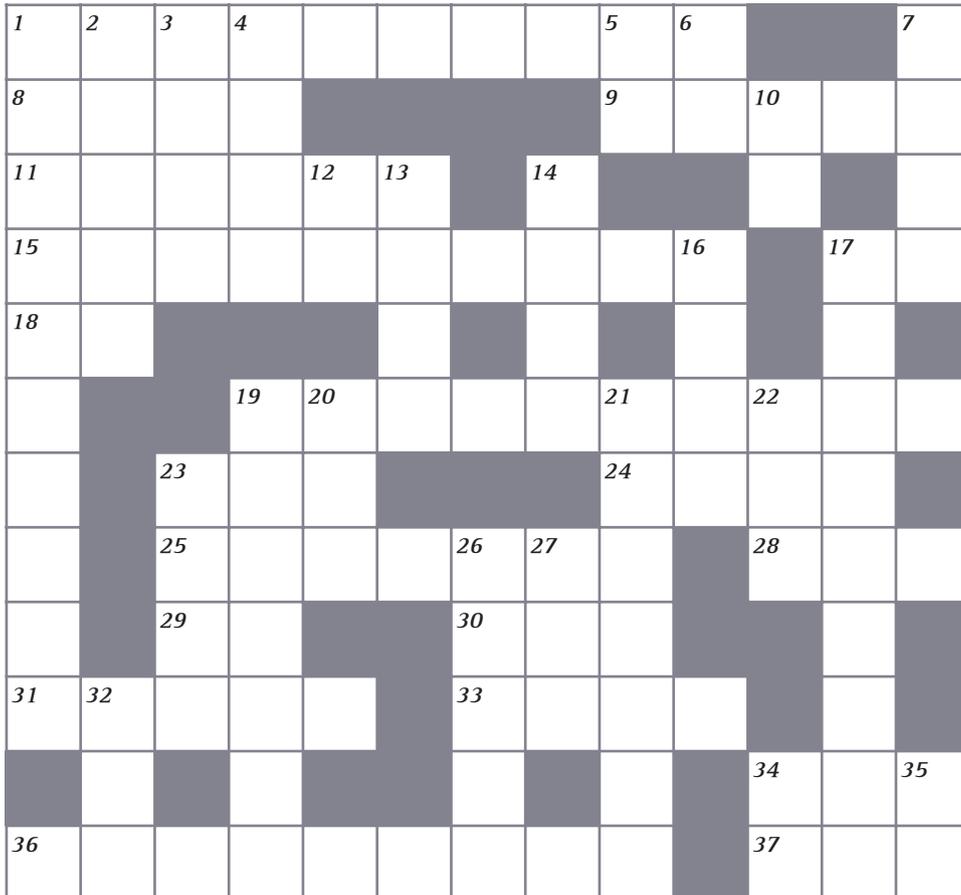
Materials on programs organized by the Center are kept in the archive section. To enhance the academic career of faculty, the Center maintains resources on: academic job search, writing cover letters, preparing CVs, preparing the teaching dossier (for promotion, tenure, teaching awards, sabbatical leave, etc.), interviewing for academic jobs, getting published, academic advising, research ethics, negotiating an academic job offer, preparing research statements, etc.

The Center also serves as teaching-learning laboratory, and meeting place for groups of faculty (Teaching Circles) to share their experience and exchange views on teaching and learning issues of interest to them.

The Center continuously updates and improves its resources.

Something for your grey matter

Crossword



Across:

1. given without reason, off-handed
 8. violent anger 9. blue-blooded, refined, superior 11. broad road 15. demolishing 17. Italian river 18. composed of fifty 19. indicated, appointed 23. large South American flightless bird 24. beers 25. payments overdue 28. demand 29. circular relationship 30. baby's bed 31. requirements 33. beneficiary of will 34. precious stone 36. proprietor 37. poem

Down:

1. step towards career 2. shouts in uncontrolled anger 3. grows old 4. temporary shelter 5. international body 6. therefore 7. circle meaning nothing 10. exist 12. Chaldean city 13. very long ages 14. circle 16. aim, target 17. urged, forced 19. mocks 20. auditory organ 21. more disagreeable 22. the English invite you to it 23. assault on a woman, plant giving seed 26. Nains 27. fish eggs 32. ego 34. depart 35. "... is what I call myself." (Sound of Music)

Answers for issue 39

Across: 1. ecosystems 9. alp 14. aim 12. ape 13. atop 15. steppes 17. neater 18. Tyne 19. at 20. P.T. 21. tariff 24. sam 27. rats 29. foal 11. fat 33. cycle 34. icicle 37. ultra 38. poor 39. elves 40. eearth 43. lea 44. parish 46. sea 48. list 50. grass 51. Essen
Down: 1. Eastertide (-time) 2. city 3. omen 4. yap 5. spear 6. testify 7. man 8. step 9. apt 10. pore 14. oats 16. pets 22. focus 23. fall 25. affairs 26. M.A. 28. tripe 30. letter 32. trash 33. cereals 35. collar 36. love 41. aids 42. then 44. P.S. 45. ate 47. e.g. 49. is

Answers for this issue
 Across: 1. gratuitous 8. rage 9. noble 11. avenue 15. destroying 17. Po 18. U.S. 19. designated 23. rea 24. ales 25. arrears 28. ask 29. pi 30. cot 31. needs 33. heir 34. gem 36. possessor 37. ode
 Down: 1. graduation 2. raves 3. ages 4. tent 5. UN 6. so 7. zero 10. be 12. Ur 13. cons 14. ring 16. goal 17. pressured 19. derides 20. ear 21. naster 22. tea 23. rape 26. aches 27. roe 32. ego 34. go 35. me