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Among the "glorious deeds" of pan-Arab satellite stations is the extent to which these channels reveal the blatant ignorance or disregard of Arabic-language principles by Arab nations - every principle whether written or oral. It is almost as if the Arabic-language does not stem from the Quraish Tribe, the largest Arab tribe, or the Holy Qur'an. And, it becomes even more blatant in the case of media professionals (mainly intruders) and everyone else, including the politicians that occupy front row seats.

Between channel zapping, you feel powerless when you read subtitles, listen to a dubbed movie, or watch a TV series with actors struggling to speak in classical Arabic. Furthermore, the news, talk shows, discussions, speeches, and advertisements completely stun you.

What's more, in the East or West, there appears to be a seemingly endless number of dialects, or even languages, spanning from one region to the other. To paraphrase Al-Mutanabbi, the renowned classical Arabic poet, this creates a situation in which the listener finds it impossible to understand a word without the aid of a translator. To make matters worse, reports published by international and local media outlets abound with new terms, which have neither been established nor checked for accuracy. On top of that, not even one of these media outlets assumes the responsibility of replacing erroneous terms with ones that are more accurate or correct. How can we then ask why our children, and even their school teachers and university professors, communicate as if they live in the Tower of Babel!?

Yes, the Arabic-language is in peril. And none other than its own sons are mutilating this language in conjunction with their mirroring satellite channels.

Has the Arabic-language become so insignificant to the extent that native speakers no longer value its importance as an essential component of their existentialist and civilized identity, and a foundation of their presence and role in the various disciplines of life?

Wake up "Arabic Nations"! Ignite the flame of your language and let it burn again in your schools, universities ... and satellite channels. Know this: a nation "dies" upon the death of its language!

A nation devoid of science or language!? God have mercy.

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The President's Message

The International Association of Universities (IAU) in its annual conference held at NDU last November convened under the theme of "The Role of Universities in Fostering the Culture of Dialogue and Understanding".

As you know, over a hundred and eighty participants from universities and organizations of higher education coming from over forty different countries. It was a great opportunity for the NDU community to host this important conference and participate in its activities. We all learned from each other and shared the different points of view and the diversity of perspectives in addressing this crucial and timely issue.

Among other questions asked in the conference was why the university has to play a role in this direction, and how it plays such a role? The "why" is related to the nature of the institution of higher education. The university is a place of analysis and critical thinking; it is a place of acquiring knowledge, discovering knowledge, and producing knowledge. Thus it is the proper institution that is directly involved in such a human and social endeavor. Also, in the process of learning the university acquires the skills and the attitude of tolerance. Tolerance itself requires a spirit of understanding, sharing, and mutual support. These attributes are expected to be practiced on campus, the campus of any university, and more so on campuses with cultural and educational diversities.

The "how" demands a plan of action to reinforce the spirit of tolerance and the attitude of dialogue at all levels on campus, and within all disciplines among faculties, branches, student and faculty cultural backgrounds. This is part of a strategic plan that envisions a strong intellectual bridge among nations and peoples of East and West.

Today, more than ever before, we have to respond to that call, and we have to deliver. I am sure you all share with me these thoughts.

Fr. Walid Moussa, S.T.D.

International Association of Universities

NDU Hosts the IAU 2009 Conference on “The Role of Higher Education in Fostering the Culture of Dialogue and Understanding”



❖ Participants at the IAU Conference in front of NDU



A conference on The Role of Higher Education in Fostering the Culture of Dialogue and Understanding was held at Notre Dame University between 4 and 6 November, 2009 under the auspices of the President of the Lebanese Republic, General Michel Sleiman, represented by the Minister of Information, Dr. Tarek Mitri.

The conference was attended by many Lebanese and international figures, among them the President of the Episcopal Commission of Universities, Bishop Youssef Bechara; Superior General of the Maronite Order of the Holy Virgin Mary, Abbot Semaan Abou Abdo; Head of Press Syndicate, Mohamad Baalbaki; President of International Association

of Universities (IAU), Juan Ramón de la Fuente; IAU Secretary-General, Eva Egron-Polak; Secretary general, Association of Arab Universities, Saleh Hashem; Director General, Higher Education, Ahmed Jammal; President of the National Centre for Research and Pedagogical Development, Leila Fayad; Former Director-General of UNESCO, Federico Mayor Zaragoza; President of Association of African Universities (AAU) Is-Haq Oloyede; President of the Union of Lebanese Universities, Hassan Chalabi; Director of the National News Agency, Mrs. Laure Saab; President of Antonine University, Fr. Antoine Rajeh; General Director of Issam Fares Foundation, retired General William Mojalli; President of the Global University, Former Minister Adnan Traboulsi; Director General of the Ministry of Power, Dr. Fadi Comair; Rector of Université Saint-Esprit de Kaslik (USEK), Fr. Hadi Mahfouz; Consul of Laos, Mr. Jack Hekayem; and several heads of Lebanese and Arab universities, deans of schools and colleges, as well as political, cultural, educational and intellectual personalities.

The conference was inaugurated by the welcome speech of the **Director of Public Relations at NDU, Mr. Souheil Matar**, who greeted the audience from universities from all over the world gathered in Beirut, which remains, despite fog and fume, the Lady of Cities and meeting point of the East. A documentary was then projected showing the history of NDU.

NDU President Father Walid Moussa then welcomed the guests who had overcome obstacles, ignored negative media reports, and disregarded rumors that Lebanon was in crisis, having been unable to form a government for the past five months. He added: “It is true that Lebanon has witnessed some political tension and disorder. However, on the human, social, and security fronts, life has not suffered much. And our conference precisely tackles fostering the culture of dialogue, which, we, hope, will soon solve our national issues in a spirit of unity, harmony, and equality ... This is Lebanon, a small country (10,452Km²) with a population of less than four million



❖ Leading personalities at the IAU Conference.



❖ Left to right: Jocelyne Issa (NDU), Mrs. Monica de la Fuente, Eva Egron Polak and Hilligje Van't Land



❖ on the left: Dr. Tarek Mitri, Minister of Information.



❖ on the right: Juan Ramón de la Fuente, IAU Secretary-General.

but with eighteen co-existing sects. Lebanon is in itself a model for the theories and views we shall be examining during our conference. However, the main question is this: can these groups of diverse religious backgrounds peacefully co-exist within these constricted borders and socially complex contexts without resorting to conflict, hostility, and animosity?"

Fr. Moussa affirmed that the university's mission fell within the umbrella of this multifaceted dialogue, adding: "We are living in an age of globalization, which necessitates dialogue that transcends the boundaries of geography, religion, ethnicity, and ideology. On top of this, the culture of dialogue takes on different dimensions that transcend Notre Dame University and Lebanon to touch the world and all universities around the world." The President's address was followed by a documentary film on the IAU and the several conferences it has convened around the world since its onset. Then IAU President Juan Ramón de la Fuente called for opening a window to listen to others, share their cultures in

their differences, and deal with common teaching and research responsibilities. He added: "Cultural education is among the best choices for the building the future of societies".

The Director General of Higher Education Dr. Ahmad Jammal briefly presented the system of higher education in Lebanon. He said: "When different groups of humans roamed and met, either a clash or fusion will ensue. Overall, fusions have usually resulted in the renaissance of civilizations and constituted a source of information exchange, creativity, dynamism, and progress... The particularly positive role of universities in this interactive process appears at this level.

This role becomes more significant at the conflict level, which recently began to appear, nurtured by negative theories that are limited in scope and vision such as the theory of 'The Clash of Civilizations.'"

Minister of Information Dr. Tarek Mitri considered that "dialogue is not only an intellectual issue, rather the power to really influence positions taken in times of conflict as well as in times of agreement.

H.E. the President of the Republic reminded us at the United Nations in September 2008 that the philosophy of the Lebanese existence is based on dialogue and harmony, so we need to build trust between the Lebanese in order to give a new meaning to citizenship and equality while respecting diversity or co-existence as it is stated in the Lebanese constitution. Moreover, he stated loudly and clearly that Lebanon should be adopted as a center of dialogue for civilizations, because no other country in the world can assume the role of a laboratory for dialogue as Lebanon can".

At the end of the opening ceremony, NDU President offered medals of appreciation to Minister Mitri and IAU President, de la Fuente.

In the first session chaired by de la Fuente, the President of Culture of Peace Foundation, Former Director-General of UNESCO, Co-Chair of the High Level Group United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, Federico Mayor Zaragoza



❖ Frederico Mayor Zaragoza, former UNESCO Director-General.

considered that “humanity is at a turning point of history, thus it should choose the future it wants, because we are one big family living on one planet and facing one fate. Therefore, we have to work together in order to build a sustainable society based on human rights, freedom, peace, and justice”.

The second session chaired by Janyne Hodder, President of The College of the Bahamas, tackled the objectives and means to develop the culture of dialogue and the challenges from institutional, local and global perspectives. Key note speakers were Is-Haq Oloyede, Vice-Chancellor of the [HYPERLINK “http://www.unilorin.edu.ng”](http://www.unilorin.edu.ng) University of Ilorin in Nigeria and President of the Association of African Universities (AAU); Antoine Messarra, Member of the Constitutional Committee in Lebanon; Georges Nahas, Rector of Balamand University in Lebanon; and Damianos Kattar, Former Minister of Finances and Former Minister of Economy and Trade in Lebanon. Following lunch, two parallel sessions took place in Friends’ Hall and Abu Khater Auditorium successively. The first session chaired by Norbert Kis, Vice-Rector of Corvinus University of Budapest, tackled the issue of shaping the future citizen and the competencies graduates should have to be prepared for effective intercultural dialogue. Keynote speakers were Darla Deardorff, Executive Director of the Association of International Education

Administrators from Duke University, USA (10 min. Video Conference); Simon Ho, Vice Rector for Academic Affairs at the University of Macau, China; Leila Fayad, President of the National, Centre of Research and pedagogical Development in Lebanon; and Yazmín Cruz López, Project Officer of the Global University Network for Innovation (GUNI), Spain.

The second session chaired by Agneta Bladh, Rector of the University of Kalmar, Sweden discussed dialogue as a means to conflict prevention, management and resolution, studying the Lebanese case. Keynote speakers included Antoine Rajeh, President of Antonine University, Lebanon; Amr Galal El-Adawi, President of Beirut Arab University; and Michel Nehme, Director of University International Affairs Office at NDU.

On the second day of the conference, chaired by the Vice-Chancellor of Delhi University, India, the subject of instilling the culture of dialogue in higher education was discussed. The Head of the Department of Higher Education and History Teaching in Strasbourg, France, Sjur Bergan, held that development cannot take place unless we assess the ideas we receive. The Secretary General of the Association of Arab Universities based in Jordan, Saleh Hashem, stressed the importance of dialogue between the different civilizations, especially after the wars from which the peoples of the world suffered. The Coordinator of the Lebanese Center for Societal Research at NDU, Dr. Abdo Kahi, asked about the possibility of dialogue within education in general and higher education in particular. After a short break, two sessions were held in Issam Fares Hall and Friends’ Hall respectively to discuss research and cultural studies for enhancing dialogue through curricular innovation. Former Rector of the University of Geneva, Switzerland, and Honorary President of the International Association of Universities (IAU), Justin Thorens chaired the session. Keynote speakers included Saouma Bou Jaoude, Professor at the American University of Beirut; Tore Saetersdal, Director of the Nile Basin Research Programme, University of Bergen, Norway; and Edward Alam, Secretary-General of the Council for Research in Values and Philosophy, Lebanon.

The afternoon session chaired by Patricia Pol, Vice-President of University Paris 12 – Val de Marne, France and Assad Eid, NDU Vice-President for Sponsored Research and Development, NDU tackled the role of leaders, administrators, faculty and students in nurturing a culture of dialogue and understanding on campus.

The third parallel session tackled the subject of internationalization of higher education – cross-border and at home – promoting the culture of dialogue and appreciation for diversity. It was chaired by the Vice-Chancellor of University of Ghana, Clifford Tagoe. Keynote Speakers were Alf Rasmussen, Senior Advisor at the Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research, Department of Higher Education, Oslo, Norway; and B.A. Digolo, Dean of the School of visual and performing arts, Kenyatta University, Kenya.

The other parallel session, chaired by Imma Tubella, President of Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (UOC), Spain, discussed ICTs as Facilitators or Obstacles to Inter-Cultural Dialogue in Higher Education. Speakers were Bakary Diallo, Rector of African Virtual University, Kenya and Ana Perona-Fjeldstad, Executive Director of the European Wergeland Centre in Norway.

The closing session was chaired by IAU Secretary-General Eva Egron-Polak, who confirmed that the topics discussed during the conference were a means for reaching a peaceful, productive, and harmonious world that transcends the borders and distances, which separate peoples and still constitute obstacles for interaction between races, languages, and ethnicities. The Director of Mykolas Romeris University, which will be hosting the IAU International Conference in June 2010, spoke briefly before showing a documentary on his University in Lithuania.

IAU President, Juan Ramón de la Fuente expressed his deep appreciation and thanks to NDU for having hosted the IAU Conference. NDU President Fr. Walid Moussa also thanked the international guests whose presence contributed to the success of the conference.

At the end, IAU Secretary-General presented the following recommendations:

- 1- Respecting the other despite his differences.
- 2- Recognizing the contributions of civilizations and their impact on our daily lives.
- 3- Opening our hearts and empathizing with others.
- 4- Braving the unknown.
- 5- Considering the other as different and enriching.
- 6- Considering the role of the marginalized.
- 7- Respecting time when approaching the other.
- 8- Focusing on the role of higher education by coordinating with the people concerned inside and outside the university.
- 9- Coordinating with NDU to publish the proceedings of the Conference on a special page on the internet.
- 10- Gathering international advertisement related to dialogue between cultures
- 11- Preparing a common publication between the European Council and NDU
- 12- Obtaining the best report published on the proceedings of the Conference
- 13- Considering the cultural identity as the most important threats of globalization

It is worth noting that IAU 2010 International Conference, which will take place in Mykolas Romeris University, Vilnius, Lithuania, on 25-26 June, 2010, will address the theme of: *Ethnics and Values in Higher Education in the Era of Globalization: What Role for the Disciplines?*
 HYPERLINK "http://www.unesco.org/iau/conferences/pdf/Vilnius_2010.pdf"

Press Secretary

Report translated and edited by Christine Rayess-Atallah

Dr Edward Alam: Election to Philosophy Council



On 7th October, 2009, the NDU President's Office announced that Dr. Edward Alam had been elected General Secretary of the Council for Research in Values and Philosophy (www.crvp.org), which was formally organized as Council and incorporated in Washington, D.C. in 1983 with international membership.

An office of the Council is to be established at NDU. Dr. Alam's responsibilities are to include the development of an MA degree in Oriental Christianity, and the commitment to interreligious and intercultural dialogue on a global scale.

Fr. Walid Moussa, NDU President, asks all to join him in wishing Dr. Alam much success in his new post.

Academic And Student Activities



Lebanese
Emigration
Research
Center

Joint project with Relief International

Thursday 23rd July 2009

Reported by Damian Naylor and Ali Ajrouch, LERC Interns



On Thursday, 23rd July, 2009, LERC hosted a presentation for high-level officials from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Relief International (RI) to show the results of the joint project executed between RI and LERC "Profiling Expatriates' Prospects for Local Development Partnership" from December 2008 to March 2009.

Attending were Ms. Denise Herbol, Mission Director for USAID in Lebanon, Dr. Sateh Arnaout, Advisor to the Presidency of Council of Ministers, Mr. Imad Hamze, Chief of Party of Relief International in Lebanon, Mr. Amin Nehme, Director of LDN, and from NDU, Dr. Assaad Eid representing NDU President Fr. Walid Moussa, LERC Adjunct Researcher Dr. Eugene Sensenig-Dabbous with a group of his students, LERC Director Ms. Guita Hourani and staff, researchers and interns at LERC.

To give a detailed description of the EMLED project conducted by Relief International and LERC, Project Manager at LERC Ms. Basma Abdel Khalek presented the methods and conclusions of the research. The project surveyed emigrants from Northern and Southern Lebanon, specifically Akkar and Jezzine, on their willingness to assist in community-building projects in their respective villages. The research concluded that an overwhelming majority, approximately 95% of those profiled, demonstrated a readiness to assist in local development.

Ms. Hourani and our distinguished guests used this opportunity to acknowledge the hard work of Mr. Ali Hijazi and Ms. Basma Abdel Khalek in managing the joint project. Their dedication ensured the success and growth of the project.



LERC Participates in a Migration Expert Meeting at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Tuesday 13th October 2009, Beirut, Lebanon

Reported by Basma Abdel Khalek, LERC Project Manager



❖ From L to R: Mr. Haitham Jomaa (Directorate of Emigrants), Mr. Saïeddine Abaro (UNDP), Mr. Joseph Wehbe and Mr. Yehya Afara (Directorate of General Security), Oct 2009.

In his welcoming note, the Director of the Directorate of Emigrants at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Haitham Jomaa, stated that Lebanon is participating in this Global Forum for the third consecutive year, after Brussels in 2007 and Manila in 2008. Mr. Jomaa added that this meeting was also an occasion for government institutions and the private sector that deal with the issues of migration and development to set

up an expert working team to prepare recommendations and to later follow up on the Forum's proceedings. Following Mr. Jomaa's statement, Ms. Magida Karaki from the Directorate of Emigrants introduced the audience to the main points of focus of the Forum. She firstly exposed the results of the previous forums and then detailed the issues related to migration and development that will be raised in the forthcoming

meeting in Athens. At the invitation of the Directorate of Emigrants of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, LERC Director Ms. Guita Hourani attended the preparatory meeting for the Third International Forum on Migration and Development that will take place in Athens on November 4-5, 2009. Ms. Hourani was accompanied by LERC project manager Ms. Basma Abdel Khalek. The meeting was attended by high-level officers from the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the Lebanese Directorate of General Security, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Investment Development Authority of Lebanon (IDAL), the Ministry of Social Affairs, the National Institution for Employment, and the General Directorate of Statistics, among many others.

meeting in Athens.

The floor was then opened for the attendees to comment and present their interventions in order for the Directorate to synthesize the main challenges that face Lebanon as both a sending and receiving country.

The meeting was closed with the decision to have the attendees become a committee that meets regularly to further discuss the subject.

LERC's Roberto Khatlab at Brazil Conference

Reported by Elie Nabhan



❖ Consul General of Brazil in Lebanon Honorable Michael Geep poses before the steps of Itamaraty Palace venue of the Conference (Oct 2009).

The 2nd Conference of Brazilians Living Abroad, 14th-16th October, 2009, organized by the Ministry of External Relations of Brazil created a forum in Rio de Janeiro for politicians and academics from countries where Brazilians live, from the United States, Japan, Australia, Europe and Africa.

Mr. Roberto Khatlab, the Latin American Liaison Officer of the Lebanese Emigration Research Centre at Notre Dame University-Louaizé, who has been living in Lebanon for over two decades, represented Lebanon in company with the Consul

General of Brazil in Lebanon Honorable Mr. Michael Geep. They were the only participants from the Middle East. In his contribution, Mr. Khatlab pointed out that Brazilians living in Lebanon, who number up to 10,000 persons, wanted to have greater contact with the culture, language and literature of their country of origin. For his part, Mr. Khatlab said that he would soon teach literature as part of a course entitled Portuguese Language and Literature being offered this year by the Holy Spirit University in Kaslik, Lebanon.

Lebanese-Norwegian scholar on Language and Identity

Wednesday 17th June 2009, LERC, NDU

Reported by Elie Nabhan



❖ Dr. Wardini delivers his lecture on The Onomastic Approach to Language, Identity and Society at the NDU Auditorium (June 2009).

On Wednesday, 17th June, 2009, LERC hosted a lecture titled Language, Identity, and Society: An Onomastic Approach by Dr. Elie Wardini in Abu Khater Auditorium. Present were representatives from the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Beirut, including Counselor Mr. Martin Yttervik, top NDU officials, deans, lecturers, staff and students.

Dr. Elie Wardini, born in Bikfaya in the Metn district of Lebanon, is Professor of Arabic and Semitic Languages as well as Head of Middle Eastern Studies, Department of Oriental Languages, at Stockholm University in Sweden.

Dr. Wardini is the author of several publications, his most acclaimed being *A Dictionary of Lebanese Place Names: Mount Lebanon and North Lebanon: English – Arabic*.

Lebanese-Colombians visit LERC

Reported by Elie Nabhan



❖ Poring over a collection at the Museum (left to right) Ms. Guita Hourani with Ms. B. Abdel Khalek translating for Dr. Héctor Romano Marún and Mr. Oscar Bechara as Fr. Naji Zouein looks on (June 2009).

On Tuesday, 30th June, 2009, Dr. Héctor Romano Marún and Mr. Oscar Bechara, both Colombians of Lebanese descent, came accompanied by Fr. Naji Zouein, Head of the Maronite Mission in Colombia, on their visit to the Lebanese Emigration Research Center at NDU. Dr. Marún, a retired lawyer and journalist, can trace his origins back to the Northern Lebanese town of Hadath El Jebbe while the origins of Mr. Bechara lie in the city of Zahle. Fr. Zouein is a Maronite missionary of wide experience in South

America; prior to his post in Colombia, he served the Maronite community in Argentina.

Dr. Marún is also a generous contributor to the Lebanon and Migration Museum at NDU.

Dr. Marún, Mr. Bechara and the Center owe much thanks to Fr. Zouein for his efforts to strengthen the network between the community in Colombia and Lebanon and for promoting LERC.

Lebanese-Argentinean historian visits LERC

Reported by Elie Nabhan



❖ Professor W.A Muller (front right) donating and recording materials for the Lebanese Emigration Archives and Database with LERC indexer Mrs. L. Haddad and LERC Latin American Liaison Officer Mr. R. Khatlab (July 2009).

On Wednesday, 15th July, 2009, LERC welcomed Professor Walter Amilcar Muller (Moujir), an Argentinean researcher of Lebanese descent. His grandfather, Ahmed Moujir, emigrated from Deir Ntar in South Lebanon to Rosario at the end of the 19th century. He is professor of History at the Técnico Superior en Administración de Empresas, researcher at the Biblioteca Nacional de la República Argentina and member of the Sociedad Libanesa de Rosario. He discussed with LERC's Director Ms. Guita Hourani his interest in assisting LERC particularly in its collection of

Lebanese migration heritage in Argentina and matters of research. Mr. Walter presented LERC with original letters, documents and photos from the Lebanese Community in Rosario, photos of the Lebanese Community in the Canary Islands, and letters and correspondence sent between this community and family members in Rosario for electronic conservation. He gave further documentation as an outright present. A decision was reached to have Dr. Muller join LERC as an Adjunct Associate Researcher and to appoint him Liaison Officer for Argentina.

Artist Maurice Salamé and wife visit LERC

Reported by Elie Nabhan



❖ Artist Maurice Salamé and wife Bernadette stand beside the Evacuation painting at the Lebanon and Migration Museum at NDU (July 2009).

Internationally renowned, Lebanese-born artist and painter Mr. Maurice Salamé, accompanied by his wife Bernadette, paid a visit to the Lebanese Emigration Research Center on 6th July, 2009. At the Center they met an old friend, LERC Director Ms. Guita Hourani, and were introduced to LERC's premises, infrastructure and the Lebanese Emigration Archives and Database (LEAD). During an official trip to Australia in July 2008, representing

NDU/LERC at the Maronite Youth Day, Ms. Hourani was warmly welcomed and given accommodation by Mr. and Mrs. Salamé in Sydney. Mr. Salamé was the first artist to donate one of his paintings to the Lebanese and Migration Museum. The title of his painting is Evacuation, which illustrates his experience of being evacuated during the Hezbollah-Israel War of July 2006. Mr. Salamé graduated from the famed Academy of Fine Arts in Rome in 1967.

He was a recipient of the Academy's prestigious Minerva Medal for best painter. Apart from teaching and exhibiting, Mr. Salamé was commissioned by the Nigerian Government in 1973 to produce 300 African-inspired paintings to decorate the walls of an international hotel in Illorin, Nigeria. Mr. Salamé has continued to paint and he is always learning new artistic techniques, lately developing skills in etching and lithography.

Tokyo University Professors' visit

Reported By Damian Naylor, LERC intern

On 17 and 18 August, 2009, LERC received researchers from Tokyo University in Japan. After a light breakfast, Dr. Hidemitsu Kuroki, Mr. Ikeda (preparing a Ph.D. in Anthropology), Professor Suzuki, Prof. Izuka, Prof. Majima and Professor Mio were introduced to the LERC materials and resources to prepare future work together.

Their fields cover Modern History of Syria and Lebanon, Modern History of Brazil, and Modern Islamic Thought. As the Lebanese with their twofold culture have made their mark in all these areas of study, the visitors were able to profit greatly from their contact with LERC.

Dr. Kuroki expressed enthusiasm and hope that the relationship between LERC and Tokyo University would be a long and fruitful one. He himself is researching Confessionalism and Clientelism in Lebanon.

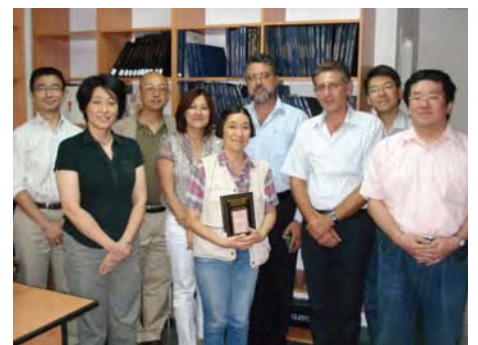
LERC was then visited by H.E. Fares Said, the Lebanese Ambassador to Paraguay, who wished to explain more about Lebanese migration in Latin America. He spoke not only about the Lebanese community in Paraguay, but also about the Japanese community in Paraguay and how they had immersed themselves in the social and economic fabric of Paraguay.



❖ Dr. Hidemitsu Kuroki delivering his speech at NDU's Auditorium (Aug 2009).



❖ Ms. Guita Hourani acknowledges the book presented by H.E. Fares Eid to LERC to mark the occasion (Aug 2009).



❖ End of Day II: Souvenir photo at LERC (from left to right) Prof. Majima, Prof. Mio, Prof. Suzuki, Mrs. L. Haddad, Prof. Ijima, Mr. R. Khatlab, Mr. E. Nabhan, Dr. H. Kuroki and Prof. Izuka (Aug 2009).

Brazilian Professor visits LERC

Wednesday 23rd September 2009, LERC, NDU

Reported by Elie Nabhan

The Lebanese Emigration Research Center welcomed to its premises Professor Miriam Abduche Kaiuca, the Vice General Director of the School of Application at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ) in Brazil. Professor Kaiuca was accompanied by her husband Mr. João Alfredo Navarro da Costa de Artagão, an economist, and Mr. Roberto Khatlab, LERC's Latin American Liaison Officer, who was instrumental in arranging the visit.

Professor Kaiuca is currently researching her PhD Thesis, at the UFRJ, that studies 9th and 12th century Arab mathematical philosophers and their contribution to the philosophical development of Western civilization, and scientific life. Mr. Khatlab is the coordinator of this research in Lebanon.

Professor Kaiuca donated to LERC a collection of original photos, documents and identity and family registration cards on behalf of her family and the Bedran and Ananias families, who are all Brazilians of Syrian and Lebanese descent currently living in Rio de Janeiro.

Professor Kaiuca also donated to LERC a book from Libania Nacif Xavier entitled *Memórias da Tia Hilda: História de Uma Família de Imigrantes Libaneses No Brasil* written by Hilda Nascif of Rio de Janeiro.



❖ Professor Kaiuca (left) presenting Director Hourani with some original photos of Lebanese migrant families in Brazil (Sept 2009).



❖ Brazilians at LERC with staff (from left to right): Mr. Artagão, Mr. Khatlab, Prof. Kaiuca, Dir. Hourani, Mr. Nabhan, and Ms. Abdul Khalek (Sept 2009).

Lebanese-Brazilian Playwright's Visit

Reported by Elie Nabhan



❖ Brazilian playwright Samir Yazbek presents LERC Director Guita Hourani (October 2009).

On Wednesday, 14th October, 2009, renowned Brazilian playwright Mr. Samir Yazbek visited LERC to find out more about the Center. His parents emigrated from Gebrayel in North Lebanon in the 1950's. They stayed temporarily in Brazil and Colombia, only to settle finally in Brazil, where Mr. Yazbek was born.

Mr. Yazbek is a renowned author and producer of several plays and pieces of high drama. He presented to LERC two of his books of plays and a beautifully produced booklet containing copies of the reviews and accolades he received in the Brazilian press, especially those in Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo.

Mr. Yazbek expressed his amazement at the diversity of Lebanese society and its contradictions observed in the streets of Beirut in particular. He had seen Baalbeck and has been astounded by its architecture.

Raff Ellis and Kisses from a Distance

Reported by Elie Nabhan



❖ Mr. Raff Ellis delivers his lecture (Oct 2009).

On Thursday, 22nd October, 2009, LERC invited American of Lebanese descent Raff Ellis to lecture on his book, *Kisses from a Distance*, tracing the history of his ancestors' emigration to the United States. The moderator was Dr. George Abdelnour, NDU's Fulbright Resident Fellow, who said the guest speaker had spun his family's oral history into an engrossing account brimming with little-known history.

Mr. Ellis then began his presentation of the book. He explained that the first wave of immigration to the U.S. started in the mid-1880's and lasted until the outbreak of World War I. Lebanon at the time was under Ottoman rule. "The principal reason for the first wave of exodus was rampant poverty," explained Raff Ellis, Those who left during this period were mainly poor Maronite farmers or laborers from Mount Lebanon but also Orthodox Christians who were traders or who belonged to the urban merchant class.

Sumaya Youssef Assaf donates to LERC

Thursday 30th October 2009, LERC, NDU

Reported by Elie Nabhan



❖ Mrs. Sumaya Youssef Assaf (left) with Mrs. Nadia Talhouk Assaf at the Lebanon and Migration Museum at NDU (Oct 2009).

On Thursday, 30th October, 2009, Mrs. Sumaya Youssef Assaf, Venezuelan national and Lebanese return migrant, visited LERC accompanied by her cousin, Mrs. Nadia Talhouk-Assaf, who visited the Center as one of Les Amis du Portugal in May 2009. She returned with her brother, Mr. Toufik Talhouk, to donate over fifty original photos of their late father Mr. Melhem Talhouk. She has also introduced Mrs. Salma Pualuan (BouAlwan), a Lebanese born in Chile, who also donated photos, documents and a painting related to her family's migration.

LERC took this opportunity to show Mrs. Nadia Talhouk-Assaf the collections she and her brother had donated prominently displayed in the Lebanon and Migration Museum at NDU. Needless to say that she was delighted and spent some time with Mrs. Sumaya Youssef Assaf carefully examining the collection.

FBA&E



It gives the department of Hospitality and Tourism great pleasure and pride to announce that on Thursday, July 29th, 2009, at the hotel AL BOUSTAN, during the awards distribution ceremony of the annual culinary contest organized by Académie Libanaise de la Gastronomie in May, 2009, two NDU students of the Hospitality and Tourism Department (HTM) in the FBA&E received individually the following awards:

Toni Nasr: Best Lebanese Traditional Taste Award
Marc Chakar: Best Lebanese Traditional Taste Award

Moreover, Toni Nasr came in first among all contestants and won the ultimate prize; consequently he was awarded a two-month training in France at **Ecole Culinaire** Alain Ducasse on full sponsorship basis. Both students were also awarded a US\$300 cash prize. It is worth noting that during this contest all major universities with a hospitality department were competing.

Ghassan Beyrouthy (Ph.D. abd)

Chairperson

Faculty of Business Administration & Economics

Department of Hospitality & Tourism Management, NDU

e-Mail: gbeyrouthy@ndu.edu.lb

Designing for “Real”

The Social Club of Zouk Mosbeh.

Report by Srour Abdul Ahad

INTRODUCTION:

The Faculty of Architecture, Art and Design offered third-year architecture students a rare opportunity, namely a competition for designing a Social Club from which the residents of Zouk Mosbeh, of all ages and sexes, can benefit all year long.

This competition was proposed by the Dean of FAAD, Mr. Habib Melki, and the Vice President of the Municipality of Zouk Mosbeh, Mr. Georges Mghames. It took almost one year for the latter, along with Mr. Nicolas Gabriel of the Architecture Department, to prepare and organize this competition for it to be integrated in the ARP 444 course (Architectural Design IV) of the Spring 2009 term.



THE PROJECT:

Context and Aim of the Project:

The goal of this project was to create a building on a very limited plot of land (in front of the church and in the midst of a relatively dense urban area), consisting of a covered parking lot, a multi-sports field and a social club. Here arose various difficulties because not only was there a narrow and confined strip of land to deal with but also the need to optimize the land use while providing all required services. The major difficulty of this project was, however, to comply with the need to include, in one building, many functions accommodating people of different ages without causing any sort of overlapping mutual disturbance.

Program:

Furthermore, the building requested by the Municipality of Zouk Mosbeh, had to contain a playground for children, a sports field for young people with changing rooms, spectators' seats and a youth social club, a landscaped area with seats to offer interaction of the parents with their children and finally a zone dedicated to the elderly. In addition to these services and activities special care was to be taken for physically handicapped people through maintaining leveled floors, ramps, and elevator.

PERSONAL INPUT / EXPERIENCE:

I have tried to meet all these challenges by opting for practicality and sociability. These guiding choices were achieved by considering minimum circulation for the elderly and pleasant promenades for the youngsters. The opening towards the church made the project a natural extension of the latter so people would feel welcome whether they were passing by or coming from the church. The socio-cultural symbolic dimension of the place was thus enhanced and therefore the sense of belonging to the community.

Another dimension of the project was that of the public parking lot that will help reduce the scarcity of parking places. Thirty-seven cars can be housed in the first basement, easily accessible yet discretely hidden. Required by the program, social mingling is favored in the cafeteria, the landscaped areas, and the modulations of the urban benches, sports, and children's playground, all in a transparently inviting setting.

I may also add that due to the fact that I have lived for more than three years in this "village city", I have developed a feeling of commitment and may be passion towards it. My motivation was mainly to be able to see (once the project is realized) the happiness of the families watching their children play while the elderly are serenely enjoying their retirement.



JURY AND PRIZES:

The Jury was composed of the following members: Mr. Habib Melki, Dean of FAAD, Dr. Jean-Pierre el Asmar, Chairman of the Architecture Department, Mr. Georges Mghames, Vice-President of the Municipality of Zouk and Director of NDU Press, Mr. Sélim Matta, Engineer of the Municipality, and Mr. Jacques Akiki, Lawyer of the Municipality. It is worth noting that both instructors of the ARP 444 course (Architectural Design IV), namely Mr. Nicolas Gabriel and Dr. Antoine Fichfich, organized and

attended the Jury but were not voting members. They were however the only ones responsible for the grading of the project.

The ceremony of delivering the prizes took place in the headquarters of the Municipality of Zouk-Mosbeh on July 23rd, 2009. Three prizes were accorded by the Jury; the first prize, 1,500,000 LL, went to Srou Abdul Ahad (the author), and the second was granted ex æquo to Christelle El Hani and Sami Rashkidi (750,000 LL for each).



◊ Srou Abdul Ahad presenting his project.



THANKS:

Having the opportunity to work on real projects is by far more meaningful than doing models with plastic trees and computer-animated perspectives. This opportunity was made open to us mainly due to the efforts of many people whom I would like to thank in person; Father Walid Moussa (President of NDU) for fostering this constructive exchange between NDU and its surrounding community, Dr. Ameen Rihani (VP, Academic Affairs) for his guidance and support, Mr. Suheil Mattar (Presidential Advisor & Director General,

Public Relations & Info) for his invaluable assistance, Mr. Habib Melki (Dean of FAAD) and Mr. Jean-Pierre el Asmar (Chair of the Arch. Department) for their academic support and encouragement, Mr. Georges Mghames (Vice-President of the Zouk-Mosbeh Municipality and Director of NDU Press) and Mr. Nicolas Gabriel (Faculty and Instructor of the course) for their time and dedication in preparing and organizing this competition, and Dr. Antoine Fichfich (Co-instructor of the course) for his continuous feedback and support. My thanks go also

to the President of the Municipality of Zouk Mosbeh, Mr. Elias el Hajj and through him to the Jury members and all the municipal council for the trust they have put in NDU, its Faculty Members, and its students. One final word: it was an honor for me to be working for the people of Zouk-Mosbeh.

Sincerely,
Srour Abdul Ahad



First Middle East – Africa Student Professional Development Conference, May 2009

ASME Middle East – Africa SPDC 2009

May 15 - 16, 2009

Notre Dame University

LEBANON



Lebanon was the host nation for the First Middle East - Africa SPDC after consultation with the ASME, since more than fifty percent of the student members in the District belong to Lebanon. Lebanon's small area meant that transportation was simple for the SPDC's participants. Logistically, it was the best possible venue.



NDU Main Campus – The Venue

After the success of last year's Smart Robotics Competition, the ASME – NDU Student Section was given the privilege of hosting the district's (Middle East – Africa region a.k.a. District J) first SPDC. The Student Professional Development Conference is a yearly conference (within each district) where student sections from the entire district compete in several contests and attend leadership workshops.

At the opening ceremony speeches emphasized NDU's support to student activities, the committee's outstanding job in hosting this SPDC and ASME's involvement with students and academic life. During the ceremony, Mr. Usman Bin Younos, ASME representative,

presented Fr. Salim el-Rajji, director of the Student Activities Office, a commemorative plaque, thanking NDU for hosting the SPDC.

The oral presentations tackled subjects relevant to our daily lives. Carmen Chraim, from the American University of Beirut, won the first place with her presentation on Wind Energy in Lebanon. She will be the first to represent the District in the international competition, at the International Mechanical Engineering Conference and Exposition (IMECE 09) in Orlando, Florida

The posters were hung in the Friends' Hall, where most of the conference took place. This setting provided all participants plenty of time to check out the participating posters. The competition was so closely fought that it actually resulted in a tie. Patrick Jreijiri, from Notre Dame University, and Sarah Karam, from the American University of Beirut, jointly won the First Place prize of US\$200.

The yearly-awaited robotics competition was the premier contest of this SPDC. More than twelve teams registered for the contest, of which only seven managed to show their working designs. With robotic-themed DJ music in the background, and hundreds of spectators and photographers, the competition was intense.

The fiery competition resulted in Notre Dame University triumphantly winning both first and second prizes. Alain Achkar's robot took first position, while

the robot of Charles Haddad, Georges Akiki and Jessica Ghobril claimed the second position. Alain will be the first from our District to compete on the international level, at IMECE 09.

Mechatronics Competition

Mechatronics is a newly emerging field combining the worlds of mechanics, control and electronics. It is taught as a senior level course in major Lebanese universities. The organizing committee envisioned promoting this field by organizing the first ever mechatronics competition to take place at an SPDC.

Fourteen students competed in building the best circuit in a minimum amount of time and using the fewest components. The competition took two and a half hours, after which, student Alain Achkar, from Notre Dame University, claimed the first prize.



Entrepreneurship and Leadership Seminars

Two professional development seminars took place at the conference. The first tackled the entrepreneurship field. Mr. Antoine Abou Samra, managing director of BADER Young Entrepreneurs Program, explained the various strategies needed to tackle the market and to promote new products and ideas

Mr. Bchara Bujawde, project manager at D.G.Jones – Lebanon, gave students an insight into the world of project management. Various case studies provided by Mr. Bujawde helped to clarify some management concepts.

Lunches

Lunches were also planned as an opportunity for SPDC participants to get to know each other. Banquet sitting was envisioned to maximize student interaction. Participants were invited to the campus restaurant, where open buffets waited for their tasting. They tasted some of the finest Lebanese cuisine.

The Unit Leaders Workshop aimed at increasing students' awareness to ASME resources, structure and opportunities. The workshop, delivered by Mr. Usman Bin Yunos and open to all participants, created alongside the SPDC a general spirit of volunteering.

Following the Unit Leaders Workshop, the Conference's chair, Mr. Charles Haddad, introduced the SDOB concept to the audience. The session also provided an overview of possible SDOB structures, objectives and tasks. It concluded with the formation of the first official District J Student District Operating Board. Mr. Haddad was elected to be the new SDOB chair and Student Section Committee representative of District J. The formed SDOB also included student leaders from the participating universities.

Award Ceremony and Grand Dinner

The SPDC concluded in a formal dinner at La Marina, Dbayeh. The dinner included the eagerly-awaited award ceremony. ASME's representative and the present mechanical engineering professors presented handsome checks and certificates. In short, the SPDC was a resounding success. After all, pictures speak



Charles Haddad

Senior, Notre Dame University
Chair, Notre Dame University Student Section
Chair, Executive Committee, District J SPDC
Chair, District J Student District Operating Board
e-mail: haddadc2@asme.org
Phone: 00961 3 083475

Karakoush



❖ The Karakoush cast.



❖ The cast with Prime Minister Fouad Seniora.



❖ The Prime Minister and Zahleh personalities honor the cast.

Hokom Karakoush* or *The Reign of Karakoush was a play presented by the Faculty of Humanities at Notre Dame University, turning on the character of Karakoush, who was the governor of Akka during the reign of Sultan Salahuddin el Ayoubi. This play was written in a comedy style by Dr. Mansour Eid, the Chairperson of the Social and Behavioral Science Department at NDU. It was produced by the Audio Visual Facilities and directed by Sam Lahoud, Supervisor of Audio Visual Facilities.

The main actor was Mr. Mounir Kesrouani, who was accompanied by more than thirty students (actors, dancers, sound and light technicians, stage managers, assistant directors and interior and fashion designers).

The main purpose of this play was to help students apply what they learned academically in their environment in addition to getting financial aid for their tuition fees. Working in such a production will enhance their belonging to the University and enable them to use their free time in a positive way. The play was first performed on February 27, 2009 at the Issam Fares Conference Hall at Notre Dame University, and played till end of May, 2009. It later toured around Lebanon, including Tyre, Nabatiyyeh, Kob Elias and Ehden in its itinerary.

The target audience was university and school students, non-profit organizations, social institutions and various associations, in addition to the public in local theater festivals.

By August the number of 14,000 entries had been reached. At Kob Elias, near Zahleh, on Friday, 7th August, 2009, the play was a real hit. P.M. Fouad Seniora, Archbishop André Haddad, Tourism Minister Elie Marouni, Deputy Assem Ara, the Saudi Tourism Minister, regional social and financial figures, bank managers and businessmen joined the audience of 4,000, as shown in our illustrations.

Conference: Media and Language



❖ The very large audience of academics and students.

Dean Carol Kfoury, Dr. Kouros
and Dr. Joseph Ajami ❖



The Faculty of Humanities hosted a large group of prominent journalists and experts in the Arabic language during the two-day conference entitled Media and Language which took place on October 16th and 17th in Abou Khater Auditorium.

The key note speech was delivered by His Excellency Dr. Kyriacos Kouros, Cypriot Ambassador to Lebanon.

Dr. Kouros graduated from the Law Department of the Law School of the National & Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece (1984-1989); read for a Master of Arts in International Journalism at the Department of Journalism of the City University of London, Britain

(1989-1990); also obtained a PhD on Cyprus Media Law (with honors) from the Department of Communications, Media and Culture of the Panteion University, Athens, Greece (1997-2003).

Before joining the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Kouros worked as a journalist for ten years before joining the ranks of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Periodically, he lectures on Media Law-related subjects at the Journalism Department of the Frederick University in Nicosia. He has written a number of articles, books and booklets on media law and Cyprus-focused international law, and has collaborated as media law expert with the Office of the High

Commissioner for National Minorities of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe; the Institute for Information Law at the Amsterdam University and the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies of Wolfson in Oxford University.

Dr. Kouros has addressed the NDU community twice; we are hopeful he will continue to do so. The text of his speech will be found in Opinion and Culture.

Film Festival, Audio Visual Facilities



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1. The Film Festival in the Issam Fares Auditorium.
2. Arrival of Liliame Namry.
3. Mr. Emile Chahine presenting the festival clapper to honored director Jocelyne Saab.
4. Carmen Libos on the podium.

For the third consecutive year, the Audio Visual Facilities organized its annual film festival between November 8 and November 15, 2009 under the theme **Women in Lebanese Cinema**.

Last year we honored Youssef Chahine and the year before Georges Nasr. This year's festival focused on women directors, script writers and actresses in the Lebanese Cinema with their contribution to the success and prosperity of the industry. Late Director Randa Chahal was honored in addition to Layla Assaf, Jocelyne Saab, Renee Deek, Carmen Lebbos, Julia Kassar, Nadine Labaki, Liliame Nemri and Joelle Touma. Thirty-two students from the following universities competed with their short films: NDU, LAU, USJ, USEK, ALBA, LU, CLET and AUST.

This year's Festival hosted film directors and specialists from the United States Straton Leopold and Anthony Dergham to present workshops for Lebanese students from all participating universities.

The Festival took place in Issam Fares Conference Hall and was liberally covered by the Lebanese media.

The first prize of 4.500.000 LP went to Robert Cremona from IESAV for his film **Les Temps des cerises**. The second prize of 3.000.000 LP went to Amanda Abou Abdallah from USEK for her film **Haki Bala Ta3me** and the third prize of 1.500.000 LP went to Alain Donio from ALBA for his film **Tab2 Bel Wejj**. Bank of Beirut offered a prize for one talented director to Jessica Younes from NDU for her film **Elias**. The fourth prize went to Farah Alame from IESAV for her film **Docile**. The fifth prize went to Sarah Poutine from LAU for her film **Fi Raham Fikri**.

The Festival was sponsored by Sony, BCS (Broadcast Communication Systems), Bank of Beirut, ALITALIA, Final Cut, The American Embassy of Beirut, Electra AV, MEAS, In Motion, Vatech, Adkom, and The Gate Kodak Cine Lab, in addition to Melody FM and NRJ FM.

Next year's Film Festival will take place between November 7 and November 14, 2010. We look to more successful festivals at NDU.

❖ Fr. Walid Moussa with honored actress Renée Dick and her family.



❖ Sam Lahoud (Chairman NDU Audio Visual Facilities) and Nadine Labaky

First NDU "MUN"

"Never Negotiate Out Of Fear, Never Fear To Negotiate"
(John F. Kennedy)

Maritta Sislian, FPSPAD



❖ the MUN 2009 team



❖ delegates receive their country allocations

This quote by the former US President guided NDU's first on-campus Model United Nations, or MUN, in May of this year. This UN simulation gave student delegates, representing a total of 45 member states, the opportunity to work in assigned committees and deal with the topic at hand, namely the Georgia-Russia Conflict. This pilot MUN was carried out by the Club of International Relations (CIR 2008-2009 team) in the late spring of 2009.

Participants were from various university Faculties, thus benefiting the entire NDU community. The program included three preparatory weekend training sessions which took place consecutively prior to the event. For training purposes, the future country delegates were divided into groups of three, each group having their own trainer, namely Valerie Dalati, FPSPAD graduate, who shared her prior MUN experience and knowledge with her group; Ramzi El Hage the widely loved trainer who added a sense of humor in his classes; Rana Doumit, also

a recent FPSPAD graduate. The three preparatory sessions covered topics as varied as clarification about the UN rules and procedures, international issues, UN policies, resolution writing, position paper writing as well as speech making, caucusing, and negotiation skills. Saturday May 8, 2009, was the big day of the final conference. The MUN was launched through an opening ceremony at the Abou Khater's Auditorium with the presence of Dr. Naim Salem, the advisor of the CIR. The opening ceremony involved speeches by Dr. Salem and CIR President Rachel Challita, as well as input by the three trainers. It was only at the opening event that the assigned countries were finally announced. After that, the delegates headed to the classrooms to prepare for their respective roles. The conference was chaired by this author, the director was Valerie Dalati and the two officers were Ramzi El Hage and Rana Doumit. The actual deliberations included a roll call and a preliminary session at which the agenda was negotiated,

and a two-and-a-half-hour plenary session made up of diplomatic bargaining to reach a final resolution concerning a final agreement for the protracted conflict between Russian and Georgia. A closing ceremony was held in the presence of the Dean of the FPSPAD, Dr. Chahine Ghais. Afterwards, Dr. Naim Salem distributed the certificates of participation to the delegates. There was also a special awards ceremony. The position paper award was given to Jessica Moufawad, who was the Turkish delegate. Three diplomacy awards were given to Lea Francis, who represented the Islamic Republic of Iran, Youssef Farhat, simulating the honorary delegate from France, and Kareem Zwein of the United Kingdom. The "Outstanding Delegation Secretary General Award" was given to Elizabeth Dordulian, who represented Armenia.

The CIR will be participating in a MUN in the fall of 2009 in Kuwait and plans future MUN events on campus at NDU.

EU score card for Lebanon

Adriana Boudiwan, sophomore, FPSPAD

On the 7th and 8th of October 2009 a conference was held concerning the European Neighborhood Policy in Lebanon at Gefinor –Rotana Hotel in Beirut. Students from Notre Dame University, specifically from the faculty of Political Science, Public Administration and Diplomacy, participated.



NDU students and Dr. Sensenig-Dabbous at the EPN conference

Officials from the European Commission and the Lebanese government, the civil society and the Lebanese public took part in the open hearings on both days. The European Neighborhood policy was developed in 2004; it works through action plans in order to strengthen the relations between Europe and its neighbors as a procedure to encourage the prosperity, stability and security of all concerned. The European Union works with its neighbors on building upon a mutual commitment to common values such as democracy, human rights, rule of law, good governance, market economy and sustainable development. The issues discussed in the conference covered various subjects. On the first day democracy and rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms and economic and social reform were discussed.

On the second day the hearings focused on the following themes: trade related issues, market, and regulatory reform. Also discussions concerning cooperation on justice, freedom and security, education took place. In order to show the level of progress concerning the action plan a system of traffic lights was used. A red light indicated no progress at all, a yellow light indicated some progress on a specific level, while a green one indicated good or excellent progress. In short, Lebanon has a long way to go to live up to its contractual commitments with the EU.

F.P.S.P.A. Honors Its Best

NADINE G. MAZRAANI, senior FPSPAD

Until this year, the Dean's list Ceremony at NDU was a joint university event. This year, for the first time, the Faculties honored their students individually. It has always been appreciated by students who have worked hard to earn this privilege and be honored. The rationale behind the Dean's List is

not to promote the Faculties best students and raise them above the others. Rather, the aim is to acknowledge and highlight the achievements of the top performers, to share their joy in success and to thus provide incentives for all those students to excel in coming years. On October 23, 2009, the Faculty of

Political Science and Public Administration (PSPAD), in collaboration with the Club of International Relations (CIR), organized a Dean's list ceremony to honor the top students with the presence of their friends and family members. In the name of the CIR team, I would like to congratulate all students who made it onto the Dean's list for Spring 2009 in all NDU Faculties. We hope that this Faculty level approach will encourage more students to show a higher level of academic awareness.



Dean's List honors recipients, together with the Faculty's professors.

Always remember the words of Ben Sweetland:
"Success is a journey, not a destination."



Speech of Dean Chahine A. Ghais at Honors Ceremony

Today is a glorious day. We look into each other's eyes and congratulate ourselves on our great success. We celebrate success and recognize excellence!

Today is a landmark in your journey and ours. We reflect upon the past and the enormous invested efforts, the present and its special joy, and we affirm our aspirations for a better future.

We look back to appreciate hard work and the giving it generates. We look back at all those moments when we could have had more fun, or been more comfortable, and yet we decided to study and work instead. We cherish those moments for being a source of creating the pleasure and appreciation of success today, in a way that overcompensates the previous loss many times over.

We look at the present with the proper perspective. It is a link between the hard work of the past and the enormous opportunities of the future, without losing its own value and meaning. I truly urge you to live your present to the fullest, with the awareness of the links and implications for the future. University years are some of the best times of your life. You have the Youth, the Beauty, the Energy, the Dreams, the Spirit and the Aspirations. You do not have many worries, you should not have many worries. Embrace life, live it, have the Faith, you will do it right, and you'll make it. You will always have success; it is loyal to those who earn it.

That is your future, whatever you make it to be. You'll face troubles and challenges, off course! But guess what you are doing now? You are building your immunities and filling your knowledge reservoirs. They will carry you through, with an open intellect. You will meet the challenges and defeat the troubles. Have the Faith. And whenever in doubt, look back at life's landmarks, such as today, and call upon your old loyal friend, and say: Success, Be Mine Today!

Fair Trade-Improving Lives

Shereen Mahshi

Club of International Relations, Treasurer



The FTL and CIR teams

Fair Trade is "a trading partnership based on dialogue, transparency and respect that seeks greater equity in international trade. It contributes to sustainable development by offering better trading conditions to, and securing the rights of, marginalized producers and workers - especially in the South. Fair Trade organizations, backed by consumers, are engaged actively by supporting producers, awareness raising and campaigning for changes in the rules and practice of conventional international trade."

This definition of Fair Trade was developed and adopted in 2001 by the actors involved in Fair Trade and grouped into

the FINE network, a working group that gathers four international Fair Trade organizations.

Fair Trade Lebanon (<http://www.fair-tradelebanon.org/>) was founded in 2006 after establishing contact with a French Importer, Artisan Sel. Various Lebanese partners united under the leadership of FTL in order to change the lives of the most disadvantaged people in rural Lebanon.

The Club of International Relations contacted Philippe Adaimé, FTL Director, in order to introduce the Fair Trade concept to NDU community. On Tuesday November 10, 2009 the FTL team came to NDU and presented a short interactive

presentation in the Friends Hall. This was followed by a homemade buffet which was prepared by producers in a village near Rachaya. Now that the concept of Fair Trade has been introduced we are preparing a trip to Amman, Jordan, where a FT conference (www.aftf.bethlehem.edu) will be held for the entire MENA region. This conference is organized by the British development NGO OXFAM and the Catholic University of Bethlehem.

LIVE LEBANON: Click, Commit, Change!

Shereen Mahshi
Club of International Relations, Treasurer



LIVE LEBANON is an interactive initiative aimed at linking Lebanese people and associations around the world with local development projects. As part of its development program in Lebanon, the UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) launched the LIVE LEBANON website in Beirut on November 12, 2009 at the Old Dome of the Beirut City Center. The launch included a Video Exhibition which presented images from the different regions where LIVE LEBANON will be involved in development activities. On Friday November 13, 2009 the exhibition was open for public viewing between the hours of 6 p.m. and 9 pm. Seven NDU students from Public Administration 201 class attended the event. Our professor, Dr. Eugene

❖ NDU students at the LIVE LEBANON: Click, Commit, Change! Opening

Sensenig-Dabbous, introduced us to the Live Lebanon concept and explained the pictures of day-to-day Lebanese life that were hanging on the walls and in the video room. A Charity Bar was an interesting part of the event too, since all the proceeds would go to the various development projects. Ms Anne Kahl, UNDP project manager, gave us a tour of the LIVE LEBANON website, which was at the center of the event: <http://www.livelebanon.net>. Through the website, development projects can be located and donations can be made in the different regions highlighted by the website. Each project on the site has a total target budget and a total amount to be raised by donations. After this presentation we went up into the Dome, a former cinema, which was my favorite part of the event since the Dome represents a magical part of Lebanon. The Club of International Relations sees great potential for the Dome as a fundraiser for the projects organized by NDU. To sum up the aim of this United Nations project: Just remember- All it takes is to CLICK on the website, COMMIT to a project and make a CHANGE!



❖ The Dome, venue for the UNDP project

Communio

Communio Meeting



❖ Dr. Edward Alam, Dr. Doumit Salameh, Dr. Youssef Zgheib and Dr. Eugene Sensenig-Dabbous.



❖ Dr. Habib Malik listens to Dr. Thomas Scheffter.



❖ Dr. Marie Khoury, welcome newcomer.

Once again the *Communio* circle enjoyed the hospitality of Dr. Doumit Salameh when it met on August 1st, 2009, to discuss the latest papal encyclical *Caritas in Veritate*, Charity in Truth. Dr. Edward Alam, the promoter of *Communio* at NDU, presented Dr. Thomas Scheffter (DAAD, USJ, OIB), specialist in Political Science from Germany, who gave his personal view of the encyclical. Section 2 insists that charity (in the meaning of love) is at the heart of the Church's social doctrine and is enlightened by truth, which prevents it becoming an empty shell of sentimentality and emotion as a result of truth being frequently relativised today in the social and cultural context.

Dr. Scheffter (Reformation tradition) insisted on the linkage between the encyclicals covering social justice, starting with *Rerum Novarum* and continuing with *Quadragesimo Anno* (celebrating the fortieth anniversary of Pope Leo XIII's 19th-century bombshell that shocked so many conservative Catholics) and *Populorum Progressio* of Pope Paul VI. Following Paul VI himself, Dr. Scheffter considered the last-named document to be the *Rerum Novarum* of the present age but he noted that unlike other encyclicals it was not given much attention in Lebanon;

in fact it was considered rather "leftist" in its insistence that property should serve Man, not the opposite, for it came at a time of Western capitalist reaction against Communism. What is more, *Caritas in Veritate* has been completely ignored in the Lebanese press, no doubt for similar reasons.

He then pointed to the papal teaching that love was an active concept, involving action in society, not something passive and merely sentimental. He considered it unfortunate that there was not a general awareness of the moral implications of globalisation. Further, integral human development demanded the contributions of all branches of science. Dr. Scheffter noted rather wryly that the encyclical's implied leanings towards world government did not go down very well in his own country, Germany, where in the present circumstances national consolidation was more to the forefront of the popular mind.

Those present and taking part in the discussion included both guests and habitués; Dr. Habib Charles Malik (LAU), Dr. Samir Khoury (LU, ISSs), Gabriel Said Reynolds (Theology Dept, Notre Dame,

N.B. *Communio* meetings are open to all, whether members of the NDU family or of other universities, or simply members of the public interested in the more intellectual aspects of religion. This invitation is extended to the faithful of every religious adherence, for Orthodox and Reformed participate regularly and Muslims have made valuable contributions to the discussion.

Information may be obtained from Dr. Edward Alam at NDU, 09.218950...5, ext. 2405, and ealam@ndu.edu.lb .

Associated websites of interest are <http://www.communio-icr.com/circles.htm>
http://www.metanexus.net/globainet-work/societies_detail.asp?SocietyID=77
<http://www.metanexus.net/institute/>

SAO

Open Doors

Dr. Viviane Naimy
Director of Admissions and OTME
Report of 30th June



The Open Doors event on April 3rd was a memorable success for the University, as was clear to all. The organization as planned was implemented by the Admissions Office and the SAO in a way exceeding expectations, with success evident over the coming months.

The reception of the students at the Operations Center was very personal, with regards to both students and administrators. All the coordinators and teachers escorting their students were greeted, served coffee while they waited, and otherwise catered for. The bus traffic control was flawless, with Security doing a very impressive job. The school administrators were updated within minutes on the activities and locations of their students, thanks to a very well planned and coordinated layout on the part of the Admissions Team.

The total number of visitors exceeded 2,700. They were divided into 60 groups easily traceable by the Admissions Team

due to a well-set-out and instantaneous method of division, with ushers being supplied at the departure point with an appropriate information system to assist them in keeping track of the students.

The ushers did a marvelous job; without them the tours would definitely have been unmanageable. All the lab presentations were clear and informative. The clubs offered an exceptionally dynamic atmosphere to the campus. According to testimonies from the students, the University felt uniquely alive and stimulating for the whole day. For the departures everything went smoothly.

The Open Doors has created a snowballing positive image for the University, allowing it to grow and develop vigorously. NDU was amply reported in the press, generating further publicity for the campus and community.

The testimonies that we received boosted our expectations for high

increases in enrollments. Many schools affirmed ours to be the most successful open doors event they had ever visited. Many high school students were sorry when the time came for them to leave the campus.

NDU students felt that they really belonged to their University on that day, and their zeal and devotion was a major contribution to the success of the occasion.

All are grateful for the work and assistance of the SAO and particularly appreciative of such pillars of the institution as Father Salim El Rajji, Ms. Carla Sfeir, and Mr. Sayed Ghossain.

Further, members of the Admissions Team, from Mr. Farid Haykal, Mrs. Karine Saadeh, Mrs. Pascale Khalil, Mrs. Christine Gabriel, Mrs. Mirna Sfeir, Mr. Mario Kozaily, to Mrs. Aline Jabbour, did a heroic job serving students, the NDU community, and the University.

Army of Lebanon Martyrs' Day Celebration



**“ BE SAFE, SOLDIERS OF LEBANON, PROTECTORS OF OUR INDEPENDENCE,
ALWAYS HEAD HIGH ON THE BATTLEFIELD, LIKE THE CEDARS OF LEBANON. ”**

On the occasion of Martyrs' Day on May 6, 2009, the Student Affairs Office, headed by Fr. Salim Rajji, Director of SAO, organized in collaboration with the Public Relations Office a lecture in Issam Fares Hall delivered by Captain George Nader, about the role of the Lebanese Army and its mission.

First, a documentary shed light on the conflict between the Lebanese Army and Fatah al-Islam at Nahr el Bared that took place in July 2007 and ended in September 2007 with the Lebanese Army taking full control of the camp after eliminating the remaining terrorist pockets. This accomplishment reflects the dedication and the effort of every soldier in the Lebanese Army.

The lecture was followed by a military parade and maneuvers on Main Campus, with a presentation of a military action to overcome an enemy. The Air Force supported the military parade with a helicopter flying over the Campus and a military band provided martial music.

The SAO organized this demonstration on a high level so students, faculty and staff members could see the effectiveness of Lebanon's Armed Forces. The military maneuvers provided full safety coverage. The NDU community was carried away by its enthusiasm, showing its attachment to its country's Army. Having this Army makes one say that Lebanon will never be defeated or diminished.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every soldier for his personal effort to keep our Army strong. May God and Notre Dame of Lebanon bless you and protect you our soldiers.

” تسلّم يا عسكر لبنان يا حامي استقلالنا،
عالي جبينك بالميدان وعالي أرز بلادنا “



NDU Community Service



❖ Beauty with the young...

On July 7th, 2009, the NDU Community Service Office (CSO) organized a social activity for the Miss University 2009 participants, during which they visited the *Mission de vie* New Life Center at Antelias.

The Center, which caters for the needs of the children and elderly, welcomed the students, who spent quality time with the residents.

The time spent with the children included dancing, singing and playing games, in addition to much needed display of affection. The children were thoroughly entertained and their hearts filled with happiness.

After enjoying lunch with the children, the Miss NDU



❖ ...and with the old.

candidates offered them gifts from their personal belongings. The meeting with the elderly took a different turn. Time was spent in deep discussion and recall of past memories and the elderly surprised everyone with "golden oldy" songs. In the midst of this gathering, one of the students was busy playing backgammon with Mr. Antranik, who pointed out professional moves.

The students left, with memories that will not easily fade away. The most important lesson was experiencing the life of a society that needs constant attention. Such an initiative leads to smiles that will always be remembered.



Roumieh Visit



After an initial postponement, in the framework of the Open Hearts Project of the NDU Community Service Office (CSO), on Friday October 16th NDU students went to Roumieh Central Prison, which has recently come under the spotlight of public attention because of various incidents. Motivated by love and with strong determination, they set to work on restoration work in the prison clinic and pharmacy, recently damaged during riots. In this way they tried to restore hope among the thousand prisoners.



The motto of the CSO is Believing, Crossing and Achieving, with the intention that active service will foster a positive spirit enabling students in their future lives to face challenging situations, guided by their moral values developed in the University. Thus they may leave a special mark on Lebanese society, which is suffering from lack of basic needs. More activity is foreseen in the future!

North Lebanon Campus Cancer Talk



On Friday, June 12th, 2009, thanks to collaboration between the Biology students and the PR office, Dr. Mazin Mufarraj gave a talk presenting a Comprehensive Approach to Cancer. Students in the audience greatly appreciated this presentation given by an authority on his subject, as will be seen from the accompanying photographs.

Dimane Visit



On Monday, September 7th, 2009, Academics, Administration members and Staff of NLC visited His Beatitude Patrich Nasrallah Sfeir at his summer residence of Dimane in the caza of Bsharri. Afterwards they enjoyed lunch together in the nearby village of Hasroun .

Lecture on Influenza



With epidemics of influenza in its various forms very much on people's minds in recent years, faculty, staff and students of NLC greatly appreciated the talk given on Wednesday, October 7, 2009 by an eminent specialist on the subject, Dr. Wafaa Greij M.D., in the NLC Conference Hall.

❖ Dr. Greij M.D. with Fr. Samir Ghsoub and NLC faculty and staff.

❖ Questions on a subject of great concern.

Student Meeting



Attaching great importance to good relations between Administration and students, NLC Director Fr. Samir Ghsoub held a meeting with the student body on Monday, October 12th, 2009, to discuss orientation and other important matters. Tranquillity and security during the coming academic year 2009 – 2010 may be considered assured so that students may pursue their studies in a favourable atmosphere.

❖ Fr. Samir Ghsoub with a happy student body.

NLC Acquaintance Day



Wednesday October 14th was the day for newly-enrolled students to become acquainted with their new "home". They were welcomed in the Conference Hall by NLC Director Father Samir Ghsoub, who gave them some orientation. Afterwards they were taken on a tour of the campus premises during which they were able to make contact with the clubs at the main entrance.

❖ Father Ghsoub shows the new students around.

Road Safety at NLC



Faced with the tragic accidents that plague every semester, the campuses of NDU make every endeavor to make students aware of the need to drive carefully, particularly after late-night parties. On Wednesday, October 21st, 2009, the Civil Defense, YASA and the Red Cross accepted the invitation of North Lebanon Campus to give a demonstration of the need for driving self-discipline with a simulated car accident, as shown in the accompanying illustration. NLC Director Fr. Samir Ghsoub was himself present to emphasize the importance of the occasion. We can only hope that the message will not be forgotten.

Visit to Sisters of Charity



On Thursday, October 22nd, 2009, NLC Director Father Samir Ghsoub and Mr. Edgard Harb visited Sister Rania Azzi, Principal of the Dahr el-Ain College of the Sisters of Charity.

Opening Mass



On Friday, 23rd of October, Mass for the opening of the academic year 2009-2010 was celebrated at North Lebanon Campus by NDU President Father Walid Moussa. It is to be noted that nearly all the students attended and the occasion was one to be long remembered.

Engineer Joseph Ishak



On Tuesday, November 17th, 2009, Mr. Joseph Ishak, President of the North Lebanon Syndicate of North Lebanon, came to meet NLC Engineering students on their Barsa campus. He insisted particularly on the importance of newly graduated engineers enrolling in the Syndicate. His comprehensive approach to the question was greatly appreciated by his audience.

❖ Engineer Joseph Ishak and NLC Director Fr. Samir Ghsoub.

❖ An audience greatly concerned by what Engineer Ishak has to say.

Shouf Campus

Biology Lecture

Report by Dr. Nazir Hawi



The Sciences Division at the Shouf Campus invited Dr. Hadi Abdel Noor to deliver a lecture on Biology. The lecture, delivered on Wednesday, 25th March, 2009, was entitled "The Roles Biology Played in Improving the Well-Being of Mankind". Dr. Abdel Noor started by defining the terms "biology" and "biological research". Then, he discussed how biology improved the well-being of mankind from a historical perspective. He listed the main findings of Egyptians, Greeks, Arabs, and researchers of modern times. He introduced the works of Imhotep the Egyptian who was the world's earliest

recorded physician, the prime minister of the pharaoh Djoser, around 2700 B.C., Hippocrates the Greek physician who was known as the founder of medicine and was regarded as the greatest physician of his time, and Galen the Greek who was the most famous doctor in the Roman Empire. Dr. Abdel Noor noted that Arab scholars translated most of the Greek books and writings of medical interest and used them to improve their own ways of practicing medicine. He discussed four main fields of research that he believed were of tremendous benefit for humankind: anesthesia, vaccination with Louis Pasteur, antibiotics with Alexander Fleming, and the genetic code with Francis Crick and James Watson. Light was also shed on the disadvantages of each area. In addition, the speaker discussed the influence that philosophy, morals and religion had on the human being on one side, and that of biology on the other. At the end of the lecture, Dr. Abdel Noor was handed a Certificate of Appreciation as a thank-you gesture from the Shouf Campus Administration.

Microsoft Event 2009

conducted by Mr. Samer Chidiac

Dr. Nazir Hawi



❖ Mr. Samer Chidiac introducing Microsoft technologies.

The Sciences and Engineering Divisions at the Shouf Campus hosted an unprecedented event launched by Microsoft-Lebanon on Friday, March 20, 2009, from 12:00 to 14:00. Mr. Samer Chidiac, Microsoft Corporation Representative, demonstrated new Microsoft technologies and their most important features. The demo was breathtaking. In addition, Mr. Chidiac gave a special intensive session on how to create and design a personal website using top-notch software from Microsoft. Coordinators, full-time faculty members, part-time faculty members, staff, and seventy-six students attended this event.



❖ Part of the audience.

Mr. Chidiac distributed Microsoft gifts to students who passed an oral quiz on Microsoft Software. This event was sponsored by IEEE and the Engineering Club. Miss Nadeen Richani, a distinguished Computer and Communication Engineering student and the president of the Engineering Club, played a major role in organizing this event. The event's poster was designed by a graphic design graduate, Mr. Firas Koukache. The Sciences and Engineering Divisions were very pleased with the effective role that the Shouf Campus students played, under their supervision.

Networking Evolution

Mr. Nicolas Haddad

Dr. Nazir Hawi

The Sciences Division at the Shouf Campus invited Mr. Nicolas Haddad to deliver a lecture on networking, a subject of much interest for the Shouf students, and an ever expanding domain. Mr. Nicolas Haddad is Development Director at Linfra Telecom, a telecommunication service provider. The lecture was entitled Networking Evolution. It took place on Monday, May 4, 2009 during the lunch break in the Conference Room. Mr. Haddad said that mobility is redefined to include people, the network moving with them, and operator and user experiences. Mr. Haddad discussed several topics such as the industry and service evolution; the vision for a mobile world;

a detailed networking solution overview; networking value added services; IEEE 820.16; global wireless standards; broadband wireless; wireless networking standards; WiMax usage model; IEEE 802.16; WiMAX system view; networking evolution vision for mobility; and market segments. Students from various Divisions attended this seminar. It was of special interest to those majoring in Computer and Communication Engineering, and Computer Science. At the end of the lecture, several students showed eagerness to learn more about the topic. Mr. Nicolas Haddad was handed a Certificate of Appreciation from the Shouf Campus Administration.



❖ Mr. Nicolas Haddad explaining

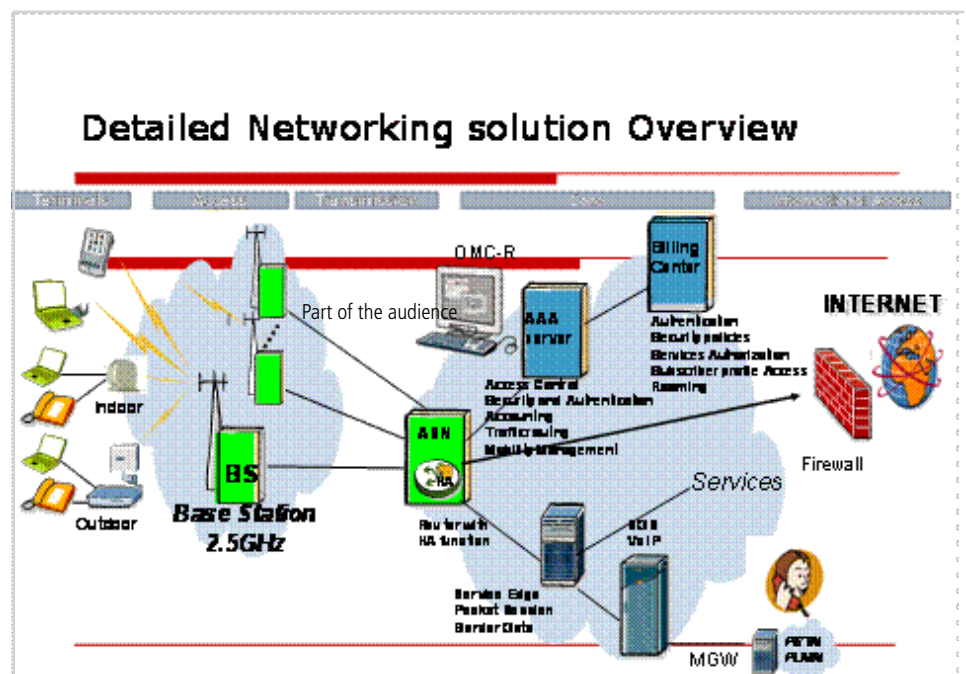


❖ Part of the audience



❖ Mr. Haddad with some students

One of the presentation's slides ❖



Big Bang

Written by Ola Shami and Omar Shami

Designed by Zeina Ghanem

Walking in the corridors and in the hallways of NDU Shouf Campus, you would definitely miss the silence that used to haunt the place. There were no activities. There was no campus life.

Suddenly, at the beginning of the spring semester, one club was brought to life, the club that would spread the beat among the people, and make the whole difference:
The Music Club: Feel the Beat

Never underestimate the importance of the beat. For instance, everything starts with a beat. We all exist because of our first heart beat and we remain alive for that same reason.

Our first beat was on March 11, 2009. We grabbed our musical instruments and vocal cords and marched into the offices. We sang whatever was demanded and collected a bit of money! Our second beating was "rocking". It was one that all the area talked about: NDU's Open Doors. On that day, we made an entrance, a beat, and a difference. We entered on a white convertible Mercedes, all dressed in style. The band started playing and visitors responded by dancing and feeling the beat. What "rocked" the event was the Lebanese Dabké! Everyone joined in holding their hands together.

Our appearance as the new music club was a total success that was witnessed by everyone including the Administration. We made our visitors feel what it is like to be at NDU. After that, we made a Buddha Bar Lounge Bake Sale: "Enjoy the beats, enjoy the tastes. Buy our sweets, donuts, and cupcakes." We decorated our stand with potpourri, floating candles, and classical music.

Celebrating NDU-Zouk's Founder's Day, the Music Club gathered around 25 students to participate in the event. Even there, we were cheered the most and created a unique beat. Then came our own Founder's Day. We sang our jingle, and a cocktail of styles. We also invited singer Sara Al-Hani, who performed live on stage.

Well, in elementary school, we learned that energy can neither be created nor destroyed. Now, we believe that that is wrong. Energy is fractals all around. It all began with a bang; a beat started music, music made a change, and the change made the universe. We followed the Big Bang's great pattern. However, our change made not a universe, but a university.



Careers

Dr. Huda Hussein Bibi



Dr. Huda Hussein Bibi, an expert on giving counseling services to university and high school students, who has authored many books on the topic, including "Our Children are in Danger" published in 1995, and has hosted TV programs on the same issue, graced our stage at NDU-SC with her sweet presence and open-mindedness on Friday, October 23, 2009.

This discussion session between her and the students was made possible through the efforts of Br. Abdo Sleiman, Assistant Director of SAO and Mr. Emile Khoury, Assistant Director of Public Relations.

Dr. Huda Hussein Bibi read from her book about the importance of choosing the right major which leads to the right career; the right major that matches the students' interests, aspirations and talents as well as the market need.

She linked good counseling services to making better life choices and therefore to attaining higher productivity and happiness!

She talked about different criteria that would help students know more about themselves, one of which is the John Holland career search test, but another is paying attention to students' favorite courses at school, their hobbies, their activities, and their career interests.

Based on the above information students can be placed in one of the following six categories: The engineers, the investigators, the artists, the social people, the business oriented people and the managers. She finally emphasized the role of the environment in that decision making process.

The students showed great interest in the topic, which was reflected in the vivid discussion session that followed.

Influenza Virus

Dr. Mounir Kassis

The Sciences Division at the Shouf Campus invited Dr. Mounir Kassis, M.D., to deliver a lecture on the influenza virus, given on Wednesday, November 18, 2009. The outbreak of the pandemic flu, Influenza A H1N1 (Swine Flu), in early 2009, has made this a topic of interest to millions of people.

In Lebanon, the number of suspected and confirmed cases continues to increase, and several schools decided to close temporarily, partially or completely, because they were able to detect several H1N1 infections among their students. Dr. Mounir Kassis said that the novel H1N1 influenza is a new influenza virus that is spreading from person to person. The first case was detected in April 2009. The WHO has raised the level of alert to 6, meaning that it has become a pandemic problem. Dr. Mounir Kassis explained



- 1) the virus, its types, subtypes, and high potential level for mutation;
- 2) hosts and reservoirs;
- 3) mutation properties;
- 4) mortality rates;
- 5) ways of spreading;
- 6) the time interval during which the virus remains viable on objects;
- 7) risk from drinking water or swimming pools;
- 8) signs and symptoms;
- 9) people at higher risk of serious complications;
- 10) emergency warning signs in children;
- 11) what to do if one gets sick;
- 12) recommended tests: Real-time RT-PCR and Rapid influenza antigen test;
- 13) algorithm to assist in the interpretation of RIDT results;
- 14) treatment available for those who are seriously ill;

- 15) warnings;
- 16) how to protect oneself;
- 17) chemoprophylaxis;
- 18) vaccination;
- 19) swine flu parties;
- 20) prevention and control measures in acute-care facilities;
- 21) and infection control measures.

Coordinators, instructors, staff, and students from various Divisions attended this lecture, which was of special interest to those majoring in Biology.

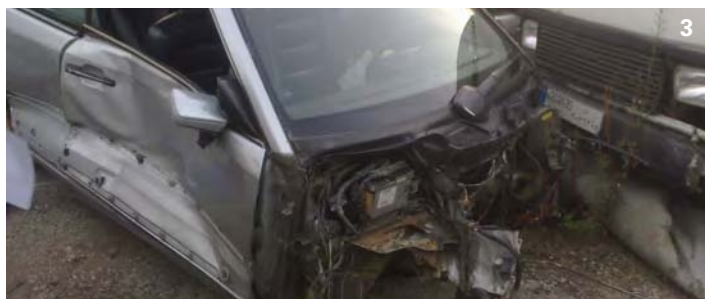
Dr. Mounir Kassis answered all students' questions and concerns. He was handed a Certificate of Appreciation from the Shouf Campus Administration. In turn, he showed his appreciation for the invitation.

Obituaries

It was with very great shock and sorrow that the NDU family heard of the death of **Toufiq Zakaria Ibrahim** in a terrible car accident when he was returning home after celebrating in Beirut the reception of his university degree at the ceremony held on the very same day. This was a terrible tragedy for his grandparents, parents, brother, sister, uncles and aunts, as well as for his many friends. His death occurred at the break of day on Saturday, 11th July, 2009.

The funeral took place at the church of St. George in Rahbeh, Akar, on Sunday, July 12th, while there was a reception for condolences at the church of the Ascension, Kfarehabab, on the following Tuesday. A Requiem Mass was celebrated on Wednesday, July 22nd, in the University chapel.

After the similar tragic accidents occurring every year, we wonder when the dangers of driving home late at night after a party will be understood.



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4

1. Toufiq Ibrahim.
2. Toufiq Ibrahim celebrating his degree with his companions.
3. His car after the accident.
4. Requiem in the University chapel.

An insurance broker recounts the case of a student whose car was utterly destroyed after a race with another car on the high road. By a miracle the young man escaped; but instead of clouting his head and buying him an old crock good enough to take him to the university, his father bought him a new car even more expensive and faster and more flashy than the first.

Double loss

In July, when Dr. Youssef Zgheib of the Department of Hospitality and Tourist was in Canada, his family suffered a double loss. His father **Kamil Youssef al-Khoury Zgheib**, whom he was visiting, passed away on 14th July, 2009. At the same time Dr. Zgheib received news of the illness and loss of his son **Michael**, who died on Monday, July 13th. The requiem was held on Wednesday 15th July in the church of St. Elias in Ain Aar. The deepest sympathy of NDU Spirit editorial staff goes to Dr. Zgheib and to his family.

On August 12th, 2009, Wassim Badr, Student Union Executive Secretary, regretfully informed the NDU family of the passing away of the student **Ralph Salameh**. The funeral took place in Saydit El-Maounet Church, Zouk, at 4 p.m. on August 13th, 2009.

The editorial staff of NDU Spirit extends its sympathy to Mrs. Pascale Chibani, part-time Humanities instructor, whose mother, **Arlette Abdu el-Helou** passed away on Wednesday, 18 November, 2009. May she rest in peace.

It is with great sorrow that we announce the tragic death of our Student **Rouba Bsaybes**, Faculty of Engineering, after a long struggle with illness. The family of the late student is grateful for those who prayed for her recovery, donated blood and gave her support. May her soul rest in peace.

From the President's Office

Rouba passed away on 10th October, 2009, in the AUB Hospital.

Her remains were transported next day to her birthplace Fallougha and the requiem celebrated in the church of St. Elias.



Passing of Dr. Boulos Sarru'

The NDU family heard with shock the news of the passing away of Dr. Boulos Sarru', whose services to Notre Dame University were outstanding, as were his academic achievements. He was a Fulbright Scholar and served on the committee for the choice of candidates for Fulbright Scholarships from Lebanon. He was survived by his wife Amal and two young children. The funeral took place on Friday, September 11th, at St. George's Church in Kfour, Kesrwan, the village where he resided.

Further, The Public Relations office prepared a booklet on Dr. Sarru' with his biography, photographs, quotations and with tributes from the President of NDU and Faculty members.

A Requiem Mass was celebrated for the repose of his soul at twelve midday on Monday, 9th November, 2009, in Issam Fares Conference Hall, NDU Main Campus.

Births

Baby Lea Ghoche



The Division of Computer Services and e-Learning Center happily announces the birth of baby **Lea Ghoche**, daughter of Sylvana Youssef Ghoche, System Analyst and Programmer, and of Mr Rabih Ghoche, at 8 p.m. on Tuesday June 16th, 2009.

'A child fills a place in your heart that you never knew was empty.'

Baby May-Clara



The Office of the Vice President for Sponsored Research and Development is happy to announce the birth of a baby girl, **May-Clara**, to Christine Rayess, NDU Translating Officer, and Pierre Atallah, on September 2, 2009. May-Clara has a sister Myriam and a brother Jude Nicolas. Congratulations from all the NDU family!

Baby Charbel Melhem Bou Chebel



The Audio Visual Facilities Family received an early gift for this Christmas with the birth of **Charbel Melhem Bou Chebel** (3 kg & 50 cm)

Both the baby and the mother are in good health, Melhem is very proud and Clara the big sister is enjoying the arrival of her baby brother. We congratulate the Bou Chebel family and wish Charbel a long, joyful and healthy life.



The Murder of English

K. J. Mortimer

Expert speaking on the BBC: "We have got an incredibly steep learning curve." Does this mean, "We have a lot to learn"? If so, why not say so?

But one BBC programme gave two examples of good English from Clement Attlee, British Prime Minister 1945-1952:

Reporters: "What have you to say about the coming elections?" Mr. Attlee: "Nothing!"
To cabinet ministers when they asked him why he was sacking them: "Because you're not up to it!" Short and sweet!

Notes:

"On the other hand" indicates contrast. *E.g.: He was lazy but on the other hand he was very clever and had a good memory, so he just scraped through his exams.* If there is no contrast, use some expression such as *at the same time/similarly*. *E.g.: He studied hard and at the same time his father helped him, so he passed his exams easily.*

Compare:

The Nazi leaders were **hanged** for war crimes. The picture was **hung** on the wall.

I complimented him on his success (congratulated). This book on WWII complements the previous one on WWI (completes, forms a pair with).

Damage means harm. Damages means compensation. *E.g. The defendant had to pay \$90,000 damages for the damage he had caused to the plaintiff's reputation.*

A **convent** is a house for sisters, nuns. For priests, monks or brothers, use *monastery, priory, friary* or *presbytery* as appropriate. **Do not confuse with French couvent.**

IT IS ESSENTIAL to read literature of general interest, including novels, that are written in good English. Reading various articles and memoranda, we remark that the English of many suffers from the fact that they read only technical matter related to their speciality. Such material is often written in bad and ugly English, even when by American and British authors. An NDU professor whose English was excellent and who had a doctorate in Economics showed me an American book for first-year Economics students. The English was so bad that it had taken him half an hour to understand the first page. God help the students! All this is the result of the decline of school education in English-speaking countries. A professor of Medicine recently said on the BBC that the best-written essays he received were those of medical students from Singapore, Hong Kong and Malaysia, while the English of essays from UK students needed correction. West Africans living in London sometimes send their children to Ghana to learn good English because there is *discipline* there. **K.J.M.**



Paper: Properties and Types

The Graphic Designer's Choice

By John Kortbaoui FISTD

Introduction

Paper is considered to be the most versatile of all graphic, art and craft materials and one of the designer's main considerations. The designer will be expected to choose the right one from an enormous range of available types. This choice will be easier if the designer understands the properties and characteristics of paper, what it is made from and the process which make one paper different from another. It will be very hard for the designer to start designing (corporate identity, brochures, newsletters, annual reports, packaging etc...) without distinguishing the paper color, weight and texture.

Choosing the Right Paper

Choosing the right paper involves a combination of the designer's preference, client's needs and common sense. The paper must satisfy the demands of the printing process as well as meeting design and economic requirements.

Design Considerations

As a designer, you have a mental image of how the printed piece should look; the results will depend greatly on your choice of paper. Apart from choosing a paper you like, you should also consider its printability. Printability is dictated by a paper's absorbency and smoothness of surface. Good printability is especially crucial when printing color or black-and-white halftones because the quality of the halftone image will depend entirely on how accurately each dot prints.

Absorbency: Uncoated papers tend to absorb ink, causing halftone dots to be feathery and lacking in definition. Coated papers, on the other hand, have better ink holdout, resulting in sharper halftone dots and a sharper image. Coming between the extremes of un-coated paper and coated paper are some other finishes such as blade-coated paper and glazed papers, which are less absorbent than the un-coated but not so hard looking, or as shiny looking, as the art coated papers.

Surface: If the surface of the paper is smooth, the ink transfer will be uniform and accurate, resulting in a printed image with good detail, contrast, and color. If, on the other hand, the surface is rough, the dots will not print accurately and the printed image will lack strength and detail.

Economic Considerations: Quality in paper, as in everything else, is reflected in cost. Perhaps the best way to control cost is to choose the right paper for the right job. If in doubt as to your choice of paper, speak to your printer or to your paper merchant. Not only are they capable of discussing the specific problem, but they can show you printed samples that will give you a good indication of just what you can expect from any given paper.

Types of paper

Papers and cards are usually developed and manufactured to be used by the packaging industry and commercial or fine art printers. Consequently, a bewildering number of papers are available for particular uses, each with its own set of complex technical specifications. These specifications need not necessarily concern the graphic designer to whom the look and feel of a paper is more important. There are, however, a few basic paper types and terms which may prove useful.

Acid free paper

This is paper from which all acids have been removed during manufacturing in order to improve its strength and color. It should have a pH number of 7.07 or higher and should not yellow or become brittle quickly. Wood pulp - the basic component of most paper - is naturally acidic, which is why low-quality chemically untreated newsprint used for newspaper and some paperback books deteriorates (fades or changes color) rapidly.

Bond paper

This is paper which has been "sized" (sealed with a gluey mixture) to prevent penetration by writing or drawing inks. Stationery papers are commonly described as bond papers. Other types of paper are also used for stationery, such as 'Laid' or Woven papers. E.g. Conqueror 'Laid' or Conqueror 'wove'.

Coated paper

Papers may be coated with an additional surface to give a smoother finish and therefore greatly improve printing quality. A coating of a different color from the bulk of the paper may crack when creased to reveal an unsightly white line, so color-coated papers should not be scored.

Laid paper

Paper with a pattern of fine parallel lines, appearing either as ridges and furrows or as opaque and translucent bands, is known as 'laid'.

Rag paper

This is paper containing a high percentage of fiber from cotton or linen fabrics, including recycled clothing. Rag paper is usually of very high quality and will fade or turn yellow only with great age. Rag papers are commonly used by artists and illustrators for water colors and etching.

Wove paper

This is paper with a very faint mesh pattern, rather than the parallel lines of laid paper.

Paperweight

Weight is a guide to a paper's other properties and to its price. Weight is expressed in terms of the weight in grams of a sheet of paper one square meter. Thus photocopy paper is said to be 80gsm (or 80gm²), because a sheet 1m x 1m weighs 80 grams. Above 250gsm, a paper officially becomes a card. Above 500gm, weights are usually abandoned and cards are identified by thickness, and measured in microns.

Suggested reference books

- Nancy William, N, 1993, Paperwork, London, Phaidon
- Turner S, The book of fine paper, 1998, Thames and Hudson
- Poynor, R, The Graphic Edge, 1993, London. Booth-Clibborn
- Craig J. Production for the Graphic Designer, 1974, London, Pitman Publishing

Where God is Dead

K.J. Mortimer

A few years ago, during a discussion on the BBC two atheists declared that a person did not need religion in order to have good morals. A Protestant Christian gave a very weak answer, but Dr. Zaki Badawy, Director of the Muslim College of London, spoke with a clear voice. He said that if there was still any concern for good in Britain it was because Britain had a Christian capital centuries old, but this Christian capital was tragically now exhausted.

For anyone of my age the truth of what Dr. Badawy said is obvious. As a child during the nineteen-thirties I could walk at night in the dim streets of London in perfect safety, and even during the wartime black-out. During World War II food rationing and emergency administration could rely on public honesty and patriotic spirit in order to function well. As in the past, the ranks of the traditional aristocracy were decimated as they went to serve under the flag in the moment of their country's supreme peril. Child delinquency was unheard of as a problem. Divorce was rare, seen as a disgrace or a tragedy. But now "Sex Education" in schools, limited to the purely physical aspects without any guidance about morals or family or duty to children, has resulted not in fewer illegitimate births but in many more, up to about one in three, whereas once they had been one in eighteen. The children of unmarried teenage mothers grow up without paternal example and guidance and without a real home, rejected or brutalised by the successive lovers. They join the street gangs and become murderers, using knives or guns, while still adolescent. Half the marriages end in divorce, leaving unhappy children, buffeted between father and mother. The West is in a state of material and moral collapse. Religion has long been under attack not to reform it but to destroy it. Only one generation separated its collapse as a public force from the present collapse of morality and public conscience. Even an honest atheist must admit that religion is the basic element of any culture. Would the savages of

Central Europe have become the medieval architects of Chartres Cathedral, turned the wilds of Europe into farmland and welcomed the science of Aristotle without the Christian Church and the monasteries? Would the schools that brought the learning of many civilisations to Baghdad and Qartaba have existed without Islam? Would the world's first universities have existed in India or the engineering feats of Angkor Vat been achieved in Cambodia without Buddhism and Hinduism? A man without religion and its moral guidance and, yes, its sanctions is lost. Immorality, vice and cruelty have never brought anybody happiness. The recent financial ruin and collapse of major financial institutions is largely the result of a change of moral ethos in investment banking rather than of the failure of economic theories. The exploitation of sex, parties, drugs and drink has replaced the old culture of reputation for integrity, reliability and honesty. "God is dead" and the world is not any happier. We in Lebanon and the Middle East live in the lands where God has spoken, where one is never far from the footsteps of the prophets and scenes of divine intervention. But one cannot read a single page of the Gospels without seeing that the Church is by its nature missionary. When it is not missionary, when it has not love for others outside its fold, it dies. The duties of a parish priest or of any Christian do not consist merely in defending the interests of his tribe. In the recent past it was taken for granted that Europe was

the heart of Christianity, sending missionaries round the world. But who now dare look at the empty churches and talk of "France, eldest daughter of the Church"? It was Lebanon and Palestine here, the Holy Land, that were the original springboard of the Christian mission and that mission is not ended. Christians of the East must continue that mission in the world wherever they go before the blight overwhelms their homeland. Christianity is an Eastern religion!

Ayatollah Khomeiny said that Iran did not fear the armies of the West; it feared the moral corruption of the West! Let Lebanon have the same fear! Already too many Lebanese are motivated by snobbery and worldliness rather than by moral law.

But the priests preach to the converted. They may rage against sin and the lack of Christian fervour, but the sinners and those "of little faith" are not in their churches to hear them. It is only a fervent and instructed laity that can carry spiritual life and learning into the world where atheism and materialism are the rule.

In fact the outstanding writers who have defended the Faith and shown it to be rational, not mere blind, ignorant belief, the Chestertons, the Arnold Lunns, the Frank Sheeds, the T.S. Elliots, the C.S. Lewis's, to mention but a few, have been laymen, in many cases converts from atheism.

I spent only two years in a Catholic (Jesuit) school, but fortunately during that time I was taught some apologetics, that is to say the defence of Christian orthodoxy by reason, history and science. Elementary though it was, at least it taught me that Christianity was reasonable, and when I later found myself surrounded by atheists, Marxists, and Protestants of the aggressive kind, I extended my reading. During the year of my military service spent at the Royal Air Force base near Baghdad, we had an excellent Roman Catholic chaplain, a Capuchin friar. He received into the Church a number of servicemen who had previously been

without religion, but these men all had friends who went daily to Mass in the station chapel to pray for them and were instructed enough to clear the future converts' minds of prejudices and misconceptions before they actually contacted the chaplain. These converts when back in Britain themselves became zealous apostles. Indeed, after the war of 1939-1945 many ex-servicemen become priests and monks, monks of the strictest orders. Despite a regime made yet harsher, Trappist monasteries were crowded with novices and the number of houses was multiplied four-fold. Men had seen the tragedy of the world without Christ and many had been influenced by the example of comrades whose faith was a shining light.

During the years 1940-45, I used to visit a certain priest, the Very Reverend Canon John Rory Fletcher, a man of powerful intellect and very wide culture. In his early irreligious days he had been professor of medicine in one of London's two world-famous teaching hospitals, I believe St. Thomas's, and possessed a fortune. He was the first man in Britain to prepare microscope slides of the Koch tuberculosis bacillus, following the instructions of the original German discoverer. Some of his students told him that the Catholic Church spoke with apostolic authority, whereupon this scientist, contemptuous of the vague personal opinions expressed in so many non-Catholic English pulpits, became a Catholic without any hesitation and in due course a priest.

✦ Canon John Rory Fletcher, medical scientist, convert and priest, c. 1940.



This was thanks to lay Catholics who had a sense of mission.

But this mission to be discharged by the lay-folk demands that they should be properly prepared. Pious devotions are not enough. Nor is it enough for priests to tell them that such-and-such a thing is true because the Church says it is true, or that abortion is wrong because the Church says it is wrong. The Church says there is a God because Revelation confirms reason, which shows that there is a God. We know that Christ walked on earth because it can be shown historically. The Church says abortion is wrong because abortion is in fact a horrible crime, not wrong merely because the Church says it is wrong.

I remember a priest in London who was undoubtedly a holy man, who spoke intimately with Christ. Every Sunday he announced the number of parishioners attending the previous Sunday, about 850, and was clearly satisfied that numbers remained constant. Despite his sincere spiritual life, he did not seem troubled that in his parish there were at least fifty thousand people who had no knowledge of Revelation and whose lips never formed a prayer. However, one of his parishioners, a wealthy former stockbroker, member of the Catholic Evidence Guild, used to speak about the Church on a platform at street corners on Saturday evenings. He had earlier brought twelve of his fellow London Stock Exchange brokers to the faith. This man knew that if the Church is not missionary, it is dead.

I spent the year 1953 in a tiny crumbling village in Isère in France. If its church was empty on Sundays, it was not because of any Voltairean anti-clericalism; in fact the local peasantry was quite well disposed, but changing clothes and having a bath would have been dangerous novelties. Even in that closely-knit society, there was not the least breath of scandal about the priest, a very conscientious man; he recited his breviary and he gave two hours of catechism a week in the village school. But beyond that

he was waiting for the return of the monarchy to save France and the Church – “Mon fils, un de ces jours tu verras il y aura un *Roi* en France!”

I might add that he was a Breton *pur sang*; also that as there were over three hundred other parish priests in the diocese, it was not easy for his archbishop to be an encouraging, loving father to them all individually!

We want to be clear. It is not enough for the parish priest to count heads at Mass every Sunday and then be content that numbers remain the same. It is not enough for him to preach emotional sermons that bring tears to the eyes but leave little impression in the brain and are forgotten at the church door. Lebanese Christians no longer spend their whole lives with goats and chickens up in the mountains. They need to be prepared for life in the cities of the coast and in Europe and America, for studying in universities where religion is either despised or completely ignored. Young people need solid doctrine and the reasons with which they will be able to defend that doctrine against attack and with which they will be able to fight their own periods of doubt and depression, in a world where free sex, binge-drinking and drugs are the rule.

It used to be said that the Breton lost his faith as he alighted from the train in the gare de l’Ouest in Paris. This meant that the emotional kind of piety that had sufficed in his home village withered in the cold blast of Marxism when he went to work in the Renault car factory and

It used to be said that the Breton lost his faith as he alighted from the train in the gare de l’Ouest in Paris. This meant that the emotional kind of piety that had sufficed in his home village withered in the cold blast of Marxism when he went to work in the Renault car factory and joined the Communist-dominated *syndicat*. Young Christians now must have an intellectual formation, in church, school and university, appropriate to their level of general education and specialisation. Sixty years ago a Jewish rabbi said that people are atheists

because their concept of God remains that of a small child, drawn from pious pictures. Their religious education did not advance together with their other learning. Once it used to be said that “religion was good for children.” True, but it is as adults that they really need religion. One might as well say that mathematics is good for children!

But all over the world there has been a failure to prepare priests for properly instructing the faithful in a de-Christianised milieu. If the clergy are brought up in seminaries from boyhood, they cannot easily put themselves in the mind of those who have been brought up outside. When faced with the question of how we know there is a God or of whether the Gospels are mere fanciful inventions, they often do little more than tell the young questioner not to be naughty – he must just have faith. Most probably he loses his faith as a result! This is where priests who have lived in the world as adults before entering a seminary have an advantage. They also have the zeal that comes from seeing how much the world has need of God, how lost are those who do not know him. Religion for them is not a routine. In Lebanon clerical education is concentrated in Kesrewan; only one Lebanese novitiate that we know of is in a poor and non-Christian hamlet. The clergy need to learn how to educate the young laity to have a spiritual life and to be active, zealous apostles in a materialist, atheist world.

As for the religious orders in general, they flourish when they offer a clear spirituality, a clear way of life leading to Christ, a clear mission or a clear monastic vocation, one that evokes enthusiasm. A young man no longer needs to become a priest or a monk in order to eat three meals a day and to provide for his relatives. From past experience I would like to add in parenthesis that one trouble in the Church everywhere is that when a young man has a general idea that he wants to serve God and consults a priest, the advice he is given is

not objective. Perhaps his real vocation is that of contemplative cloistered monk or teaching brother, but if his advisor is a secular priest he will send the young man to become a secular priest in his own diocese, thus getting a pat on the back from the bishop. If the priest is a monk he will almost certainly send the young man to his own monastery, although his vocation may be that of a secular priest, even married in the Eastern Church. A Jesuit priest is unlikely to send anyone to the Dominicans or Franciscans, or vice versa.

Our concern in this article is the mission of the Church and the life of the Mystical Body of Christ in the world. We feel that this demands serious thought and perhaps a breaking of the fetters of tradition.

K.J.M.

An Experience of a Lifetime!

Ramzi Bassil



Ramzi and his friends see something of the beauty of Korean tradition.

Korea is a country very well known for its technological exploits in all the major industrial sectors. Furthermore, this country possesses an amazing natural venue in addition to a very friendly population. As a result, Korea is an excellent choice for tourists where one encounters the most ancient civilization and at the same time is exposed to the most advanced technological inventions in the world!

To start with, I knew very little about Korea beforehand. The only thing I knew was that it had a very good football team, which is one of the best in Asia. One day, Dr. Ziad Fahed, Assistant Director SAO, contacted me and told me about an opportunity to travel to Korea and discover the Korean culture. This special program was organized by the Korea-Arab Society (KAS) and the Korea International Trade association (KITA), and of course the Korean Embassy in Lebanon. The main aim of this program was to promote the cultural exchange between Korea and the Arab world, as the two sides can benefit greatly from each other in virtually all fields as they complement one another: the Arab world is very rich in natural resources, while Korea is famous for its technological exploits that ensure efficient use of resources. The program was designed to include most Arab countries, such as Lebanon, Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Sudan, Libya, Jordan, Palestine, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates.

Only one Lebanese student was going to be accepted for this program, so I knew that it was going to be tough. In addition to that, knowing that NDU is not the most ancient university in Lebanon, I faced an even bigger challenge. Despite all the odds, I decided to apply for this program and went to the Korean Embassy to fill out an application. While I was there, a representative told me that an interview was going to take place the next day. So the next day, I went back to Baabda, where I was interviewed. The interview went very well, and I was confident that I had a reasonable chance of being chosen. After about three weeks, I was contacted by the Korean Embassy and was informed that I was chosen to go to Korea. I was ecstatic about that news and very proud at the same time because this selection also meant that NDU had soared upward to the point that it was now fully recognized abroad. After boarding the plane, I discovered that the person next to me was also going to Korea. As we got to know each other more, I discovered that he too was chosen by the Korean Embassy for this special program, thus making the number of Lebanese students two. The reason was that the interviewer had found both of us very competent and apt to profit from this experience, so he had decided to choose us both! In Korea, I spent an unforgettable time; I got to meet twenty-seven Arab students of approximately the same

age but of very different backgrounds. Moreover, I was exposed to the Korean culture, art, and tradition through many diverse activities that were organized by our very friendly and welcoming hosts. One thing that stuck in my mind was a special Korean non-verbal performance called "NANTA", where the plot takes place in a kitchen and an amazing rhythm is produced by the various kitchen tools. Furthermore, we went from Seoul to Ulsan where we visited the Hyundai Heavy Industries. The program also included a trip to Gyeongju City, where we visited several Buddhist temples and got to know more about this religion.

In the end, I would like to thank KITA, KAS, and the Korean Embassy for the amazing and very successful program they organized. I would like to also thank NDU for giving me the education that made me eligible for this program. Also, a very special thanks goes to Dr. Ziad Fahed who told me about this program and encouraged all the way through. Thank You All!

What I Did Last Summer!

Engineering Students Share Practical Training Experiences in the Petroleum and Construction Projects



❖ Kazakhstan from the air

Georges C. Khairallah: Mechanical Engineering

Kazakhstan

Kazakhstan is the ninth largest country in the world, one in which only 53.4% of the population is local, the rest being Russians, Ukrainians, Uzbeks, Germans, Tatars, Koreans, Azerbaijanis, Jews, Kurds, Turks and many others. Therefore, with the help of the Internship Office, it was a pleasure for me to work with CCC (Consolidated Contracting Company), a multinational company, in a multicultural country. As mechanical engineers, we were responsible for the construction and installment of the pipes & equipments (large vessels, tanks...) in the Kashagan project.

My journey started at the Lebanese International Airport, when I first met the four Lebanese trainees, coming from different Lebanese universities. At first, it was hard to me to integrate with the Kazakh people working on site because they didn't understand English. But, after attending some Russian classes I managed to talk with the workers, thus getting some better results. In addition to the Kazakhs, I met some Arab engineers, supervisors, foremen, charge hands, and pipe fitters (only these were not managers!!)...who supported me at work through their teaching or by giving me some handouts to read. Moreover, they taught me the right way to apply what I studied at university and to acquire some useful information that will launch my engineering career. And after only four weeks I was responsible for the area S2-01E and there were ten people helping me to get the job done.

To conclude, an internship during our studies is of extreme importance because it plays the role of a transitory stage between the university and our professional career.



❖ Carl Abi Saab (Electrical Engineer on the right) and Hanna Abi Saab (Civil Engineer next to him) at Bawshar site near the capital Muscat. Concreting of roof and installation of electrical conduits.

Carl Abi Saab: Electrical Engineering

Oman

I'm Carl Abi Saab electrical engineering senior student at NDU. I had my practical training this summer abroad, the main objective of this internship being to introduce me to the industry of electrical engineering with all its aspects, fields and principles to try to put into action all that I have learned in the past three educational years.

I had the training in Muscat, Oman, with TARGET LLC contracting company. Target is a contracting company specialized in civil, electrical and mechanical works with more than 30 years of experience in the Gulf. I stayed there for eight weeks in the electro-mechanical department and worked on many projects on-site and in the office.

First I was introduced to the general symbols of electrical items, components and drawings and then I went to visit and work in three different sites for around 10 days in each one. The first site was the construction of a sewage treatment plant, the second one was the construction of two large reservoirs and the last one was the extension of a water project with many reservoirs and pump stations. My main work on site was in the power elements or monitoring and control devices. After that, I had around two weeks of office work focusing on the contracting and management of electrical engineering. The main principles and objectives I learned and worked on were the general electrical symbols and legends; the electrical drawings: lighting layout, power layout, fire alarm and security, Tel-cctv-data layout; main distribution boards MDB/ SMDB/ DB components and design; power cables sizes, ring main units/power transformers/feeder pillars/busbars/switchgears/transmission lines/ power supply to desalination plant and reservoirs; sewage treatment plant with all components; Scada system: monitoring and control; estimation/take off/labor cost analysis; planning and AutoCAD.

After two months of summer training at Target I had learned a lot about electrical engineering work and contracting and mainly the engineers' duties and responsibilities, which gave me a good experience needed by every fresh engineer and senior student.



❖ Elie Sawma

Elie Sawma (Electrical Engineering)

United Arab Emirates

During the summer of 2009, I had the opportunity of joining the team of the Consolidated Contracting Company CCC. The Internship Office at NDU provided me with a summer internship in CCC ranked 13th worldwide according to the Engineering News Record (ENR). My summer training took place in the Ruweis Borouge Ethylene Unit 2 (EU2) Cracker where I had the chance to work on an engineering site alongside with people coming from all over the world. Germans, Italians, Greeks, Americans, Australians, Malaysians, Indians, Chinese, Jordanians, Egyptians and Lebanese, to name only a few, joined forces in order to complete this project. Communication with people originating from different cultures was one of the most enjoyable challenges I faced while working in this multinational company. My training program was divided into weekly tasks. I started my training in the substation and satellite instrument shelter, SIS, where I learned how the power is distributed to the site and how the instruments and machines on the site are controlled. I had the chance to witness solo run tests on low and medium voltage LV & MV motors. In the calibration shop I learned the functioning, calibration and communication protocol of many instruments such as pressure, temperature, level and flow gauges and transmitters. I also had the chance to perform loop checking of the instruments I calibrated in the furnace, boiler, compressor, and turbine areas on site. During the last week of my program I was introduced to the lighting and fire & gas systems used on the site. Finally, the heat-tracing techniques were explained to me. During my summer internship, I also had the chance to take several safety courses and trainings in the HSE (Health Safety and Environment) department; I received the safety induction course, the commissioning induction, the training at heights and the training in confined spaces. I also took the Borouge work permit receiver course and test which qualifies me to give work permits in all the Borouge projects. Besides work, living in the desert was a great experience. Learning how to cope with such a harsh environment and how to solve never-ending problems due to the scarcity of resources helped me become a better person. In short, my training at CCC was extremely fruitful and helped me see many of the things I learned about at NDU. I would also like to thank CCC and the internship office at NDU for granting me the opportunity to have such a career-boosting training.



❖ Michel Aoun
and Jad Nasr

Michel Aoun (Mechanical Engineering)
& Jad Nasr (Electrical Engineering)

Saudi Arabia

Our training took place in Al-Khafji Field Development Project (KFDP). This project is located in the Al-Khafji city in Saudi Arabia, 10 km away from the Kuwait border. Aramco Gulf Operations Company and Kuwait Gulf Oil Company are jointly operating and planning to install new onshore and offshore facilities for oil and gas exploration and production. The CCC Company is the "EPC" (Engineering, Procurement and Construction) of the KFDP project phase I. This internship in CCC has given us the opportunity to be exposed to the leaders in construction in the Arab world for two months and to work with the best engineers in the construction field. In addition, we were able to discover the real life and daily work of international companies, which has increased our passion regarding the field of engineering. This internship has increased our knowledge regarding pipe erection, equipments, the fabrication shop, the valve testing shop, HVAC, the quality control and hydrotest of pipelines in the mechanical department and regarding high power systems, electrical controls, sensors, the calibration shop, quality control and design in the electrical department. We have learned to manage the different problems that any engineer may face during work and that can stop or retard the site activity. Also, we had the opportunity to go through the different departments of CCC and learn the synchronization between them, their strategy in work and their job on site and in the office. During these two months of experience, we were able to relate our theoretical knowledge and studies gained in Notre Dame University with the real engineering work; in addition, we were ambitious for learning and working with the different departments. Furthermore, spending a two-month period in KSA has increased our flexibility and adaptation to new environments. It improved our organizational skills, our written and verbal communication skills and our cooperation with the team members. Finally, we thank our university NDU for giving us the opportunity to be part of this internship and we are sure that the knowledge gained during this internship will be the base of our careers due to the leadership of construction in CCC.



Computer & Communication in Qatar

Hikmat El Ajaltouni

As a part of its holistic academic curriculum, Notre Dame University (NDU) requires of its students 6 credits of practical training, the equivalent of two months of training experience. In order to fulfill this demanding requirement and hoping to optimize the experience gained during my training, I started searching for the best telecommunication companies in the Arab world. Hence, my eyes turned towards Qtel, Qatar. With its promising vision of becoming among the top 20 telecommunication companies by 2020, Qtel was the ideal match to my aspirations. Moreover, since the beginning of my studies, I felt attracted and moved by the mobile sector with its infinite possibilities and ever expanding horizons. Thus, I tried my best to participate in this sector and thankfully I was accepted as a trainee in Qtel, Qatar in Summer 2009. During the course of my internship, I followed a structured program on designing and planning a GSM network. I attended presentations on radio propagation to explore the available models and equations for quantifying the path loss. I also learned the fundamentals of noise-limited systems, slow fading, shadowing effects and their impacts on planning. Cellular network planning in terms of link budgets (up and downlinks), radio coverage planning, and capacity planning (Erlang B formula) were all explained in detail and I was assigned tasks to fulfill within due dates.

In addition, I also visited base stations and explored the Network Operation Center in Abu Hamour, Doha. I spent several days in that Base Station where I was assigned a team each day. On the 1st day, I joined the RF Planning team, the 2nd day the Optimization team, and the 3rd day the Fields' Quality of Service team. I interacted with people on different levels thus widening my experience and knowledge. On the last day, I went in a drive test and measured the field strength in different locations across Doha.

Moreover, during my internship, I was introduced to the real-world working environment and exposed to the bureaucracy of work. I had a schedule which I had to follow, deadlines to abide by, reports to hand out, and requirements to interpret as design solutions. I attended meetings and observed interactions between managers and employees.

Training in Qtel provided me with a great range of novel information and knowledge. It widened my knowledge in mobile communications and I felt the pleasure of working with the best equipment and accompanying the most recent technological advances. The experience gained being colossal and the work performed enormous; I hope that the future years will carry the same fruitful results to me and to my university.

From Stability to Chaos...

Nizar Bu-Fakhreeddine¹

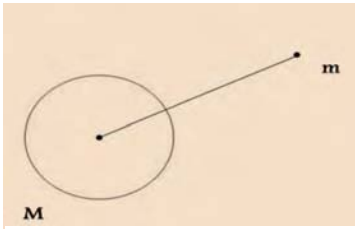
In 1687, **Sir Isaac Newton** introduced three laws of dynamics, thus creating a deterministic model² of the physical world. It would later be discovered that often determinism is not sufficient for making predictions because of a phenomenon called chaos.

Newton's contributions provided a new way of studying the motions of, and interactions between, celestial bodies. This led to the development of the field of celestial mechanics. The n-body problem, one of its central problems, still remains incompletely solved. It is a rich scientific mine in which the possibility of mathematical chaos was first observed. Newton's mechanics state that gravitation acts between bodies and thus produces motion. The force is proportional to the product of masses and inversely proportional to the square of the distance ($F = -G \frac{Mm}{r^2} e_r$)

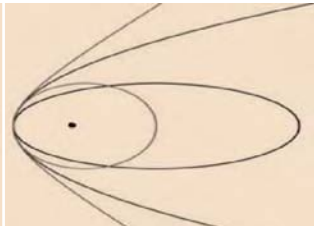
The n-body problem is formulated as such: consider n point masses m_1, m_2, \dots, m_n in three dimensional space. Suppose they exhibit Newtonian forces of attraction. If the initial positions and velocities of the masses are given for some present instant, determine the system's state for every past and future instant. In other words, a general solution is being asked for. It is a difficult problem, the only case being solved is n=2. Here, the motion of one body with respect to the other is always a circle, an ellipse, a line, a parabola or a hyperbola. **(Figure 2)**

As soon as n=3 is considered, complications arise, leading to the possibility of chaos. **(Figure 3)**

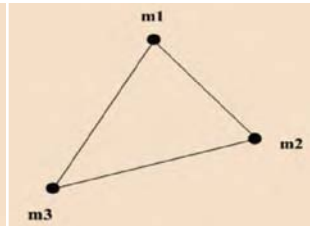
The man who first glimpsed this phenomenon was the French mathematician *Henri Poincaré*. In 1885, he stumbled upon a contest printed in the journal *Acta Mathematica* and commissioned by King Oscar II of Sweden and Norway. The contest asked for a general solution to the n-body problem:



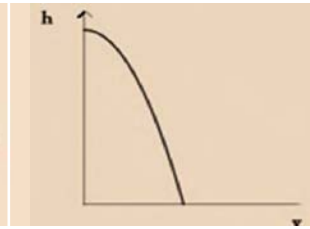
❖ figure 1



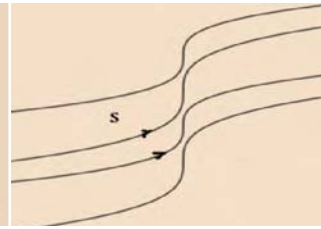
❖ figure 2



❖ figure 3



❖ figure 4



❖ figure 5

“Given a system of arbitrary many mutually attracting material points that obey Newton’s laws, try to find, under the assumption that no two points ever collide, a representation of the coordinates of each point as a series in a variable that is some known function of time, and converges uniformly for all real values of that variable [the solution to the

$$\text{ODE } m_i \frac{d^2 x_i}{dt^2} = \sum_{\substack{j=1, \dots, N \\ j \neq i}} \frac{G m_i m_j (x_j - x_i)}{\|x_j - x_i\|^3}, i = 1, \dots, N]$$

will considerably extend our understanding of the solar system...”

Perturbation theory was subsequently systemized by mathematicians such as Laplace, Euler, Lagrange, Poisson and Hamilton and used to solve planetary problems. Perturbative calculations were criticized by Poincaré, who questioned the convergence of the expansions. Poincaré began with the three-body problem. Soon he reached the limits of quantitative mathematics, realizing that the problem would have to be considered qualitatively, the question being “What do solutions to differential equations look like?” rather than “What is their formula?” His brilliant insights sent mathematics in a new direction. He had not solved the n-body problem but on January 21, 1889, he was awarded King Oscar’s prize for his discoveries. Poincaré is largely responsible for the transformation of celestial mechanics from the study of individual solutions of differential equations to the global analysis of phase space.

To understand what we mean by phase space let us take this simple example: To describe the motion of a dropped ball, if air resistance is neglected we need two variables, its height and its vertical velocity at a given instant in time. Hence the differential equations of motion are given by:

$$\frac{dh}{dt} = v, \text{ and } \frac{dv}{dt} = -g \text{ where } g = 9.8 \text{ms}^{-2}$$

Hence $\frac{dv}{dh} = -\frac{g}{v}$ and so the integral curves in the vh -plane³ is given

$$\text{by } h = \frac{-v^2}{2g} + C \text{ where } C \text{ is a constant. (Figure 4)}$$

The phase space of our example is a plane. Phase spaces, however can be of any shape and dimension, for example a sphere or a torus called manifolds. The question of convergence of the perturbation series continued nonetheless to be investigated, and was finally solved in a series of theorems by Kolmogorov, Arnol’d and Moser (the so-called KAM theory) in the 1950s.

Using a combination of analytical and numerical methods, the existence of chaos in the solar system was demonstrated by Laskar in 1989, implying that exact positions of the planets cannot be predicted for times more than a few hundred thousand years in the future. It is somewhat ironical that chaos actually emerged from the search for its opposite: Stability. The general question of stability concerning dynamical systems asks whether a system will endure small changes relatively unaltered. Mathematicians sought to confirm our solar system’s stability, and for good enough reasons. They defined stability if no planets collide or escape from their orbits around the sun. The general solution to the n-body problem incorporates the stability question. In fact *Poincaré* was searching for stability in a three-body problem when he encountered chaos. In 1808, Siméon Denis Poisson offered a new definition of stability; he suggested that a system is stable if the bodies repeatedly returned near their initial positions. This was a loose definition, especially when considering the *Poincaré*

recurrence theorem, which states: “in a three-body problem, if the motion remains bounded and the bodies don’t collide, they will return close to their initial positions.”

In 1892, the Russian mathematician Aleksandr Mikhailovich Liapunov proposed a definition of stability that addresses all differential equations. For a solution to be stable, any other solution starting near it must remain close forever. (Figure 5)

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²A system in which the later states of the system follow from, or are determined by, the earlier ones.

³plane is referred to as the Poincaré phase plane in honor of J. Henri Poincaré (1854-1912)

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What is Darwinism?

K.J. Mortimer



This year 2009 was the second centenary of the birth of Charles Darwin and the one-hundred-and-fiftieth anniversary of his epochal book *On the Origin of Species*.¹ It is not surprising therefore that we have been treated to numberless articles and radio talks about Darwin and Darwinism. Nor is it surprising that in this regard the BBC has been particularly generous, as Darwin was an Englishman whose first and most direct influence was on Britain and then on the English-speaking world.

But perhaps the most striking feature of these talks by learned scientists was their complete failure to distinguish between the theory of Evolution, much older than Darwin, on the one hand, and Darwin's theory of Evolution by Natural Selection on the other hand, two completely different things. Evolution may not have been proved in the scientific sense, no more than the existence of Napoleon, as something that is repeated under test conditions in a laboratory. But the evidence for evolution as a fact of history, from the nature and dispersion of fossil remains in time and space, is overwhelming. Evolution is the only reasonable explanation. We accept the axiom of Ockam's Razor, namely that one does not search for extraordinary explanations, in particular supernatural ones, when there is an obvious simple explanation – *Causae non multiplicandae sunt*.

Natural Selection is another matter. It is not the same thing as evolution. It is a theory to explain evolution, and without scientists having the personal vital statistics and a complete biography of all the individuals of some species undergoing evolution it must remain speculation. If in medieval times the origin of different species did not come under serious consideration, there was an acceptance of spontaneous generation, which is nothing other than the evolution of living matter from inanimate matter. Evolutionary views were first clearly stated in *Philosophie zoologique* (1809)

by Jean-Baptiste de Monet, chevalier de Lamarck ((1744-1829), when Charles Darwin was a new-born babe. However, he was overshadowed in his time by Linnæus (1707-1778) and by Cuvier (1769-1832). The former's pioneering classification of plants and animals into distinct categories allowed little place in his mind for the conception of evolution between species, at least in animals. Evolution blurs the distinctions.

Why then is there this apparently deliberate confusion, by certain scientists who should know better, between the theory of evolution and one particular effort to explain how evolution took place? First one may note the dogmatism of so many proponents of natural selection, even though there is no scientific evidence that actually proves it. What happens from the confusion is that the moral certainty of the fact of evolution is used in order to make a dogma of natural selection as an explanation of evolution. This can best be explained by prejudices that have nothing to do with science, ones that perhaps have hindered research into the wonders of evolution. Survival of the fittest is certainly a result of evolution; the question is whether it alone can be the cause of evolution.

Darwin himself was a very patient and scrupulous observer. Particularly in the Galapagos Islands, during his famous voyage on HMS *Beagle*, he noticed small differences between varieties of single species; for example, on an island where seeds or nuts were somewhat tougher, the birds that ate them had somewhat stronger beaks than their brothers of the same species on an island where the food was softer. This led him to think that accidental small variations in individuals might lead to their improved chances of survival and step by step to the development of a species distinct from the original.

But whereas Lamarck had considered evolution to be the tool of the Creator,³ living at a time when even the enemies

of the Church in France were deists, not atheists, Darwin was torn by religious doubt. The Protestant Christianity that he knew, since it denied the teaching authority of the Church and the Fathers, was driven to believe in the absolutely literal sense of the Bible as generally known, the English-language King James Authorized Version. So for Darwin, creationism meant six-day creationism. His religious background was also influenced by the gloomy Calvinist doctrine of Predestination, namely that even good people were all predestined by God to eternal damnation, apart from a few, the religious Elect chosen by God. So Darwin, a very kindly man, was driven to reject religion because he could not believe that his beloved deceased daughter, his father, and other respected persons, were being prodded by demons into the fires of Hell. Having rejected the idea of God for quite personal reasons, it was natural for him to find in natural selection a substitute for his naive understanding of creation as understood in English Genesis without consideration of early Hebrew cultural background and ways of expression.

However, Darwin was too much of a gentleman and scientist to do this with any zeal. He saw no reason for upsetting ordinary people's framework of belief and even ended *The Origin of Species* with a reference to a Creator having breathed life into animal forms. But there were others such as Sir Francis Galton, Herbert Spencer and most notably Thomas Huxley whose ideas of progress, social reform and human improvement (leading unfortunately to racism in both right-wing and left-wing circles) made them seize upon evolution and natural selection to attack religion and the conservative order. In their enthusiasm they often betrayed the very principles of scientific objectivity they so loudly proclaimed, which did not prevent the Natural History of Museum of South Kensington installing a marble

statue of Thomas Huxley majestically enthroned (whether it is still there I cannot say; I remember it as it was in the 1930s.) Similar prejudices have consistently led to Christopher Columbus being presented as being opposed by ignorant clergy who insisted that the world was flat. But in medieval times navigators and educated people knew the earth was round. Ptolemy's *Almagest* was the astronomical textbook for the Quadridium in medieval universities, and the very first article of the *Summa Theologica* of St. Thomas Aquinas (13th century) mentions two ways of demonstrating the rotundity of the earth. The difference was that while Columbus relied on Ptolemy's estimation of the earth's circumference, making it far too small and China far too near, the monks of Salamanca relied on Aristosthenes, who two hundred years earlier than Ptolemy made a remarkably exact calculation.

The nineteenth century gave birth to the scientific world that we know today. But during the first half the conception of the universe and of life itself was crudely mechanical. The universe was a Newtonian one and Newtonian principles were successfully applied to new marvels of engineering that made travel possible for the common people. Einstein's atomic physics, physiology, biochemistry and the study of animal behaviour lay in the future. One scientist in the 1830's confidently predicted that in ten years' time there would be no more scientific research as everything would already be known. About the same time a scientific society offered a reward for anybody who could find, kill and bring back a specimen of the extinct dodo bird. Evidently it was thought that once it had been dissected, knowledge of the dodo would be complete. Even the twenty massive volumes of P.-P. Grassé's compilation, *Traité de zoologie*, give detailed anatomy of animal species from Protozoa to Primates while making hardly any reference to ecology and

behaviour although published as recently as the 1950s.

* * * * *

This leads us to consider the insufficiency of natural selection as an explanation of evolution. When its proponents wish to explain and to justify the theory, they refer only to the increased size and strength of limbs or organs that already exist, though even this, it should be pointed out, demands adaptation throughout the body. There is never any attempt to explain new organs or new faculties, or how any new rudimentary anatomical feature happens to be accompanied by all the complex reflexes, behavioural patterns, conscious urges and physiological and biochemical adaptations needed for it to give any perceptible advantage to its owner. Unless the advantage is very definite, survival of the luckiest will be a more important factor than survival of the fittest. Then to prevent it being bred out, couples will have to mate who both possess the feature at least in a recessive gene. If it is one that enters into male courtship display, there will have to be females who by some extraordinary coincidence respond.⁵ Evolution in the male reproductive complex demands a corresponding evolution in the female. No new anatomical feature is of any use unless related to a function, but every function is unimaginably complicated. Every single one entails a vast interrelated physiological, chemical, nervous, behavioural and emotional complex; what is more, all the functions, such as feeding, hunting, defence, avoiding enemies, movement, courtship, reproduction, raising the young, rivalry, body heat control and seasonal adaptation, are interrelated.

Darwinists may point to a classical series of fossil clams which, while similar, show variations. But as Peter Barrett explains,⁶ *For example, marine bivalves (small clam-like creatures) existed in the Jurassic period (between 180 and 135 million*

years ago) remaining almost unchanged for periods of 10 million years or more and were then replaced quickly with a markedly different species – sufficiently quickly to account for the absence of intermediate forms in the fossil record.

In fact one of the problems of Darwinian evolution is the failure so far to discover any series showing gradual change. We have only series of jumps. There is real cause for astonishment in the way the Pterosaurs, flying reptiles, suddenly appeared in the early Triassic (prior to the Jurassic) and filled the skies for the next 150 million years, with many variations according to habitat and diet. It is not just a matter of wings with their incredibly complicated and accurate movements but of the adaptations of the whole body to specialised feeding habits, digestive system, and breeding and nesting behaviour. The early Triassic also saw the sudden appearance of the Ichthyosaurs, both small and giant, which filled the oceans, breathing air but so adapted to marine life as to give birth under the water to live young. In the Eocene bats suddenly appear resembling modern ones, numerous enough for their bones to be found despite their delicacy. Not only is a bat capable of extraordinary aerobatics, but it also has a sound radar system that enables it to fix and seize tiny insects in flight, a chemistry that enables it to survive the ammoniac stench of excrement in its cave and an oestrus cycle that enables the female to preserve the sperm of the male several months until the right time for fertilisation.

It should be remembered that new organs demand a new faculty. The eye is not a mere mechanical camera with adjustable lens. The electro-chemical impulses it sends through the optic nerve incite the brain to produce conscious sensations of colour, colour as such being a sensation and not existing in the object of sight.

Camouflage is one of Nature's miracles. Insects imitate leaves even to spots of mildew. Indonesian seahorses are surrounded by a whole mass of "seaweed", in fact an outgrowth of their body. Octopuses not only change patterns of colour as they glide over the sea bottom; their skin rises into excrescences exactly imitating the surface of the rock or coral in the background. This must entail a vastly complex visual, neural, anatomical and physiological mechanism. Squid put on a display of forward-moving light that dazzles and hypnotises their prey.

There are forms of behaviour (with their biological adaptation) that proponents of evolution by survival of accidental small changes never discuss. The Australian bower-bird decorates a little garden with bright objects such as flowers, and then introduces a female. If she approves his taste and skill, she lets him have what he wants and then goes off to make her nest, lay her eggs and raise her chicks on her own. How did "survival of the fittest" operate here? Certain ants cut leaves, take the pieces underground and maintain them at exactly the right temperature and humidity for a mildew (fungus) to appear which is their staple food. Certain male spiders offer captive insects wrapped into a parcel to keep the too-voracious female busy while they do their bit; more advanced species of the family even offer an empty parcel, the female finding out how she has been tricked only when it is too late. One sees here a purpose and deliberation that can hardly exist in the primitive brain of the invertebrate arthropod. Parasite worms have alternating generations that in no wise resemble each other, one living in vegetarian animals and the other in carnivores. Evolution of the reproductive system demands parallel and complementary evolution in both the males and the females.

The development of the embryo is vastly complicated. Folds of tissue reach out to each other to form an organ, as in the case of the eye. The kidney is twice replaced by a new kidney. Similarly, in a chrysalis the organs of a caterpillar do not develop into those of the butterfly, but disappear and are completely replaced. Even the most orthodox and materialist of Darwinians cannot avoid using the language of purpose when describing the functions of animal organs and chemistry. It is hard to escape a sense of purpose when one reads about how the reptilian skull and thorax developed to allow the development of the human intellectual and emotional faculties with both refined appreciation and mastery of the subtleties of language and music. The Therapsids were a group of reptiles existing in Permian times which showed a steady development of mammalian features, with intermediary stages. The palate formed dividing nose and mouth, separating eating and breathing so they could be simultaneous and allow food to be chewed and not merely seized, as teeth were divided into incisors, premolars and molars. Openings in the skull indicate blood vessels and nerves serving exterior muscles, allowing for facial expression, control of temperature and the development of lips necessary for speech and mastication. Division of the vertebrae and of the body cavity into thorax and abdomen separated by the diaphragm perfected breathing.

The lengthening and then the division of the occipital condyle allowed rapid movement of the head without flexion of the whole neck. Most remarkable was the steady transfer of two bones from the lower jaw to the skull where they formed the small ossicles in the ears, refining the hearing and allowing a new fixation of the jaw bone making side-to-side chewing possible, parallel to the formation of the palate and molars. Other changes of bones led to a cranium

with a greater capacity for brain tissue and protection of blood vessels.⁷

One cannot say that Aristotle was naive when he saw purpose in Nature. What is evident is that Natural Selection falls far short of explaining the mystery of Life.

¹Full snappy title: *On the Origin of Species by means of Natural Selection, or the Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life.*

²Peter Barrett, *Science and Theology since Copernicus*, T&T Clark International, pp. 65-66. Peter Barrett is former Associate Professor of Physics, University of Natal, South Africa. The book has both philosophical depth and a good readable English style, a rare combination these days.

³*Ibid.*, pp. 71-73.

⁴*Ibid.*, p. 91.

⁵Recent discoveries of early small Theropod dinosaurs with featherlike growths not yet adapted to flight have led to the suggestion that they might have been for courtship display, like certain feathers of many modern birds.

⁶*Ibid.*, p. 108.

⁷For details of the development of mammalian features of the Therapsid sub-class of reptiles, see Tome XVII, vol. I, of *Traité de zoologie*, Pierre-P. Grassé, Masson et Cie, 1955, Paris.



“This ‘global village’ we all live in seems to be ‘Greek to me’ ”

Key note speech of Ambassador-designate of the Republic of Cyprus, Dr. Kyriacos Kouros, delivered at the Conference on Language and the Media, organized by the Faculty of Humanities, Notre Dame University, Lebanon 16-17 October 2009.

Dr. Kyriacos Kouros

Esteemed Professors, Educators, Students, Honorable Journalists, Media Experts, Writers, Distinguished audience, Ladies and Gentlemen!

It was a great honor for me when I was approached by the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities Professor Carol Ann Goff-Kfoury and kindly asked to deliver this key note speech here. It was a great honor for many reasons but mostly because during the more than three years of serving here as Head of the Cyprus Embassy I came to cherish this remarkable country and its people in their struggle for advancement in all fields imaginable and especially due to the adversarial conditions under which they move on in life.

Exploring a wide range of topics from Language diversity in the Lebanese media landscape to today’s media language (in internet, broadcasting outlets, advertising) and the academia’s role in preparing future journalists to the future of the evolving media itself and the Literature experienced in the Press, the participants in this very important Conference should be surely aware that they are expected to provide authoritative and engaging insights into the way the media language is affecting the world the Lebanese live in and to elaborate in depth regarding the wide-ranging implications of these changes.

“The media never rest,”
wrote Simon Jenkins.

Their various models of mass communication are in perpetual circulation studied, watched and read all over the planet, having become the only means of how contemporary societies view the world. Since the last half of the past century, especially the broadcasting media have seen an unprecedented amount of change in quantity, technology and public interaction. However, those who interact with the media should be aware of their changing nature and they should learn to ride the tides of those changes.

More and more various media models emerge. The printed press, radio, TV and video have been joined by digital broadcasting, texting and the broadband internet while a futuristic technology is waiting impatiently in line to hand over the torch and move further beyond. The speed of transmission has increased and many more audiences seem to participate both passively and actively. A significant number of mostly western publications have attempted to explain this media phenomenon. Some of them have tried to explore underlying targets and tendencies; another popular theme has been possible ways in which the media might be misleading public opinion worldwide and irrespective of prevailing political systems. Relatively few publications however have investigated so far the language of the media in any depth – surprisingly perhaps since language is at the core of media and communication. Myself I am not a linguist.

However, persons who work in this field - and I used to be one of them - do not have to have proficiency in any other language shared by a large chunk of our planet’s population, to figure out that the written form of the Arab language, the Modern Standard Arabic, and the Arabic vernacular should be in a harsh collision course - with at least two schools of thought emanating from this phenomenon and debating what must be the best way out. I can reassure you that the Arab speaking people on either side of the medium are not alone in this struggle on how to cope between this awesome battle between their written language and the vernacular.

Some scholars argue that Leadership starts with the individual citizen and it starts in the classroom and that the media might not be the most suitable environment for such a debate to be taking place; personally I would have preferred the academic environment to have had the primacy for such a topic to be exhaustively discussed and a verdict reached and then introduced to the rest of world ... but the fact remains that the media are a very powerful tool, among others, which are given the permission by the system we live in itself to have a say in all aspects of our life, including the forms we communicate with. No matter which school of thought each one of us here today represents, we have to acknowledge and initiate our arguments from the very “present and clear danger” that the needs of

the media industry are what dictates today the approaches to the language used. No matter how much efforts are painstakingly taken by governments or the industry itself to preserve the classical form of the language, broadcasting programs/ print would always tend to use the vernacular so as to reach the general public, as any producer or host of a popular show in broadcasting channels can tell you! Because at the end of the day, the media community might believe that they educate the people – it is one of its three major roles anyway, but what is the real value of a highly educational and meticulously qualitative program that has insufficient ratings?

Or much worse, as another example comes from the “west” [quote unquote]; the ever increased commercial pressure on news media outlets and those who imitate them worldwide, has driven the industry to hire and simultaneously baptize as journalists anyone who can write for different sections of the too many specialized outlets rather than focusing on their language skills.

Another important aspect of the language as a very crucial if not the most crucial battleground in this modern market-place of ideas is the meaning the media and the general public respectively attribute to words. In other words, how “we” and “they” interpret the seemingly same words which everybody uses?

Take for example popular expressions such as [all quote unquote]: “peace operation”, “justice for all”, “democracy”, “minority rights”, “majority rule”, “terrorist”, “freedom fighter” which are repeatedly being used and abused by all sides in any given conflict; and blurred of their true meaning and spin-doctored by people in power who it seems they do not respect enough those concepts or may simply do not understand it the same way because of the different angles we all stand on and watch this world evolve around us.

It was the Ancient Greek play-writer, Aeschylus, the Father of Tragedy, who pointed out first that “in war [or conflict of any sorts], the first casualty is truth.” One may ponder with today’s standards to which kind of truth the ancient scholar was referring to. Only just recently I read a book criticizing BBC of being currently managed by a too liberal minded people who leave no room for conservative views in its programs.

As I said above, I am not an expert in the Arabic language, demotic or classical, and therefore I cannot continue exploring the matter [of the use of Modern Standard Arabic, especially in Lebanon]. I am sure that among the participants some will be qualified enough to raise very challenging and innovative opinions about how the particular issue should be approached.

What I usually propose when similar issues are debated in my own country, the approached methodology to a reasonable path to enlightenment should always be the desired result of fusion and not an attempt to impose the beliefs of one side on to the other. When so important matters for the society and its culture are discussed, the common target should be how all sides benefit from a compromised common understanding and not to seek blame for the other side. Of course, now it is the diplomat in me who talks.

However, no one can doubt that part of the role of the media is also, if not primarily, to educate. We tend to forget this aspect sometimes when we compare it to the volume of information and entertainment and especially “infotainment” we get nowadays. But a media-offered, up-to-date education itself needs its most important tool, the language, to be re-evaluated, re-discovered if necessary, surely re-defined and applied once more for the benefit

of a benevolent system of principles which we accept as regulatory edicts in our quite ordinary but very complicated at the same time lives. This to happen needs of course the profound contribution of the media community.

The fact remains that the media all over the world are a combined reflection of both the particular society and this “global village” we live in today. There are distortions and there is a lot of confusion and a lot of noise in our screens but the fault does not lie entirely on the media. We need each member of the society to participate in this Herculean effort so that this reflection is adjusted as closed as possible to the reality we think that we all want to share. The journalist however is obliged to strive to set the record straight!

Starting from examining how the language of the media in the first decade of the 21st century contributes to a better understanding of the bold globalised world we are being led to. The next step is to examine what kind of language the inhabitants of this global village need so that the whole system functions better.

Allow me to wish all the best to all the participants of today’s conference for very successful and fruitful deliberations. The organizers should also receive a standing ovation for all their commendable initiative.

Thank you.

Traditional media replaced by digital media?

Analysis made by Kamal Darouni (BLI)

Assistant Professor NDU, Buzan Licensed Instructor,
CEO Infomarkets Int'l

John F. Kennedy once said:
Change is the law of life and those who look to the past or to the present are bound to miss the future.

If I am asked what **will** be the future changes in the Middle East Media , I can only tell you what **might** happen but not what **will** happen.

I can tell you from now on, be prepared to throw away your cellular, PC, TV set . Remember that all these items might be merged in one component, for you to carry in your pocket.

The tremendous evolution of satellite, C.D. ROM and multi-media is creating a revolution in Communication.

The Superhighway, telecommunication, interactive television and electronic data transmission have really rendered the world a "Global Village" according to Marshal Macluhan's predictions and applied theories.

Today's mobile phones and internet users are triple the number of TV users, and advertisers have recently rushed to this new media because it offers economies of scale suited to their global strategies.

We all agree that we are living in a world of individuality, making ourselves feel miserable, thus seeking to opt for a second life and forming a fake identity. This age of virtual life is provided for by interactive facilities such as e-book, e-gate, e-passport, e-shopping – e-game and why not in future we might have an e-marriage-, e-love and e- children .

Nowadays, the traditional media such as television, radio, publications and even books, are becoming like old buildings and the new skyscrapers such as new digital media have emerged. Just imagine:

55% of world advertising is spent on internet and in-game-advertising, using the computer and video games as the media of first choice.

The new media software such as TIVO provide electronic television programming schedule and recordings. But the biggest hit is the VIDEO PLAYER, which integrates the online publications and the TV commercials, and offers a perfect synergy to advertisers.

I reckon that this new trend will replace both print media and TV broadcasting. Advertising cost is being charged by the number of clicks and not by the number of spots as dictated by the TV stations . This would present a good return on investment to advertisers in today's crisis management. John Wanamaker once said 50% of advertising is effective but which 50 %?

Predicting the future and its impact, I would simply quote five trends:

- 1- The Arab governments will have less control in business and politics due to the uncontrolled growth of incoming information from online network.
- 2- The media barons will have ever-greater influence over the socio-political system in the Arab world and the digital media might be the tool of Arab unity that no prominent Arab personality has ever been able to achieve.
- 3- the traditional advertising , Public Relations and Marketing will die out and be replaced by dynamic means such as digital media, digital advertising and digital marketing. International Universities might adopt new curricula to keep pace with global changes which reflect consumer insights.
- 4- Advertisers might be producing their own long feature films (35mm) to supply them to the television stations and theaters, getting credit on their advertising exposures such as "this film is brought to you by x product."
- 5- Lebanon and Dubai will never rise again to act as the show window or the Switzerland of the Middle East. Those who control the Pan-Arab and world communication outlets are the big players such as W.P.P. Omnicom, Ted Turner, Berlusconi, etc....

From Dr. Dany Ghsoub's Political Science Classes

Lebanon: A Democracy without Citizens?

Rira Abinader and Avo-Sevag Garabed

"Ask not what your country can do for you – ask what you can do for your country." – JFK Inaugural Speech, 1961,

Are you aware that Abraham Lincoln defined democracy as government of the people, by the people and for the people? The people are the citizens of a state. In a democracy, citizens are an integral part of a political community compared to people under a monarchy considered as subjects who have no right to participate in any decision-making process. According to this statement we may consider Lebanon as being a modern form of confessional monarchy. And the tragi-comedy comedy about Lebanese leaders is the power they exert in the name of their confessions embodying the Lebanese "consociational" and hindering the role of the citizen. Thus in Lebanon ex-warlords are the only ones who control and take charge of the country's affairs. Don't you find the scenario funny when roads get surfaced only two weeks before the election? And ironically two weeks after the elections you are back to the rule of chaos? Generally, taking the example of Lebanon, rulers tend to try to keep the population in a coma-like state. Basically, what we have in Lebanon is a theatre with a democratic façade and an elitist foundation. And we wonder whether the elite is by merit or inheritance.

"We do not say that a man who takes no interest in politics is a man who minds his own business; we say that he has no business here at all." – Pericles.

The role of any concerned citizen is to be an active player in the political life of the state of which he or she is part. Understanding this interactive relationship between a democratic government and the people is an important aspect of civic education. Indeed, a comprehensive course on the rights and duties of each person, and on the responsibility needed for being a pro-active citizen, is an essential pillar for democratic engagement. Thus, it is not merely the right of every electorate to hold its representatives accountable; it is a duty.

"The spirit of democracy cannot be imposed from without; it has to come from within." – Mohandas Ghandi.

Lebanon: A History of Violence?

Marina Chagoury

Throughout its existence, Lebanon has always suffered from an existence packed with violence, civil wars, conflicts, invasions, revolutions, occupations and interventions. But what are the reasons for all this violence? We can find a great number of answers, starting with different religious groups, lack of national agreement, the feeling of repression of many ethnic groups, self-interest rather than public interest, political hierarchy, the presence of weapons outside the Army, too many political parties, and, to end with, having a weak army. With dialogue, tolerance and class struggle we could have avoided all this shedding of blood. No matter what, we should always use our past to learn our mistakes. To fix things now, we should restore dialogue and diplomacy as a way to solve conflicts, have educational reforms, disarm militias, adopt a new political system – some kind of "liberal dictatorship"? All we can hope for is that one day our grandchildren will open a history book and read that Lebanon is finally under the rule of Lebanon. Our liberty is our weapon and with it we can reach all our goals.

Lebanon – A Country without a Nation?

Soha Fahs

Given: A nation is a body of people who share a real or imagined common history, culture, language or ethnic origin.

From the thoughts I have read about and shared with other students, Lebanon is of course a nation fitting the description given above. What is clear about Lebanon is that it is very politically and sectorially active (i.e. having many political nations. For it to be a nation there should be a government present. The way it is formed depends on how "disrupted" that government is. So there is a nation and there is a government (even if "disrupted", it still is one.) And we certainly have at least two, if not more, political nations.

If anything, in answer to the question of its structure, Lebanon is not a country without a nation, but a country of several political nations.

But when it comes to to simpoie matters of food, language and cultural traditions, it is indeed ONE nation.

Can Light be Melodious?

Deacon Yaacoub Sarraf

Former Minister of the Environment

What can I, an ignorant, simple deacon, say about the Melodious Light?

A friend of mine called on me to share thoughts about the void we felt upon the departure of His Grace Archbishop Elias Korban. Half a century of our lives was condensed into this moment that split reality from eternity, resounding like the shattering noise of the breaking of a crystal chalice.. But here we picked up the remains of the Light and the lingering psalmodies!

We found ourselves weeping, smiling, hoping, gazing at a great man who was in our lives a cornerstone, a presence we took so much for granted; now his physical absence had become unbearable and overwhelming.

Sayyedna Elias now lies with the source of all melodious lights, in that Peace that dissolves all tunes into one, the glory of Go pouring into our ears and on to our hearts.

The light which brought him to his clergy, which illuminated every step of his life and bestowed upon him the glowing grace of the Lord, still shines on St. George's Cathedral. It mingles with the rays of the sunset falling on Deir El Natour and on the leaves of the olive trees of Koura which bow to the grace with which this Shepherd used to walk among us.

"What do we remember from our childhood in the church?" asked my friend.

"What do we remember of any church?" I replied.

"The light of the candles and the melodies of the choir mingling with the intermittent ringing of bells.

The beauty of the holy light coming from Jerusalem, the sweetness of the psalms chanted by the choir, suddenly

interrupted by the majestic entrance of Bishop Korban at the door of the iconostasis, escorted by a marvelous melody coming from his lips but chanted through him by the angels."

We were taught about the Word becoming flesh and His Grace taught us about melody becoming light. Through him angels made the psalms pour into our souls like the holy light from the five candles he held when appearing at the Holy Door. His prayers, carried by these blessed melodies, entered our hearts and minds, escorting the essence of the message of Our Lord. We were praying without consciousness of the passing of time; as we looked at His Lordship holding the tridikiria we felt God among us. This was the communion of eyes, ears, mouth, body and soul. And let me not forget the fragrance of the incense spread by his hands as a gardener sprinkles his seeds to grow into aromatic flowers. Yes! My friend, light can be melodious, as the seed becomes a tree, as a word can become act.

What can I share with you? You who are scattered all over the world, in Boston or New York, in Koura or Tripoli, you both feel and miss the presence of *Sayyedna*.

Wherever he went, he reassured everyone with his grace, his commitment, his calm and his chanting. He was there when I was baptized, when I was married, when he mourned my father, when he enthroned our clergy from deacon to bishop, and when the angels greeted him in the Kingdom.

He was just there every time, all the time, everywhere, as the Lord had commissioned him to be there.

Can't you feel his presence now?
Can't you hear his melodies echoing within you?

Can you hold back his tears?

God gives his good things to all, but to him God gave something more. He gave him the way to be there, to comfort, to listen, to share, to guide, to weep, to have doubts, but also to have faith in the Resurrection and most of all the gift of spreading this faith.

The warmth emanating from the smile in his eyes still resonates with the beauty of his chants, not only in our world but also in our lives.

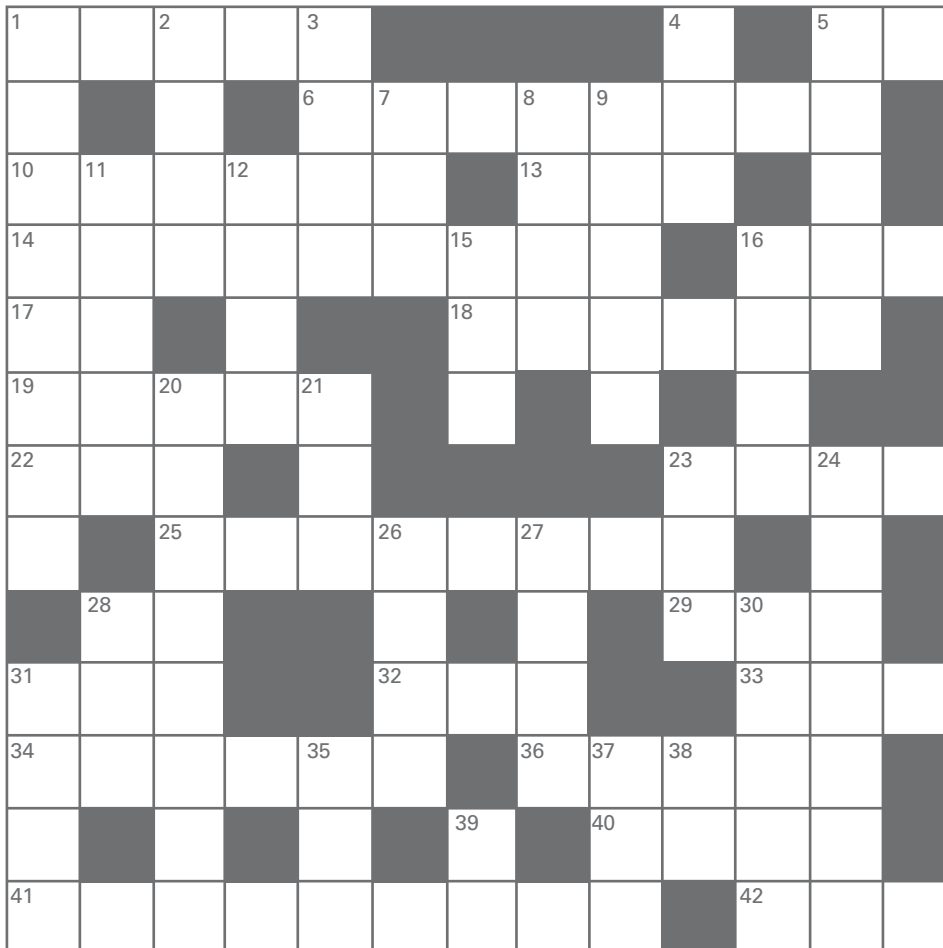
He carried our sorrows and our sins, our laughter and our tears, our deaths and our births, but more important he was there, like the sunrise every morning with the beauty of light and the melody of life.

Was this the reason why he insisted that the chants of the Resurrection should be sung before dawn to announce the Eternal Light of Easter?

This, my brothers, is the melody of light. Rest in peace, Father Elias, the angels are coming to meet you, greeting you with the chants you might have taught them, leading you to the Light which must have taught you.

From Department of Musicology

Something for your grey matter



Clues

Across: 1. split 5. time departure point 6. soonest 10. method 13. model of a hard worker 14. all-powerful ruler 16. set of sails 17. city of the Chaldees 18. infected 19. reflex of surprise 22. handle of a jar 23. soup for microbes 25. ecstasies 28. Japanese opera 29. something coming before a skip and a jump 31. trail behind 32. unofficial body 33. It has a point and a head 34. East African state 36. get thinner towards one end 40. traditions of a folk 41. possible 42. demand

Down: 1. NDU trinity 2. parent's sister 3. enthusiastic 4. crockery combine 5. lumber room in the roof 7. skill 8. recently deceased 9. incapable 11. major blood vessel 12. close 15. poisonous snake 16. circle 20. proud and contemptuous 21. faucet 23. remains of a fire 24. hopes to achieve 26. large fish 27. public disorder 28. old horse 30. story set to music 31. hard nodule 35. lair 37. totality 38. Italian river 39. π