

***Mr. Elie Nabhan's farewell at LERC***

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2012, LERC, NDU

Reported By *Maritta Sislian, Intern, Winner of Akiki Grant*

LERC bid farewell to Mr. Elie Nabhan who was the indexer and editor since 2006. Mr. Nabhan was one of the copy editors who worked on *The Impact of the Summer 2006 War on Migration in Lebanon: Emigration, Remigration, Evacuation and Return* and he also helped in keying in data and reviewing text for *Insecurity, Migration and Return: The Case of Lebanon Following the Summer 2006 War*, which was published by the Euro-Mediterranean Consortium for Applied Research on International Development (CARIM). He was also one of the editors who worked on the artist biographies and selected artist statements for the brochure on the *Lebanese Diaspora* collective art exhibition inaugurated at the Dome, Beirut City Center on 17th March 2010. Mr. Nabhan has undergone training and assists in the indexing of data for LERC's electronic archives and database. He is a member of the Lebanese-Nigerian Friendship Association.

Colleagues and friends joined LERC in this bittersweet occasion, and each recalled and shared stories of how nice it was to have Mr. Nabhan in LERC's team. Dr. Assad Eid the VPSRD in his turn expressed how much he appreciated working with Mr. Nabhan for the past 6 years as being an enthusiastic core member of LERC.



From left to right: Mr. Mark Abi Adam, Ms. Suzanne Menhem, Mrs. Liliane Haddad, Director Guita Hourani, Mr. Kozhaya Akiki, Dr. Assaad Eid (VPSRD), Mr. Elie Nabhan and Dr. Eugene Sensenig-Dabbous.  
Bottom row: Ms. Shereen Mahshi, and Ms. Maritta Sislian.

During the gathering, Mr. Nabhan expressed his heartfelt words through a poem summarizing his journey at LERC:

*Old timers with LERC*

None measured up to Guita, that's for sure  
Though Mortimer had a soul, gentle and pure  
Madame Haddad was up with the very best  
While doddering behind, with us, guileless rest  
Elias was a whiz in a gilded cage  
Looking out for me, really, though half my age  
Basma bade her time, decisive and bold  
Her ambitions leading to a pot of gold  
Rudy ignored nonsense, campus hearsay  
Burying his head in books all day  
Joe worked real hard to then disappear  
Improved his lot with a degree sincere  
An Austrian doctor, we marked so high  
A Brazilian who brought his nationals by  
An import from Yale, who smiled and thought  
Dear Dr. Eid whose advice was sought  
These weren't colleagues, they were friends you see  
Wolf and Dina would drop from Germany  
There was Elie, Alex, Marie-José too  
Robert, Suzanne, Joelle, to recall a few  
Our doors were open to all in name  
Students, and scholars in migration, they came  
To see and learn our research tools  
And immerse themselves in the Archive pool  
Like elsewhere, it happens, when matters are tight  
The finishing line may mirage from sight  
But the worth of the people, who ebb and flow  
Will, in the final run, set LERC aglow

Elie Nabhan

23<sup>rd</sup> May 2012

A final word from LERC to Mr. Nabhan, you will be missed for sure, "*Be well, do good work, and keep in touch*". ~Garrison Keillor.