

The Second Kozhaya and Nora Akiki Internship Grant Awarded to Maritta Sislian
March 2011

LERC has always been active in providing internships for interested local and international students since the day it was established and so Mr. Kozhaya Akiki continues to give opportunities to young graduates through the Kozhaya and Nora Akiki Internship Grant after being a friend and believer in the Center ever since his first visit.

After the success of the first Internship Grant, the second opportunity was awarded to Ms. Maritta Sislian.

Ms. Sislian was selected as the winner of the \$ 1,000 Kozhaya and Nora Akiki Internship Grant and is currently serving as an intern at the Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC).



Director Hourani and Second Grant Winner, Ms. Maritta Sislian. (March 2012)

Maritta Sislian holds a B.A. in International Affairs and Diplomacy from the Faculty of Political Science, Public Administration and Diplomacy of Notre Dame University and she is currently enrolled in the Masters Degree specializing in International Law. Ms. Sislian was involved in the Club of International Relations (CIR) as secretary for the academic year 2008-2009 and served

as President of the Armenian Club in 2009-2010. During the same year, she was elected representative of the Faculty of Political Science in the Student Council for 2009-2010. She had previously worked as intern in the Lebanese Ministry of Interior and Lebanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In fall/spring of 2011, Maritta worked for the United Nations Development Program on a project for enhancing the system of governance in the Arab region. She has also represented NDU in several conferences and seminars, the most important of which were the UNDP Program for Bridging Cultures and the 26th Arab Ministerial Conference in ESCWA. She has had several articles published in NDU's Spirit Magazine.

Ms. Sislian is currently the main research assistant and interviewer for a research project on the Syrian Refugees in Lebanon.

Ms. Sislian is grateful to the Akiki family for this invaluable opportunity and hopes that others will follow her example.