

## **Director of the Maronite Foundation in the World Ms. Hiam Boustani Seeks Out LERC**

**December 4, 2013**

### **Jasmin Lilian Diab, LERC**

Director of the Maronite Foundation in the World Ms. Hiam Boustani sought out the Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) to discuss a mutually beneficial project for the two institutions.

Ms. Boustani met with Dr. Hourani, Director of the LERC, in the presence of Ms. Liliane Haddad, the LERC's Chief Archivist and Indexer, and Ms. Jasmin Lilian Diab, the LERC's new Assistant. At the onset of the meeting, Ms. Boustani gave a brief overview of the Foundation's accomplishments since its inception and its plans for the future, concerning of the rights of Lebanese descendents to acquire citizenship, and explained how archival material is an integral part of this effort.

Ms. Boustani went on to propose a project that involves indexing and classifying archival material in the possession of the Foundation, pertaining to Lebanese emigrants. Ms. Boustani explained that the LERC was sought after to provide the expertise needed for such a venture.

Dr. Hourani welcomed the idea and gave a concise suggestion on how the project could be implemented. Dr. Hourani promised to prepare a tailor-made proposal for both the Foundation and NDU to approve.



*(from left) : Ms. Liliane Haddad (Chief Archivist of the LERC), Ms. Boustani, and Dr. Hourani at LERC/NDU (December 2013)*

The Maronite Foundation “aims to help Lebanese around the world regain their Lebanese citizenship; it also aims to promote the benefits and spirit of Maronite affiliation and the

Lebanese identity among Maronites of the world, and awaken Maronites to their heritage and consolidate their links with their Lebanese and Maronite roots.”