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President's Address on the Occasion of the 20th Anniversary of NDU

On May 10, 2007, President Moussa addressed the University on the 20th Anniversary of NDU. This is the summary: at the end of this presentation, I summarize the constants in which Notre Dame University believes, in the light of its research and studies on the subject of politics and nationalism.

These could be summarized in five major principles:

1- *"Everything starts with education, be it construction or destruction. And we have experienced all this."* This quote by Renee Maho (former director of UNESCO), depicts our future orientations.

2- *"A Christian cannot live two lives, one being spiritual and one lay, and each having different values."* This quote taken from the Apostolic Exhortation Affirms that the duality which is lived by most politicians and which affects our students is to be rejected and shall be clearly and boldly brought to light.



Fr . W. Moussa, NDU President

3- *"Cultures and not fanatic adherences are the pillar of our work in the University."* This statement by our father Patriarch Nasrallah Boutros Sfeir communicates our role and decision in all matters related to political activities

within the University. We support everything that serves culture and oppose everything that ignites fanaticism and instinctive actions. We do not want shameful politics or politicians (Patriarch Sfeir).

4- *"The young, who are facing difficulties and have hopes, dreams and aspirations, are invited to give social and political life a new start. they have the right to express themselves, supervise officials and hold them responsible."* This passage taken from the Maronite Patriarchal Synod (text 19) calls upon us to build a democratic environment that is sound and not debilitated or afraid, to allow the Lebanese youth to play their role in the nation.

5- *"A clear-cut distinction, to the point of separation, between religion and state, instead of misusing religion for political purposes or building politics on religious starting points that are absolute."* This passage also taken from the Maronite Patriarchal Synod (text 19) further incites us to elaborate our decision that the University is for all categories and religions. The University seeks to transform its campus into a laboratory of coexistence: a place for living together without any regional, confessional or party discrimination...

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Mission and Diversity Concerns in Higher Education

With a quickly changing world, concerns related to mission and diversity in higher education are becoming of a greater significance. At the opening session of the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities Conference in Washington, D.C., February 3-5, 2007, some opening remarks/questions, from the President of ACCU, Fr. William Leahy, President of Boston College, are to be remembered:

How to become, joyfully, distinguishly, and intellectually, better Catholics? Engaging otherness, engaging locally the world's pluralism, and engaging the disciplines with knowledge of the Catholic intellectual tradition, might be prerequisites for becoming a better Catholic at the spiritual and professional levels of performance.

Pope Benedict XVI asked lately: "Why should faith and reason be afraid of each other, if they can express themselves better by meeting and engaging one another?"

Catholic Higher Education in a Global Context

Archbishop Michael Miller presented the following facts and figures: 270 Catholic institutions of h. e. out of 2000 around the world are ecclesiastical. More than half are faculties of theology; others are schools of philosophy and canon law. Other types are affiliated schools, aggregated, and incorporated. About 800 institutions offer pontifical degrees.

The mega trends that are shaping Catholic higher education (h. e.), according to Miller, are:

- Catholic h. e. is increasingly affected by globalization, and globalization is redefining how individuals and institutions are controlling their behavior and discipline.
- Globalization is turning cultural differences into common trends that are mostly affected with materialism, hyper individualism, and consumed knowledge.
- The Holy Sea encourages critical assessment on globalization.
- The decreasing attention paid to Students is another result of globalization. Learning skills are replacing human values, and general education, to build up the whole human being.

Cooperation among Catholic universities could take place at the level of inter departmental and inter disciplinary academic activities.

Catholic Higher Education in an American Context

It is a tendency to treat the mind, to instrumentalise the mind, the knowledge, the intellect as expressed by Cathleen Kaveny, University of Notre Dame. The human person is the producer and the consumer of his own mind. It could be used with equal facility, for the good or the evil. Ethics comes in, as extrinsic, to control neutral knowledge. We need to communicate that the human mind is not an instrumental object because it carries an intrinsic value. Morality is not something instrumental even if it can control the misuse and abuse of neutral knowledge. It is not knowledge itself that is necessarily Catholic, but the rounding of all knowledge. This rounding is really Catholic.

Catholic could mean, sociologically, the voluntary, according to William Porter from the University of Dayton; it could mean, theologically, the witness. Students' vast majority identify themselves as the weak bond to the Church. They are indifferent. The small group of Catholic students responds to the dynamics of social pluralism and deal with it through their significant spiritual energy. They are looking for a Catholic form of light. Navigating between Catholic identity and pluralistic culture is the real challenge of contemporary Catholic higher education.

Identity and dialogue are the two poles of modern human values according to Amelia Velmen of Fordham University. Connecting personal identity with social contribution is a clear on-going challenge. The basic problem is the lack of security and self-confidence. Let us discover the Catholic connections with what other neighbors or partners are doing. Emptying one self, out of love, makes us ready to accept otherness, to build a trust with all humility.



Dr. Ameen A. Rihani

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Making the Catholic mission explicit in the curriculum.

Andrea Lee, President, College of St. Catherine, emphasized that the Mission is every one's job: the Catholic tradition is of intellectual inquiry and ethical leadership; it is the integration in the Core Curriculum; these principles may be highlighted through presentations at Orientation sessions and faculty workshops. Curriculum Assessment is based on teaching social justice. Student engagement is characterized by student recognition, and student awareness of their needs. The outcome is deepening appreciation, evolving distinctiveness, enhancing faculty development, and attracting national activities.

A Catholic university is an on-going dialogue between the Christian community and the culture in which it finds itself as expressed by Anthony Cernera, President of Sacred Heart University, and Amata Miller from the College of St. Catherine. Values and principles that shape the Catholic intellectual tradition are based on rich historical texts of our heritage. Literature, prayers, poetry, and songs, old and new, could be part of this heritage.

Catholic higher education research cooperative.

Ellen Boylan, Marywood University, Mark Gunty, University of Notre Dame, Gerry McLaughlin, DePaul University, Margaret Ryan, Boston College determined the objectives:

- Provide an introduction to the role of the Catholic mission in shaping higher education
- Present information on the issue
- Discuss values of cooperation
- Explore how information can support decision making
- Develop mutual awareness
- Discuss interdisciplinary possibilities.

The closing remarks at the final plenary session focused on ways and means to have an effective Catholic mission in higher education. These could be summed up in three remarks to render the Catholic mission more effective:

1. On the student's level : getting students engaged in this mission is a major objective. This could take place in giving the students the opportunity to participate, in their own way, in the Catholic life on campus and in the community.

2. On the intellectual level : allowing faculty members and staff to share their own experiences and express it in writing. Call for seminars to discuss the meaning and effectiveness of a university with a Catholic mission. Introduce this mission in every course offered and every intellectual activity offered on campus.

3. On the social level : create the awareness within the university community on the meaning of social justice, social and individual ethics, and the love with which we deal with each other. This Catholic mission could be integrated in all courses offered and activities achieved on campus.

Effectiveness could be translated into several activities among students, faculty, and staff. The activities include seminars on the meaning and implementation of the Catholic mission, questionnaires related to student life in relation to morality, ethics, and Catholic values, creative writings with spiritual themes, individual evaluation of the liturgy, the Catholic mission in a social and human context (justice, freedom, equity, human rights...)

Diversity and inclusion in the academic programs.

Diversity without inclusion remains theoretical. Freeman A. Hrabowski, President of The University of Maryland Baltimore County considers that it is important to appreciate challenges and opportunities that students are face with (ACE Conference, Washington, D.C., February 11 – 13, 2007). Preparing leaders of the future requires encouragement of being talented and smart. Students from low-income families usually are poor performing students.

Students come to campus with ideas already set. It is our responsibility to open their minds and teach

them how to examine their set ideas and beliefs. The campus culture should become an open minded, flexible, diversified and tolerant way of thinking. On a personal note, it is worthwhile observing that a student of higher education is a student of higher values, higher attitude, and higher intellectual and emotional discipline. It is the responsibility of university professors and administrators to cultivate a sense of intellectual behavior among students of higher education in order to make out of them the leaders of tomorrow.

Diversity the changing face of America

Ron Suskind, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and author of A Hope in the Unseen: An American Odyssey from the Inner City to the Ivy League, was instrumental in highlighting that the light of learning is different than mere names, titles and subjects. The light of learning is the exposure to knowledge. This requests a series of continuous choices. To learn is to be ready to give up. Giving up set ideas and beliefs is a serious first step of learning. "All what I do is to write; write about things that are broken. All what I do is to write about broken processes."

What does education do to our souls? Education could lead you to raise your voice even at the White House. The real challenge of today is the fact that we are exposed at once to everything. We cannot be phony anymore. We cannot say one thing and do another. We are to be true to ourselves. Only then we own the faith, and the genuineness. Only then we capture the spirit.

To write is to think and, on a personal note, to think is to evaluate, to analyze, to rationalize, to imagine and come up with new ideas, some of which could be an addition to the historic repertoire of the human flow of sound ideas.

If mission and diversity are of a major concern nowadays in higher education, it is extremely dynamic to reconsider the role of universities not only in America and other developed countries, but also in underdeveloped countries around the world to examine their role in changing the face of the twenty first century in order to be able to face the new challenges of the modern time.

Seminar on the horizons of Civil Society in the Arab Countries and the World Today

The Lebanese Center for Social Research (LCSR) of Notre Dame University organized a three- day seminar (15-17 March) on the horizons of civil society in the Arab coun-

tries and the world, paving the way for the international conference it is organizing under the title "Where did society go? Citizenship between the crisis of identities and globalization" in March 29-31, 2007.

The purpose of this seminar was to shed light on the issue presented by the civil social organization in social entities, formal and informal, currently existing, especially in the Arab region, in order to reinvestigate the basis of this organization as well as the paths and courses leading to it. At the opening session, NDU President R.F. Walid Moussa welcomed the participants and said that the seminar promotes us from the narrow pool of politics, confessional and sectarian association and party conflicts to the world of human culture which knows no limits or barriers. He added that "the crisis of identity has exhausted us in Lebanon. It was a burden and the reason behind a lot of crises...conflict on identity takes a confessional form in Lebanon, Arabism is reduced to Islam, the Phoenician identity is reduced to Christianity... There lies the core of the Lebanese problem."

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



The lecturers

The University Vice President for Research and Development, Dr. Ameen Rihani, discussed the issue of identity and globalization, considering it as one of the issues addressed in this time from different approaches, most importantly, the existential approach, the affective approach and the moral

approach. He pointed out that “the most dangerous step we could make today is walking out of globalization under the pretext that we are the weak and they are the strong.” He noted that, although reality obliges us to differentiate between strong and weak, we should never assume that “weakened” people have no role. He affirmed that this is the challenge as he underlined the need for defining the role that we could undertake in the process of productive, efficient and equal communication between peoples.

In the first session under the title of “The Basis of Civil Society”, H.E Dr. Farid Al Khazen took the podium and said that the seminar raised an essential, vital, old and new issue. He examined the development of the civil society concept throughout recent years and especially after the cold war, starting from the status of local civil society in the Arab countries and finishing with the Lebanese case. Al Khazen considered that civil society is present everywhere and the main issue lies in defining the values and their acceptance or rejection. His question was to what extent civil society was capable of contributing to the realization and definition of the said values, in the midst of the numerous conflicts surrounding it. Furthermore, he explained the development of the civil society concept, lasting from 17th century up until the 19th century, when this concept was presented in the framework of the emergence of the capitalist state and labor unions during the industrial revolution and in the framework of the market economy expansion process. He added: “Today, the concept of civil society is not a mere getaway from the capitalist control; we are not experiencing an industrial revolution as in the 19th century. The civil society concept has become the concept of joining the realm of democratic practices. Therefore, it is linked to the process of change or shift from authoritative regimes to democratic regimes.”

Al Khazen added that the civil society issue does not create a crisis in Europe, the United States and a few other states because these states are democratic and their societies enjoy a certain space for expressing priorities and aspirations, participating in political life and decision-making and contributing through participation in the legislative elections work mechanism.

The civil society issue is raised in the context of research and speculations related to the third world non-democratic countries which recently experienced the fall of their authoritative regimes and the emergence of democratic ones. A good example is Latin America in the nineteen eighties and Eastern and Central Europe countries: the most important change experienced in Poland was carried out through labor unions which constituted a resistance to the state still authoritarian at that time. Another example is the Soviet Union, where resistance operations emerged and led to the

formation of an opposition movement through labor unions with direct or indirect international support from the Vatican or from the United States or others. Khazen added: “I gave this example to highlight that studies and literature on civil society see the process of change as a means for resistance and curbing the control of the state as much as possible through labor unions, sports clubs and political parties... I also wanted to explain how the civil society could be a means of resistance and a route for change leading to the construction of the democratic state. These issues were raised in the West, Latin America as well as in other societies. This journey as a whole established a primary role for civil society after the authoritarian state collapsed in Eastern Europe and Middle Europe following the end of the cold war and the collapse of the prototype, the Soviet Union.

Al Khazen further explained that civil society in the Arab region has other supplementary dimensions which makes the issue far more complex compared to the situation in the world or the West for many reasons: after the cold war, no changes occurred in our region although several changes were witnessed in a number of countries – a few African and South Korea – which had military regimes similar to ours. On the contrary, our region experienced more authoritative practices with the exception of few countries which knew a certain change, such as Jordan and Yemen. In the early nineties, all researches and studies focused on exploring civil society in Arab countries. This process first focused on counting the institutions in these societies such as unions, syndicates and associations advocating children’s and women’s rights. Nonetheless, these institutions were practically linked to the state or controlled by fundamentalist movements whose goals are far different from those of the concept of civil society but which at the same time, are part of this civil society. A beginning of change was noted in some Arab countries such as Jordan, Morocco and Yemen, but this was not the case in Syria and Iraq. He added that one of the pillars of civil society is its ability to assume its role of limiting state control and interference in all matters, when the majority of institutions in the Arab world were, in most of the cases, unable to assume this role.

Then Al Khazen moved to the Lebanese case, which he believes is special, because of the sectarian structure of Lebanese civil society existing long before the state was established in 1920. For this reason, the Lebanese experience stands out from other Arab countries’ experiences. Another reason is the presence of military and religious states in the Arab countries, experiences. Another reason is the presence of military and religious states in the Arab countries, unlike Lebanon where the state was neither military nor authoritative

but less powerful than the society. This is the fact that distinguishes the Lebanese case from other Arab cases.

The experience which took place in the midst of a period of crises in Lebanon was that of the liberal state and there was another path to walk: civil society was always present in the context of unions, associations and parties, not to forget free journalism and the freedom of movement for all communities composing the civil society: the confessions.

He affirmed that the basis of civil society in Lebanon and more precisely the issue of freedom is linked to the existence of a confessional pluralistic society, considering that freedom and competition are present in Lebanon and independent from the state and one reason for their presence is the link between civil society and confessional society.

He pointed to the fact that several associations and institutions have a confessional aspect while their work could be totally secular.

Furthermore, he considered that the challenge lies in the following question: "How can we build an active society and a civil society capable of transforming the state into a civil state as mentioned in the Lebanese constitution?" However, the greater challenge is overcoming conflicts and critical crises in the country, which have sometimes reached the level of violence. Nevertheless, one cannot disregard the significant and obvious energy among civil associations existing at the heart of the society in their civilized and democratic opposition to the current reality of the Lebanese society.

He concluded that this is the Lebanese paradox of all times: times of war, times of peace and the current post-war time.

Dr. Antoine Msarra, discussed the three basic behavioral civil components:

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

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

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

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

NDU held an international colloquium entitled What has Society Come to? Lebanese Society? Citizenship between Identity and Globalization. The colloquium took place on March 29-31, in the presence of the Superior General of the Maronite Mariamite Order, Rev. Abbot Semaan Abou Abdo, Rev. Fr. Walid Moussa, President of Notre Dame University, the Consul of Moldavia in Lebanon Mr. Elie Nassar, and a group of Lebanese and foreign researchers and scholars.

In the opening session, the NDU Director General of Public Relations Mr. Souhail Matar said that the three-act play prepared by the center coordinator Dr. Abdo Kahi painted the picture of the crises and wars that had taken place in Lebanon and the region over more than thirty years, and which constituted a challenge to the dominating powers, an opposition to the ruling authorities and an aspiration to the humanity of man through the consolidation of the spiritual factor. He added, "This three act play attempts to present a final recognition of Lebanon as a ground for meeting and dialogue between Judaism, Christianity and Islam as well as revealing the importance of dialogue not through its external form but through its spiritual sources and roots."

Rev. Fr. Walid Moussa affirmed that the University had been committed for more than fifteen years to the organization of activities related to public affairs. He insisted that "We are all invited to take part in this endeavor; in such a period, universities should elaborate plans and necessary frameworks to build the state and promote the culture of citizenship...we shall together defend Lebanon until it becomes a nation of dialogue, love and freedom." He affirmed that the war would come to an end provided there was an elite of citizens there to struggle for the cause of righteousness, goodness and beauty." Afterwards, Dr. Kahi presented his three-act play on the state and evolution of society in Lebanon in a dialogue with Amal Dibo, who played the role of the Philosopher, together with a musical accompaniment by Rev. Fr. Khalil Rahmé.

Father Walid Moussa, President of NDU then stated: "Those who have suffered death, destruction, hunger, displacement and tears in times of war voice their

The first session under the title of From the State of the Citizen to the State of Groups Dominating the Globalized Market, where is Society going? was moderated by Dr. Kahi who indicated that the subjects of the colloquium focused on the new problems faced by the societal concern in the present-day world. It highlighted the mutations of contemporary societies following the September 11, 2001 attacks and the mutation of Lebanese society in particular: starting

International Colloquium on Citizenship between Identity and Globalization

from the 1915 events, passing through the Taef state experience during the Syrian control period and highlighting the dynamics of conflict which had become more obvious after the assassination of premier Rafik Hariri in February 14, 2005, triggering confrontation between the Lebanese social blocs of March 8 and March 14, then reaching the July-August 2006 war against Lebanon which fueled this confrontation and its complications.

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

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Group of audience

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

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



Group of Audience

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

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

Water Vision Workshop

Koura

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



Mr. Philippe Ker Rault

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

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

Dr. Fadi Comair then took the podium to read the speech of Minister Mohammad Al Safadi, who declared that Lebanon had the reputation worldwide of being an oasis of water in the middle of a dry and thirsty Middle East. However the truth was exactly the opposite, for the simple reason that according to international standards the water threshold was the unavailability of a yearly volume of 1000m³/person, whereas the average individual consumption of water was around 400 cubic meters in Qatar, 250 in Saudi Arabia and 240 in Lebanon.

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

But, said Dr. Comair, the construction of dams and lakes was not sufficient in order to attain the sought-after goal. It needed to be accompanied by efforts to develop, improve and strengthen the human technical potential in the public service and in water and other institutions so as to manage, maintain and operate the completed projects. In another connection, in keeping with the good neighbor policy, the General Directorate had prepared a number of agreements and conventions for sharing common water on a fair basis.



Left to right: Mr .N. Calouch, Fr. J Abou-chrouch, Dr. F. Comair and Mr. P. Ker Rault.

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

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

Seminar on Waste Water in Lebanon

In collaboration with the Ministry of Energy and Water and under the auspices of His Excellency the Minister of Public Works and acting Minister of Energy and Water.

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

NDU President Father Walid Moussa affirmed that we were all living on sufferance, faced with the problems and questions concerning the environment and water. He warned of disaster if the problem of waste water were not solved resolutely. Fr. Moussa added: "We are all aware that the question of pollution goes beyond that of water to the fields of values, politics, means of communication and the economy. Moreover, the water problem directly affects both life and health and might have a deleterious impact on our children and on our country's reputation. For this reason we are raising this issue today, with one eye on the toxic atmosphere that surrounds us." Fr. Moussa stressed the need to confront the challenges arising from the question of water as well as those of illiteracy, unemployment and population. He said that politics should be left to the politician, even though we imprecate politics and its results, and search concentrated on the vital issues so that the disease might be diagnosed and part of the cure be found. Fr. Moussa thanked His Excellency Mr. Al Safadi for sponsoring the seminar and the organizers and participating bodies for their contribution. The path must be followed despite all difficulties, for civilization was what counted for Lebanon and all the rest was marginal.

Engineer Ismail Makki for his part considered that the waste water issue and the search for appropriate means to solve this problem constituted a priority in Lebanon owing to their close relation to public health, developm-

ent and environment. He pointed out that the waste water treatment plants in Lebanon were few and he stressed the need to increase their number, especially as these plants could provide many job opportunities. Engineer Makki presented the program that had been launched by the CDR in collaboration with the ministries concerned in order to finance the projects for collecting and treating waste water according to the master plan of 1982 updated in 1994. He indicated that implementation would not be completed unless the Water Department attached to the Ministry of Energy and Water assumed responsibility for managing and maintaining the plants. "The CDR has considered contracts for plants," Mr. Makki added, "with construction dates ranging between three and five years, during which specialists will assume the tasks of management and maintenance, which would then be passed to the Water Department."



Group of audience

At the end of the opening session Dr. Comair read the communication of His Excellency Mr. Al Safadi, who stressed the importance of the seminar as it represented the highest degree of compatibility between the different sectors working in this field in order to raise the level of services. He affirmed that the water sector constituted one of the most important sectors in Lebanon, given its many uses and results when it came to such vital sectors as the country's economy, development and environment. These usages would lead to the increase of social services in Lebanon especially if they were managed globally, without neglecting the matter of balance between the quality of water distributed and its quantity. Further, "In 1992 the Lebanese government launched a global program regarding the treatment of waste water. This program aims at dealing with the requirements of environmental protection and public health. A large number of master plans were drafted in order to collect and treat waste water in different Lebanese regions with the support of consultative bureaus working for the Ministry of Energy and Water and the CDR."

Dr. Comair presented the strategy implemented by the Lebanese government to build around twenty plants for waste water treatment in different regions of the country. He indicated that six of these plants had been approved to procure waste water services for up to 70% of the Lebanese population. Three plants had been built so far while others were still under construction. These plants would allow the re-use of treated water to irrigate arable land and to feedback ground water. Dr. Comair pointed out that, when it came to the reforms adopted by the Lebanese government during the Paris III Conference, the Administration was working hard to use water resources in an organized and sustainable manner in order to manage this sector with the collaboration of the public and private sectors. The aim was to operate and maintain the water plants and to support the four modernized water establishments so as to be able to run the sector of clean, irrigation and waste water according to the standards of modern technique and of Water Law No. 221.

The first session of the seminar treated the regulations and legal framework of the waste water issue. Engineer Bassam Jaber, former Director General of Exploitation, Ministry of Energy and Water (MEW), raised the problem of waste water actors and institutions in Lebanon. Engineer Hassan Jaafar, Head of the Sanitary and Environment Department, MEW, treated Strategic Planning along with the Water Law and Institutional Statute. As for Engineer Ismail Makki, he discussed the management of waste water treatment. Engineer Mohammed Baraki from the Department of Protection of Urban Environment (MoE), laid emphasis on Waste Water Treatment Outflow Quality Control. The second session covered the updating of the master plan of the year 1982

Rihani's Bust at Notre Dame University, Lebanon

In commemoration of the 130th anniversary of the birth of Ameen Rihani, Notre Dame University, Lebanon, (NDU) celebrated the event and unveiled the bust of Rihani on campus in Zouk Mosbeh, Lebanon, on March 1st 2007, at 12: 15 p.m.

The program started with the Lebanese National Anthem followed by a video and power point clip entitled "Ameen Rihani: Voice and Image". Addresses were delivered by: Mr. Suheil Mattar, Director of Public Relations at NDU.

who gave a power point presentation on Rihani's biography; Rev. Fr. Walid Moussa, President of NDU determined the objectives of the National Pantheon project at NDU and emphasized the role of Rihani as a national and international thinker and role model for developed and developing nations in the 21 century; Mr. Talal Salman, Owner and Editor-in-Chief of Assafir Newspaper in Beirut, gave tribute to Rihani, the Lebanese Arab contemporary thinker on his 130th anniversary; H. E. Ambassador Fouad Turk highlighted the significance of Rihani's modernism and contemporary concerns and trends of thought based on liberalism, globalism, and human advancement.



Bust of Ameen Rihani

Dr. Ameen Albert Rihani focused on the "Great City" accentuating that Rihani determined its framework early in the 20th century and NDU is now inspiring it at the early days of the 21st century. The ceremony ended with the unveiling of the Rihani's Bust at the main entrance leading to the Administration Building and University Library. The audience exceeded 300 people of students, professors, men of letters, and media reporters. A pamphlet was distributed during the ceremony entitled "The Great City", including what Rihani wrote on the subject, in Arabic and English, as selected from Ar-Rihaniyat and The Book of Khalid.

The ceremony was attended by a large audience of university professors, students, and administrators, together with men of letters and media people from all over the country.

We can lose ourselves in two ways: by walling ourselves into individual segregation or by diluting ourselves in universality.

Aime Cesaire

Unveiling Al Haklani's Bust at NDU

On May 8, 2007, Notre Dame University unveiled Ibrahim Al Haklani's bust on the occasion of the third centennial of Our Lady of Louaize Monastery and the 20th anniversary of NDU. This ceremony was organized in the framework of the "National Pantheon" Project at NDU main campus entrance in Zouk Mosbeh and was attended by the Vice Superior General of the Maronite Mariamite Order and Superior of Our Lady of Louaize monastery Fr. Philip El-Hage representing Most Reverend Abbot Semaan Abou- Abdo Superior General, NDU president Father Walid Moussa, Abbot Boulos Naaman, Mr. Melhem Karam, President of the Lebanese Editors' Syndicate, and Engineer Youssef Tarabay, president of Al Haklani's Friends Association, as well as the Mariamite Fathers Salim Raji and Samir Ghoussoub, Engineer Georges Moufarrej, member of NDU Friends, Father Boutros Tarabay, former NDU President, a group of the Association's members and NDU family and students.



Left to right: Fr. Philippe El-Hajj , Fr. W. Moussa , Artist Nayef Alwan , and Lawyer Antoine Akl.

The program started with the Lebanese national anthem. A speech was delivered by Mr. Suheil Mattar, Director of Public Relations at NDU, who presented an overview of the celebrated scholar's life by highlighting his birth in Hakel, district of Jbeil, in 1605, his voyage to Rome and joining the Maronite School founded in 1583, his cooperation with Prince Fakhreddine Al-Maani II, teaching in Florence and translating the Holy Bible in France and finally his appointment as clerk in the Vatican library and his death in Rome in 1664.

NDU President Father Walid Moussa emphasized the significance of the role played by Al Haklani as a Lebanese Maronite for the Church and for the world. According to him, Al Haklani was a relative of Sheikh Salhab Al Haklani, who endowed the Mariamite Order



Group of audience

with Our Lady of Louaize Monastery and its surrounding land, and he was typical of the poor Lebanese urban young man who leaves Lebanon taking his ambition to the entire world, seeking education, livelihood or a civilized role to play. "Ibrahim Al Haklani is a role model for our Order and University; he devoted his life to the service of education, thought and theology." Father Moussa further affirmed that the purpose of placing Al Haklani's bust at the University entrance was to perpetuate his name in the minds of Lebanese and his image in their memories, as a symbol inspiring students in their journey of strenuous effort to achiev



Bust of Ibrahim Al-Haklani

of artist Nayef Alwan who had carved the bust for the National Pantheon and finally expressed the wish that the difficult period we were passing through might be the pathway from a great past to a yet greater future.

Visits to Italy, France and Germany

Florence, Italy

Ms. Guita Hourani represented LERC in Italy when participating in an international conference entitled The Eighth Mediterranean Social and Political Research Meeting which was held in Montecatini Terme, between the 21 and 25 March 2007.

Ms. Hourani's participation delivered her research paper in Workshop 6 which was entitled Between Society and the Market: Novel Approaches to the Business History of the Middle East where she delivered her research paper Diaspora and E-Commerce: The Globalization of Lebanese Baklava in which she introduced and explored the impact that diaspora communities have on e-commerce and on the production and export of baklava. She mentioned how immigrants are a means by which Lebanese baklava is now being sold or sent as gifts to the countries of migration.

the The paper also investigated how the Lebanese pastry sector has tapped into the various Lebanese



Dr. William Berthomiere, Director of Migrinter, and Ms. Hourani, at the University of Poitiers, France.

diaspora communities around the world by creating websites and by employing e-commerce to create a diaspora market niche. The paper also examined how the inter-relationship between e-commerce and the Lebanese diaspora had changed the way of doing business within the pastry sector, exploring its impact on taste, presentation, packaging and various similar concerns.

As for methodology, the paper was founded on several research methods which included interviewing four out of seven of the big-name patisseries, all based in Lebanon, all family run businesses, namely Refaat Hallab, Abdul Rahman Hallab and Sons, Fouad Jer Doueihy, and Douaihy. Further interviews took place with IT speciali-

sts, with lawyers concerned with the IT law which awaits the approval of the Lebanese Parliament, and talked with Member of Parliament Dr. G. Jalloul, head of the committee that has drawn up the IT Law, especially with regards to e-commerce. A company in charge of processing and confirming credit-card purchases was also interviewed.

The conference was inaugurated by Dr. Ghassan Salameh the former Lebanese Minister of Culture and senior advisor to former United Nations Secretary General Koffi Annan.

Hourani's paper was very well received and was nominated for publication.

Poitiers, France

Ms. Hourani's trip to France was to pay a visit to the University of Poitiers and to negotiate a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the two university centers involved namely LERC and Migrinter, the Center for Migration Studies at Poitiers. Ms. Hourani sees as vital the establishment of a cordial partnership between LERC and a major European center.

The MOU will allow NDU and LERC the privilege of having a partner within the European Union with access to higher education in, for example, migration, geography and politics. It will allow for exchanges of both students and professors as well as for further co-operation in research between the two centers. The MOU between both is currently being prepared.

At Migrinter, Ms. Hourani met with several university officials including the Director of Migrinter Dr. William Berthomiere, who is also Head of Research for the Comité National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS). He donated to LERC the whole collection of Revue Européenne du Migration International covering the past twenty years and gave a commitment to send all future issues. Ms. Hourani also met with Dr. Philippe Caron, Director of the Doctoral School of Human Economics and Social Sciences and Dr. Emmanuel Ma Mung, a former director of Migrinter and member of CNRS.



Ms. Hourani Oldenburg, Germany

Hourani was unable to meet Dr. Salwa Nacouzi the Vice-President of International Relations who was away on travels but learnt from her assistant and other staff that she is welcoming the initiative linking NDU and Poitiers.

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

Oldenburg, Germany

Ms. Hourani stood for Dr. Eugene Sensenig-Dabbous in presenting a paper at Migration, Islam and Masculinities, Transforming Emigration and Immigration Societies at an International Conference at the Carl von Ossietzky University at Oldenburg, 12-14 April 2007. The conference was held in German and in English. Ms. Hourani represented LERC on Panel III held under the title Culpable Victims-Victimizing the Culpit? Discourses on Violence in Migration Studies.

The paper was presented by Ms Hourani on Friday 13th April and the contribution was very well received. The paper will be published as part of the Conference Proceedings..

NDU Celebrates Academic Excellence

The 518 students who had obtained grade point averages of 3.2 and higher in fall 2006 were honored in a ceremony which took place at noon on May 7th in the newly inaugurated Issam Fares Auditorium on NDU's

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Student representatives from each of NDU's faculties then spoke on issues concerning the quest for academic excellence. Ms. Nathalie Sermanokian served as M.C. and introduced Ms. Sarah Moukarzel from the Faculty of Natural and Applied Sciences, Ms. Emma Shaffu, Faculty of Humanities, Mr. Ahmed Karkanawi a Musicology major in the Faculty of Architecture, Art and Design, Ms. Pamela Chemaly a Senior in the Faculty of Political Science, Public Administration and Diplomacy, Mr. Alain Zreik from the Faculty of Business Administration and



Distinguished students with President Fr. W. Moussa



Group of audience

Alain Zreik emphasized how students need to know how and when to study rather than count the actual number of hours behind a desk. Sarah Moukarzel, a first year student moved the audience through her comments concerning the efforts new students must make to make sure they do not fail academically or socially. George Akiki requested that NDU continue to emphasize lab courses which he described as small windows where students are able to see how work is done in the real world. Pamela Chemaly spoke of how a student needs both talent and opportunity. She thanked NDU for the opportunity to use her talent. Emma Shaffu proudly announced that she has been able to succeed due to the passion she feels for her major. Ahmed Karkanawi brought a smile to the audience as he spoke of Mozart and Beethoven as colleagues. Maha Chalita spoke of the need for students in all majors to be life-long learners.

Ms. Marise Karam and Maria Chelala, both gifted musicians and students at NDU enthralled the full auditorium with their piano and saxophone interpretations of well known favorites.

The Faculty of Architecture, Art and Design prepared certificates for the occasion.

Students and faculty members enjoyed refreshments in the foyer after the ceremony.

Internet Resources on Higher Education

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