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## Message From The President

Last year, Notre Dame University-Louaize celebrated its 20th anniversary. Since 1987, the University has committed itself to preparing active citizens who contribute not only to the Lebanese society but also to the world community. The proof is that our graduates have been dynamic in the social, economic and intellectual development of countries and businesses in the Middle East, Africa, Europe, Asia and North America.



to serve as an educational institution for the 3rd millennium. We look forward to continuing our mission, to future advancement and to facing with resilience and determination the challenges and changes that lie ahead.

Fr. Walid Moussa, S.T.D.  
President

The driving forces behind NDU's achievements continue to be the families who value learning and despite all the challenges continue to invest in education, the students who want to succeed and be effective members in their societies, the faculty members who dedicate themselves to quality teaching, and the staff members who commit their time and efforts to facilitating the administrative and infrastructural aspect of the learning process. Despite the deplorable and poignant events that have engulfed Lebanon since 2005, NDU has managed to continue its mission, to increase enrollment, to further develop its curricula and its international cooperation, and to pursue ground-breaking research on the key issues pertaining to social and academic needs. All this has been achieved through the talent, perseverance and collective efforts of the parents of our students, our students, faculty members, staff, friends and donors. As you read this e-chronicle, I hope that you will be further convinced of our commitment to excellence in learning, devotion to serving our society, and dedication to diversity and dialogue. This year, we continue to celebrate our firm commitment and efforts

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## NDU 17<sup>th</sup> Commencement Ceremony Friday, July 13, 2007

About 800 students graduated from Notre Dame University's three campuses in Zouk Mosbeh, Barsa and Deir El Qamar during a commencement ceremony attended by Central Bank Governor Riad Salameh, as well as representatives of President Emile Lahoud, parliamentary Speaker Nabih Berri, Prime Minister Fouad Siniorah, and the Maronite Patriarch Mar Nasrallah Boutros Sfeir. Were also present Bishop François Eid, Bishop of Cairo and Sudan, Presidents of Lebanese Universities and Schools, members of the Board of Trustees and Friends of NDU.

The ceremony was inaugurated by the prayer of the Superior General of the Maronite Order of the Holy Virgin Mary, Most Reverend Abbot Semaan Abou Abdo asking God to "give the graduates the power to be free, masters of themselves not followers, people of thought, will and decision".

After an enchanting Mariamite song delivered by the Choir of Notre Dame de Louaizé under the direction of Fr. Khalil Rahmé, the Director General of the Public Relations, Mr. Souheil Matar greeted the audience and addressed the graduates saying: "By love only, we can defeat wars; by joy only we can defeat death, by building bridges we can destroy walls."

In his turn, the President of Notre Dame University, Rev. Fr. Walid Moussa said: "One of the most difficult academic years is over. I will not talk about politics because I know you have had enough of these rough speeches repeated over and over, and which instead of leading to the development of the country, have led to its destruction (...). We will work together, dear parents, to find a treatment of the scourges that afflict our children and push them to emigrate. We want free and learned future generations, loyal citizens and honest and courageous leaders. We do not want parrots, followers and products which can be bought with money."

Speaking to the 17<sup>th</sup> batch of NDU graduates, the guest speaker, Dr. Riad Slameh said that liberalism should be based on the principles of personal freedom, economic liberty, mutual tolerance, general



elections and governments that are held accountable. He added that Lebanon should uphold the free market and protect it by implementing wise administrative decrees. Salameh said that Lebanon successfully endured and overcame many security and political challenges such as occupations and political assassinations. He added that the local and international community forgot the public debt, thanks to the measures adopted by the Central Bank to protect the Lebanese currency and keep inflation at reasonable levels.

The valedictorian of the graduating class of 2007, Elias Alouan delivered the graduates' speech. At the end of the ceremony, Fr. Moussa distributed the degrees to the graduates who sang together the NDU anthem.

## LERC Participation In International Conference

LERC Sends Paper to International Conference in Egypt under the Patronage of Forced Migration and Refugee Studies Program

An international conference at the University of Cairo on Migration and Refugee Movements in the Middle East and North Eastern Africa, took place in the Egyptian capital between the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> October 2007.

The Conference was organized into sessions, at which expert speakers initially discussed several migration issues across the region. Dr. Philippe Fargues, Director of The Forced Migration and Refugee Studies Program, the Center that called for and organized the event, gave a broad overview on Migrants and Refugees in the Middle East and North Africa.

Over two days discussions focused in particular on Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Egypt, Migration in the Gulf, Ethiopia and Eritrea, and Sudan and Somalia. The concluding session of the conference considered future plans.



Although the Lebanese Emigration Research Center was slated for the afternoon session on the opening day dealing with Lebanon, Associate Director of LERC, Ms. Guita Hourani, being unable to attend personally, instead sent a paper entitled Lebanese Diaspora and Homeland Relations.

In her paper, Ms. Hourani explained that though Lebanon has not actually specified or implemented a diaspora policy, Lebanese emigrants have historically always been a vital part of Lebanon's life.

Leaving aside the migration process or the motives behind migration, Ms. Hourani's paper focused on selected aspects of the Lebanese diaspora and homeland relations.

In her paper, she sought to emphasize the important networks connecting the Lebanese diaspora with the home country as well as reviewing courses of action undertaken by the Lebanese government to strengthen its ties with the Lebanese living abroad.

In this light, the paper discussed Lebanese Diaspora-Lebanese Relations and described today's avenues of communication and the role of the extended family as the main means of networking for social, economic and political survival of the individual and clan, and consequently of Lebanon.

Considering the strong family ties and fervent patriotic feeling towards Lebanon, the paper stressed firstly the role of networking through remittances.

"Remittances being the most visible and tangible form of financial capital transmitted by Lebanese expatriates, reaching an estimated US\$ 4.9 billion in 2005, and US\$ 5.6 billion in 2004. Lebanon itself is ranked seventh amongst the top ten countries recipient of workers remittances," said Hourani.

The paper went further to discuss the networking of Lebanese that occurs through social and philanthropic contributions by which migrants invest part of their remittances in social and economic development projects in their home villages, referred to today as 'Transnational Philanthropy'.

The paper also discussed political networking in the form of long-distance nationalism or Homeland Politics, "for diaspora communities are not only interested in immigrant politics which affect their lives in the host countries, but also in homeland politics. They remain interested and involved in the political situation and development of their homeland through what has been labeled as 'long distance nationalism' or 'diaspora nationalism', said Hourani

This is seen in the new Lebanese diasporic communities lobbying governments through- out the last thirty years of turmoil in Lebanon.

"Though diverse in its political views and not totally immune from divisions, the Lebanese diaspora is still able to play a vital role by lobbying foreign governments and international organizations for Lebanon's sovereignty," she explained.

An example of this has been the approval of bills in the US Congress and the Canadian Parliament, the adoption of a resolution by the United Nations Security Council, and the declarations by Amnesty International in favor of the Lebanese people and the sovereignty of Lebanon

Networking also takes place through tourism and annual visits. The spiritual land of the ancestors attracts many expatriates back to visit the country.

Networking is visible through the establishment of schools and universities since the Lebanese diaspora as individuals or communities have always strongly believed in education.

Moving on to review Lebanese Government-Diaspora Relations, Ms. Hourani said that with the establishment of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and then the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Welfare of Lebanese Abroad, successive governments have tried to link the diaspora and Lebanon.

These efforts, she said, are seen in the "creation and expansion of Lebanon's diplomatic and consular missions; the extension of the Turkish-Lebanese accord to allow emigrants to choose Lebanese citizenship; the founding of the World Lebanese Cultural Union (WLCU) permitting organizations and institutions related to migrant relations to be created on Lebanese soil; the targeting of diaspora interests for homeland investment; and presenting a bill for parliament to create a migrant identification card."

However, although governments in general have shown their concern towards the diaspora, there has never been a formal policy framework to govern relations between Lebanon and its expatriate communities, nor a clear socio-economic plan to seriously involve the diaspora in the development of their homeland.

## The Annunciation of Mary: The Covenant of Life in The Spirit Summary and Conclusions

The Lebanese Center for Societal Research at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) convened The First Marian Conference in conjunction with the International Pontifical Academy, under the title "The Annunciation of Mary: The Covenant of Life in the Spirit." The conference was held under the auspices of His Beatitude, Cardinal Mar Nasrallah Boutros Sfeir, and in the framework of the 300-year Jubilee celebrations of the monastery of Our Lady of Louaize, headquarters of the Holy Monastic Order of the Virgin Mary.

Fr. Walid Moussa, President of NDU, outlined two goals for the conference: The national and the educational/spiritual ones. The Director of the Center, Dr. Abdo Kahy, summarized the approach

of the conference towards the Virgin Mary by describing her as “a covenant in a word, which expresses the will of God to enter life through the venue of human nature.” This is why, according to him, the new covenant of God came through Mary. Thus, the conference became an opportunity to open a dialogue over the project of love, which is itself a project of divine altruism.

This is why it was only normal for the conference to be convened by a monastic order and a university which carry the name of the Virgin. It is the first in a series of research endeavors which are to tackle “the personality of Mary and to launch Marian theological thought,” as Abbot Semaan Abou Abdo [of the Order] said. It was a sign of joy to note that Christianity and Islam joined in commemorating her, as attested by the evangelist Luke, in whose gospel the Virgin says that “all ages will call me blessed” (Lk 1:48), and by the Quran which says that God has chosen her “above all the women of mankind” (Surat al-Imran:42). In this context, Maronite and Orthodox hymns joined Islamic recitations from Surat Maryam in the Quran in seeking her prayers and intercession. This was manifested at the end of the conference by interventions to this effect from a Sunni sheikh, a Shiite Sheikh, and a Druze university professor.

What caught the attention of all those who attended the conference was that the Papal Nuncio and the above mentioned three speakers voiced, without prior agreement, the need to commemorate the feast of the Annunciation on March 21 as a national unifying feast for Christians and Muslims. This was a divine sign of love sent by the Virgin who has always called for unity and love ever since she accepted the divine seed in her womb.



who proclaimed that the Virgin Mary is the Mother of God and that her veneration is a duty for all. This proclamation and previous testimonies made those present feel that her effect in her conference went beyond its title to permeate their minds and souls, so much that they often expressed this effect in word and in feeling.

The world is in need of Mary, who shall always remind us: “do whatever he tells you.” (John 2:5)

## NDU Alumni Couple Reunion 2007

“A hundred hearts would be too few  
To carry all my love for you.” Author Unknown

In the framework of celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Notre Dame University, the Alumni Affairs Office planned the NDU Alumni Couple Reunion 2007 - **Tonight I Celebrate My Love For You**, on Monday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2007 in Issam Fares Conference Hall - Main Campus.

The President of NDU, along with Members of the Boards of



Some speakers dealt with the theological and spiritual connotations of the Annunciation of Mary in the Bible and in the Quran. Bishop George Abou Jaoude probed the Bible in search of the mystery of Mary; Dr. Antoine Kurban probed the transfiguration of the Virgin through employing the natural sciences and medicine as a ladder in this quest; and Sayyed Hani Fahes treaded a path of love in approaching her, which defied the conventions of literature and easy expression towards her.

In addition to the joy which emanated from those words, bishop George Absi and Fr. Naji Absi outlined the position of Mary in the Catholic Church, while bishop George Khodr did that from an Orthodox point of view. All of them swam in the direction of the Virgin Mary, who was herself travelling towards both banks of the river at once, and bringing them together, which was manifested in the intervention of the Protestant scholar Dr. Johnny Awwad,



Trustees, Vice Presidents, Deans of Faculties, Directors, Administrators and faculty members were among the large audience of NDU graduates who attended this romantic and love-filled gathering, exceeding all expectations.

The reunion, which was presented by Ms. Rania El Sabeh, NDU Alumna '03, debuted with a welcoming address by the Director of the Alumni Affairs Office; Mr. Simon Abou Jawdeh, who said, "I always look forward to organizing such events. I am equally proud of NDU Alumni – who are really the focus of the Office. I can't feel but a sense of pride in having a role to play in helping to develop the next generation of outstanding leaders of Lebanon." He also announced that an analogous reunion will be held in NDU Off-campus. He finally thanked Fr. Moussa for his trust and direct support to any activity or program initiated by the Office.

The program of the event included "a wedding scene" presented by NDU Alumni couple Georges and Nicole Milan, National Champions in Latino Dance. A gracious moment of the scene was when Georges surprised Nicole with his heartfelt sentiments; he addressed her saying, "I want everyone to know how lucky I feel to be your husband. You are beautiful, intelligent, caring – Nicole, you look absolutely stunning tonight." Nicole answered back with words that captured the audience in precisely the right words which left Georges tongue-tied, she said, "I am proud to be here, having married you and proud to be your wife. Can I ask all of you to give a big applause to my husband, Georges?" Often it takes a lot of creativity to translate a feeling.



Two documentaries were projected on a large screen; the first one included wedding pictures of NDU Alumni couples as well as married NDU Faculty/Staff members. The second documentary was under the title of "Hold on my Heart", where three NDU alumni couples, Victor Kahi and Saria Rahme, Wissam Melhem and Rania Abboud, Rabih Moubarak and Sabine Ghanem, gave a personal testimony about their love stories that started at NDU.

In addition, the event continued fabulously with "words of love" narrated by the Poet and General Director of Public Relations, Mr. Suheil Matar, followed by an exquisite latino dance presented by Georges and Nicole Milan.

The memorable dialogue of the event was when Fr. Fadi Bou Chebl was invited to the stage where he hoped that "God's light would always shine upon them and be their beacon in the years to come. May they always know happiness and prosperity and be forever bathed in God's love and grace." Everyone in the Hall lifted up their hearts as they read the renewal marriage vows.

President Walid Moussa epitomized the mood of the Alumni Couple Reunion. He captured the essence of the event by saying: "Good evening, an evening filled with happiness and beauty that are so needed in our days". He addressed each couple: "Your wedding is neither an end nor a prison; it's a start and beginning of life with its entire splendor. Your reunion at NDU was a sparkle that glowed the light of love and ended up by a marriage". He also asked the NDU Alumni Couples to be "up to the responsibility and the spiritual values which are anchored in their hearts."

Rafka Phares, NDU Alumna '07, who is gifted with a voice of such beauty that competent judges recommend singing as a career, sang few love songs that added a smile, a memory and a picture that everyone present carried with them long after the evening was over.

"When you realize you want to spend

The rest of your life with somebody, you

Want the rest of your life to start as soon

As possible." ~Nora Ephron

## WEERC Project Closure

On Tuesday, November 6th, 2007, in the Conference Room of the Ministry of Energy and Water, the solemn closure took place of the project on Improved Cooperation in Irrigation Water Management through Awareness and Capacity Building. This event came within the context of the Technical Cooperation Programme for Lebanon (TCP-Lebanon 3003) and was held under the auspices of the Minister of Energy and Water, H.E. Mohammad Al Safadi, in coordination with the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organisation) and WEERC (the NDU Water, Energy and Environment Research Center).

The object of the meeting was to present the achievements of the project and to discuss different ideas that might lead to similar projects in the future. Speakers at the opening session were as follows: Ms Randa Nemer, National Coordinator, TCP Project; Dr. Fadi Comair, General Director of Hydraulic and Electric Resources at the Ministry of Energy and Water and Director of WEERC; Dr. Assaad Eid Vice President for Sponsored Research and Development at Notre Dame University; H.E. Dr. Ali Mouomen, FAO Representative in Lebanon; and H.E. Mohammad Al Safadi, Minister of Energy and Water.

In his address, Dr. Eid spoke of NDU's mission and its contribution to research; he said, "Ever since its inception, NDU has, in line with its mission, set down a long-term plan which would distinguish it as one of the leading research institutes in the region. For some time now, we have conducted some excellent scholarly research in several areas, through the three centers we have founded and through our faculty's research activities. Building on our existing strengths, we now have the opportunity to expand our research more significantly, and I look forward to leading this development.

The Water Energy and Environment Research Center is one of NDU's most active research units. In the past couple of years, the Center has been actively engaged in developing appropriate strategies and in providing training for the proper optimization and integrated management of water and energy use in Lebanon.

The Center's contribution, though considerable, remained short of adequacy and self-fulfillment. What seemed to be a necessity was a closer cooperative link with local and international entities. Along these lines, the Center has managed to develop effective liaisons with governmental and non-governmental bodies through a number of initiatives, one of which is the project whose closure we celebrate today; this project is a unique model of how universities should pursue new and innovative ways to partner with others in an attempt to fulfill their mission. Today, NDU, more than ever, is quite determined to become more integrated with industrial, commercial, social, and environmental issues in the development of new knowledge. We want our output from academic research to serve management practitioners in their professions.

Our research strategies are meant to provide such valuable information; and through building more partnerships and raising the intensity levels of the existing ones, we render our research far more rewarding to both the University's development and the nation's welfare."

## Diaspora Literature: Reading of Jad El Hage's *The Myrtle Tree*

To mark the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Notre Dame University, the Friends of the Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) at NDU, in an evening dedicated to diaspora literature, held a reading and book signing of *The Myrtle Tree* by Jad El Hage on Wednesday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2007 at the Auditorium, Pierre Abou Khater Hall, NDU, Zouk Mosbeh at 6:15 p.m.

Among those attending the event were His Excellency, The Ambassador of Mexico Jorge Alvares; H.E The Ambassador of Uruguay, Jorge Louis Jure; Mrs. Alessandra Testoni representing the Italian Embassy; Mrs. Maggy Teen representing the American Embassy; General Salah Younes representing the Irish-Lebanese Cultural Foundation; Dr. Nadeem Naimy, Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences at Balamand University; Dr. Nina Zeidan, Director of the Faculty of Public Health at the Lebanese University; Dr. Nabil Haddad, CEO of Geita Grotto; Dr. Assaad Eid, Vice-President for Research and Development at NDU; Mr. Souheil Mattar, Director of Public Relations at NDU; Ms. Guita Hourani, Associate Director of LERC and a gathering of teachers, students and staff of LERC.

This reading recalled the literary evening that LERC had the pleasure of hosting for Jad's previous novel, *The Last Migration* and another enchanting evening was spent this time amidst war and dreams, hopes and destruction.

*The Last Migration* was about an individual dealing with his own migration, a narrative of one person's dilemma of war, peace and migration. *The Myrtle Tree* is about war and peace and the forced migration of a whole community. Both novels though by the same author are different in temperament, in language and in structure.

El- Hage located his novel in a Lebanese mountain village, one he said is neither Christian nor Muslim, where the people are closely connected to the land, sharing this similarity along with their songs, dance and cuisine, with a patience and generosity reflected in their attachment to the olive groves and the myrtle trees.

The protagonist Adam desires only to live a peaceful life, restoring his father's olive press, but the winds of war are slowly engulfing this Lebanese mountain village, soon to be divided in its loyalties. El Hage successfully brings to the senses the sights and music, the environment and tastes of Lebanon, while immersing the reader in the present and the past, the village and the city, the passion of politics and the ways of society.

Ms. Guita Hourani, Associate Director of LERC opened the lecture series for the academic year 2007-2008 with a word of welcome.

The event was moderated by Dr. Naji Oueijian, Professor of English Literature and former Chairman of the Departments of English, Translation, and Education—Notre Dame University, who said that after reading the novel that he "felt how important man's humanity is, and how this shapes his/her unprejudiced perceptions of religions, sects and political parties."

In his talk, the author described the myrtle tree as "a symbol of tenacity, and a sacred emblem of love in Hellenic mythology."

Prof. Ahmad Shboul, at the University of Sydney, Australia said in *The Aesthetics of Healing in Jad El Hage's The Myrtle Tree*, that the myrtle tree is "connected with the mysterious celebration of life, fertility, victory and death.

"The interplay of life and death, sickness and healing is strongly associated with the myrtle and so it is with Jad El Hage's *The Myrtle Tree*."



El Hage said that his first novel *The Green and the Dry* penned in Arabic, about "a remote Lebanese village ready to start its olive harvest and hoping that the Civil War would leave it alone," formed the background of and was resurrected and rewritten as *The Myrtle Tree*.

El Hage said he had to grapple to convey the real meanings behind Arabic words and phrases. He found out that Lebanese proverbs translated like "exotic flowers transported abroad but still retaining their scent and form." The *Zajal* colloquial poetry, an age old tradition, was successfully emulated. *The Myrtle Tree* where "beauty is the land and the beast is the war" he said found immediate empathy with English-speaking folk.

"In short *The Myrtle Tree*, is a celebration of the futility of war," concluded Dr. Oueijian.

Ms. Suraya Rahme, an MA holder and English Instructor at NDU and LAU, gave a serene reading from the novel.

Other highlights of the evening included a haunting short film, *Beirut from Stones and Memories*, by Mr. Philippe Aractanji, a Lebanese film maker who is a migrant returnee. Premiering in 1993, the film lamented the war and Beirut's destruction, comprising some of the poetry of Nadia Tueni and a haunting sound-track by Peter Gabriel.

Renowned composer and musician Mr. Charbel Rouhana inspired by the mood of the evening, and a tribute to the spirit of Lebanon, performed his mesmerizing compositions on the mystical 'oud string instrument.

## Book Signing By Dunia Taan

Dunia Taan has released her new book on Lebanese in the Ivory Coast (1900-1986) at Biel Arab Book Exhibition, 14<sup>th</sup> December 2007

Expanding upon what was a PhD dissertation in sociological ethnography by the author, this novel will nevertheless be an important historical source for studying Lebanese emigration in general and Lebanese emigration to Africa and the Ivory Coast in particular.

The book centers on this particular migration from the perspective of geographic belonging, living conditions, and economic, social and religious adaptation.

After introducing Lebanon and the Ivory Coast, the book throws light on the history and circumstances of emigration to Africa as a whole while documenting the characteristics of Lebanese emigration to the Ivory Coast specifically.

It emphasizes the challenges faced by the Lebanese in their new land and their ultimate success in the economic, social and political arenas. The book also addresses the impact of the Lebanese Civil War on the Lebanese community in the Ivory Coast.

Statistical tables provided in the book concern geographic and

religious attachment, the levels of education, the living conditions, and the Lebanese participation in the prosperity and development of the country.

Recommendations to support this emigrant community and to strengthen bilateral relations between Lebanon and the Ivory Coast are put forward at the end of the book.

## The Implementation Of Janneh Dam On Nahr Ibrahim River Workshop

On Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> December, 19007, the Ministry of Energy and Water (MEW) and the Water, Energy and Environment Research Center of NDU, held a joint workshop entitled The Implementation of Janneh Dam on Nahr Ibrahim River – Jbeil at the Old Campus, in collaboration with Consolidated Engineering Company – Khatib & Alami. At the opening, the speakers were: Fr. Walid Moussa, NDU President, Mr. Suhail Matar, NDU General Director of Public Relations, Dr. Fadi Comair, Director General at the MEW and Director of WEERC, representing Minister Mohammad Al Safadi, and Mr. Fadi Nassar, AGM – Head of Corporate Banking, representing Dr. François Bassil, Chairman and General Manager of Byblos Bank S.A.L..

The first session was presided by Dr. Adel Cortas, former Minister of Agriculture. Dr. Fadi Comair spoke on Public and Private Partnership for Project Financing D.B.O.T.. Dr. Adel Abou Jaoudé, Civil and Hydraulic Engineer at Khatib & Alami spoke on Water Management. Finally, Ms. Laurence Charbel, Geologist at Khatib & Alami, spoke on Surface Geology and Investigation.

At the second session, presided by Dr. Ali Moumen, FAO Representative in Lebanon, Dr. Hadi Jaafar, Agricultural Engineer and Hydrologist at Khatib & Alami, spoke on the Hydrology of Nahr Ibrahim. Mrs. Nasrine Ghattas, Hydraulic Structure Engineer at Khatib & Alami, and Mr. André Atallah, Professor of Hydraulic Structures, dealt with Project Design. Dr. Adel Abou Jaoudé spoke on Hydroelectricity Production and was followed by two of Khatib & Alami's Environmental Engineers, Dr. Ali Zeidan and Ms. Héra Haytayan, dealing with the vital subject of Environmental Impact Assessment.



The objective of the workshop was to point out that whereas human activity has always used water as indispensable for life, now demographic growth, climatic change and the social and economic transformations of the 20th century have created a new situation with much environmental degradation. In Lebanon water has become a resource that is rare and limits development. Therefore the General Directorate of Hydraulic and Electrical Resources has undertaken an ambition programme within the framework of its ten-year plan, 2000 – 2009.

This programme provides for some thirty dams and hillside lakes to hold a yearly volume of 800 million cubic metres of water to be distributed in times of drought. With its eight-million cubic metre capacity, the Chabrouh Dam inaugurated 3rd October, 2007, will make good the shortage of drinking water in Kesrouan and a part of Metn until 2025. The plan also provides for the collection of waste water



throughout Lebanon and its use for irrigation. Further, water that is normally lost in the sea during the winter is to be returned naturally or artificially into the subterranean table. For this a White Book will be necessary.

Finally, the countries of the region must reach agreement on the use of water to ensure future peace.

## Time Burial Capsule 2007-2027

In the framework of celebrating the 20th Anniversary of Notre Dame University, the culminating event was the “Time Burial Capsule: We Were Here.”

Time capsules are usually used by universities, schools, companies, councils, and even families to record and preserve present artifacts for future generations, documenting how they live today. The aim of the event was to provide a frozen glimpse into an exciting time of change for future NDU administrators, faculty, staff, students and Alumni.

The capsule is a lead box that will hold the collected items. The box will be sealed so the items will be preserved until the box will be



reopened in 2027. The selected items for the time capsule convey information about the present year 2007 to whoever opens the time capsule in the year 2027.

Representatives of NDU constituents placed items from their faculties, divisions and departments in the time capsule, including the President of NDU who addressed through a letter his 2027 counterpart.



Following the presentations that took place on Wednesday January 16, 2008, NDU facilities staff sealed the time capsule and lowered it into the ground at the entrance of the NDU Administration.

When NDU celebrates its 40th Anniversary in 2027, it will get a glimpse of what life was like on campus and in the NDU community in 2007.

A wise man once said, “Someone’s sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago.”

## The Center for Digitization and Preservation (CDP)

Rationale: The transmission and development of knowledge in all disciplines is integrally related to the preservation of great ideas contained in great books. In ancient and medieval times, the task of

copying manuscripts has been central to this process. In modernity, with the advent of technology, the difficult task of hand copying manuscripts was replaced by microfilming. Today, microfilming has been replaced by digital photography. In response to the question "Why preserve manuscripts," Columba Stewart, O.S.B., Vice-President for Programs in Religion and Culture at St. John's University, Minnesota, and Executive Director of HMML, home of the world's largest collection of manuscript images, states:

"Ancient or new, every manuscript is a unique witness to the culture that produced it. Printed books offer standardized texts and formats, but no two manuscripts are ever exactly alike. The script, the illustrations and the historical associations of a particular manuscript are entirely its own.

Since copying a manuscript is a human rather than mechanical process, there is always room for editorial correction or "improvement". There is also room for sloppy and inattentive copying. As a result, manuscripts of the same text never agree completely, requiring scholars to compare the many variant copies to establish what the original version might be.

If cared for, manuscripts can last for centuries. However, they are vulnerable to fire, floods, theft and other calamities. A handwritten book can perish in a moment, taking with it an irreplaceable piece of human culture."

**Brief History of CDP:** In 1999, through the initiative of the Director of International Academic Affairs at NDU, Dr. Edward Alam, an agreement was signed with Brigham Young University's Center for



Preservation of Ancient Religious Text (CPART) to electronically preserve the Maronite Mariamite Order's collection of manuscripts. Four years later, for security reasons, CPART decided to close their operation in Lebanon. In 2003 an agreement between NDU and Walid Mourad was reached in order to establish a Center for Digitization currently known as The Center for Digitization and Preservation (CDP) which became the second manuscript electronic preservation center in the world.

**Objectives:** The Center works to aid scholars, clergy, governments, and others in the preserving, imaging, and distribution of ancient writings. It offers three important services: The preservation of significant religious manuscripts by photography, and/or electronic scanning, the digitization and incorporation of selected manuscripts into searchable electronic databases at minimal cost, and the translation and publication of selected ancient and medieval texts.

On January 21st, the CDP launched a new project with the agreement and blessing of his Eminence Maronite Patriarch Cardinal Mar Nasrallah Boutros Sfeir. This project aims to electronically

preserve the four manuscript collections preserved at the Maronite Patriarchate's archives at Bkerke. The number of manuscripts to be digitized is estimated around five hundred manuscripts. Due to functionality of the project and the safety of the manuscripts, the CDP installed a new "Digitorium" on location at Bkerke. Meanwhile, the CDP continues the project of the Maronite Archbishopric of Antelias, as well as other parishes and private collections.

## USA Tour Washington D.C., Los Angeles, San Diego and Boston

In February 2008, Fr. Walid Moussa and Dr. Assaad Eid, VPSRD, went on a two-week trip to the U.S.A. On the agenda, were several events: The ACCU Annual Meeting 2008 in Washington D.C., the ACE 90th Annual Meeting in San Diego and a number of meetings with friends of NDU in Washington, Los Angeles and Boston.

**Washington D.C.: February 2-4**

**A. Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities – Annual Meeting 2008:**

The ACCU Annual Meeting 2008 was marked by a series of plenary sessions and panels on "Shared Responsibilities for the Future of Catholic Higher Education".

During the three day meeting, discussions among participants focused on certain basic questions, in particular those concerning the role of Catholic Colleges and Universities in today's society, the influence of internationalization on higher education, the challenges posed by the advance of technology and the role of the church in university administration. Also, the meeting provided excellent opportunities for presidents and vice presidents to discuss and exchange views on better ways by which partnerships and cooperative relationships may be enhanced.

**B. Meeting with Friends of NDU and the Coordinator of NDU's Office:**

The meeting with Mr. Ramzi Rihani, representative of AFNDU- Washington Chapter, and Miss Haley Khalil, NDU's Office Coordinator, focused on Dr. Eid's vision and plan of action for his term as VPSRD. The question of enhancing relationships with friends of NDU and American universities in Washington D.C. were addressed. A few suggestions were considered and will be put in effect



in the near future.

Los Angeles: February 5-8

On Wednesday 5th, Fr. Moussa and Dr. Eid arrived in Los Angeles. On Tuesday 6th, they visited the City Council. Mr. Dennis Zine, a council member, welcomed the visitors at his office. In attendance were Dr. Joanna Nacheff and her husband, and Mr. Izat Baaklini. At the start, Fr. Moussa gave a brief introduction outlining NDU's history, goals, achievements, and future plans. In his introduction, Mr. Zine thanked NDU for the Choir's participation in the historic celebrations of the unveiling of the Beirut Sign in May 2007, as LA and Beirut became Sister Cities. Following the forty-five minute meeting, the visitors were invited to tour the City Council premises.

In the evening, Fr. Moussa and Dr. Eid met Fr. Abdallah Zeidan, Chorbishop of Our Lady of Mount Lebanon Cathedral, Beverly Hills. During the meeting, Fr. Zeidan thanked NDU for the choir's participation at the "Heritage Night" on May 18th, 2007, and called for closer cooperation between NDU and the Lebanese American community in Los Angeles.

San Diego: February 9-12

NDU President and Vice President also represented NDU at the Ninetieth Yearly Conference of the American Council of Education held in San Diego, California, from the 9th to the 12th of February, with a massive participation of universities and institutes from all around the world. The conference opened with a general and comprehensive review of higher education and the challenges facing its leaders in the United States. Study groups considered common concerns and new models for world cooperation in higher education



and their utility, with attention to the exchange of programs, research, faculty members and students and to the part played by technology in multiplying opportunities for gaining knowledge through new techniques and procedures, taking into account the advantages and disadvantages for university education. The conference wound up with a presentation of its conclusions and of the solutions to be applied in the future.

Boston: February 13-14

During the final stage of their tour, President Moussa and Vice President Eid flew to Boston on February 12th, to meet with Friends of NDU in Boston, Massachusetts.

On February 13th, Chorbishop Lahoud hosted an elegant dinner for the visitors and NDU friends in Boston. Fr. Moussa briefed the Friends about the changes at NDU focusing on the need for closer relations. Also, the friendly gathering offered an excellent opportunity to discuss future plans and activities.

## Latest NDU Publications

### Is it Going to End?

A dramaturgical depiction of cultures originating from the Abrahamic root, where all the said cultures seem likely to clash due to the power struggle existing among them. This power struggle is perceived as an extremely complicated involvement for an extremely complex and endless human drama.

ISBN: 978-9953-457-10-9

Author: Abdo Kahi

Edition: 2007

Language: Arabic

Number of pages: 101

### Landmarks of a Lifetime...

Discourse and Positions in Culture, Politics and the Nation; By Dr. Diab Younes

Illuminating statements in defense of Lebanon's values and people, glorifying innovation and beauty.

Cultural landmarks bringing together the nations and religions, emphasizing the Lebanese personality.

Speeches approaching thorny issues in an open and bold manner.

Articles mostly treating martyred Lebanon, urging the resurrection of the country.

Open letters and discussions proclaiming personal positions, and national and worldwide concerns.

Respect is paid to the champions of Lebanon, who serve as an example to future generations.

This book expresses forcefully the author's depth of feeling and grief, touching both mind and heart.

ISBN 978-9953-457-59-8

Author: Dr. Diab Younes

Edition: □2007

Language: Arabic

No. of pages: 504

### Events and Governors in Lebanon's History

This book highlights the most important events in Lebanon's secular and religious history throughout twenty centuries, with brief profiles facing colored name and number tables, all linked, thus allowing the main lines and turning-points in the country's history to be easily perceived.

ISBN: 978-9953-457-61-1

Author: Fr. Abdo Antoun

Edition: 2007

Language: Arabic

Number of pages: 51

## **Growth and Stability: How to Increase Peoples' Wealth?**

Dr. Rock-Antoine Mehanna's book examines the impact of trade openness, regional integration, and stability on economic growth across countries from different regions over a period of 16 years. It investigates the role of trade openness and investment in a new context. Additionally, Dr. Mehanna's book estimates the different levels of integration across various regional blocs and their effect on growth. Most importantly, it attempts to offer a simpler and more parsimonious, yet broader, role of government in growth empirics by encompassing traditional government variables such as the rule of law, political rights, and so forth into one variable: "stability", which reflects economic, political, and financial stabilities. Interesting results, policy and business implications are discussed. This book should interest all policy makers, public policy analysts, corporate executives, international investors, development economists, academicians, researchers, as well as students of international business and trade, economics, business administration, political science, and international relations.

Author: Dr. Rock-Antoine T. Mehanna

ISBN 978-9953-457-58-1

Edition: 2007

Language: English

No. of pages: 136

## **Highlighting the Political and Legal Relations between the Maronite Patriarchate and the Lebanese Government**

As mentioned in the preface of Cardinal Ignatius Moussa Daoud, head of the Sacred Congregation of the Oriental Churches, Father François Akl proceeds from a study of the history of Lebanon and of the foundation of the Maronite Church to highlighting the political and legal relations between the Maronite Patriarchate and the Lebanese Government. In so doing, he paves the way for a historical study which covers the development of the patriarchate's relations through the different eras that Lebanon and the region have passed through, starting with the Caliphate and passing on to the Abbasid Era and the attacks led by the Franks, the Mamelukes and the Ottomans, to end with the modern Lebanon. Father Akl examines as well the role of the patriarchate in the Lebanese independence.

The second chapter treats the legal concept of the Maronite Patriarch's power, while the third chapter deals with the new ecclesiastic notion regarding public, political and social affairs,

according to the Second Vatican Council, the ecclesiastic norms, the doctrinal memorandum, the Apostolic Exhortation for Lebanon, and the outline of social Church ideology. The author reviews in the fourth chapter the most remarkable points of the Lebanese Constitution and the stipulations of the positive laws which determined the relation between the government and the spiritual authorities generally, and the Maronite Patriarchate specifically. After having highlighted projects regarding the cancellation of confessionalism and of political denominationalism, and the adoption of global laicism, Father Akl lays down in the last chapter "the seeds of the project of a positive partial laicity that distinguishes between religion and state and serves as a modern mechanism that achieves a global laicism or a true civil government..."

This book includes Arabic and English bibliographies.

ISBN: 978-9953-457-60-4

Author: Father François Akl

Edition: 2007

Language: Arabic

Number of pages: 292

## **What has the Lebanese Society Come to? Citizenship between Identity and Globalization**

The book relates the influence of globalization on different types of societies in the contemporary world. It sheds light on the effects of technological development and the rapid transmission of knowledge, market dynamics, media and human communication.

The themes of the book cover the social issues resulting from the above-mentioned developments, with particular emphasis on those involved in the present acute crisis in Lebanon.

The book puts forward the means and procedures appropriate for facing the sectarian group dynamics currently prevailing in the world, in order to rebuild tomorrow's state and tomorrow's society.

Co- authors: Abdo Al Kai, Fr. Walid Moussa, Mr. Souheil mattar, Mr. George Mghames, Dr. Mansour Eid, Dr. Antoine Messarra, Dr. Nasri Saygh, Fr. Boulos Wehbe, Prof. Viviane Naimy, Mr. François Farah, Mr. Ignacio Ramonet, Prof. Jacques Beauchard, Prof. Liliane Buccianti Barakat.

ISBN: 978- 9953- 457- 64- 2

Edition: 2007

Language: Arabic, French

## **Christian Education Series**

The Christian Education Series, authored in Arabic by Archbishop Bechara El Rahi, aims at explaining Sunday's Bible readings according to the Maronite Liturgical Calendar and according to the semantic, dogmatic, moral and divine concept of the biblical text. A pastoral plan is followed that sheds light on the implementation of the recommendations of the Maronite Patriarchal Synod held at the onset of the third millennium.

The series is addressed to all believers, clergy and laity, individuals and communities, and to all those who are in search of knowledge and enlightenment.

The following are the first titles of this series\*:

- Christ: A Light Shining on the Nations (Christmas 2005- 2006)
- The Light of the Bible, the Glory of Christ (Epiphany and Commemorations 2005- 2006)
- The Knowledge of the Truth of Christ Liberates (Lent 2005- 2006)
- The Holy Bible is the Source of Life for All Those Who Believe in Him (Resurrection 2005- 2006)
- Bearing Witness to the Holy Bible: God's Grace (Pentecost 2005- 2006)
- The Word of truth in the Holy Bible flourishes and grows (Pentecost- sequel 2005- 2006)
- Bearing Witness to the Holy Bible: God's Grace (Holy Cross 2005- 2006)
- Announcing The Gospel of Peace (Christmas 2006- 2007)
- That Peace May Fill Your Hearts (Epiphany 2006-2007)
- The Right Means According to Christ's Gospel (Lent 2006-2007)
- The Gospel, Eternal Message for the Peoples of the Earth (Resurrection 2006-2007)
- Prech the Gospel to All Creation (First Eight Sundays before Pentecost 2006-2007)
- Then he opened their minds, that they might understand the Scriptures (From the ninth Sunday to the sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost 2006- 2007)
- Be rejoicing in hope, be patient in tribulation (Holy Cross 2006- 2007)
- He upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and abiding upon him (Christmas 2007- 2008)

\* Each liturgical year is presented in one volume:

The Gospel word of truth and source of hope; the Maronite Liturgical Calendar 2005, 2006

## Lebanese in the Ivory Coast

1900- 1986

This book centers on the Lebanese emigration to the Ivory Coast from the perspective of geographic belonging, living conditions, and economic, social and religious adaptation. Following an introduction

on Lebanon and the Ivory Coast, the book sheds light on the history and circumstances of emigration to Africa in general and the characteristics of this emigration to the Ivory Coast in particular. The book emphasizes the successes achieved and the obstacles faced by the Lebanese whether in the economic, social or political arenas; it also addresses the impact of the Lebanese war on the Lebanese community in the Ivory Coast.

The book is supported by statistical tables concerning geographic and religious attachment, as well as the level of education, the living conditions, and the participation in the prosperity and development of the country. The book ends with recommendations to support this emigrant community and to strengthen bilateral relations between Lebanon and the Ivory Coast.

The book was originally a Ph.D. dissertation in sociological ethnography and is considered an important historical source for studying Lebanese emigration in general and Lebanese emigration to Africa and the Ivory Coast in particular.

ISBN: 978-9953-457-62-8

Author: Dr. Dunia Fayad Taan

Edition: 2007

Language: Arabic

Number of pages: 223