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Message from the President

In 2001, the administration of NDU decided to reach out to alumni and friends worldwide by issuing its first e-chronicle, and it continues to be our most successful bulletin of news and events taking place on campus. As the current issue evidently highlights, NDU has grown into a stronger and far more dynamic institution, largely due to our outreach and "friend-raising" campaign initiated in 2004. In the past year alone, I have paid official visits on behalf of the University to the United States, Europe, and the Gulf, promoting NDU's mission and establishing partnerships with fellow institutions supportive of that mission. The University in turn has played host to a number of international initiatives, including the International Association of Universities (IAU) annual conference, which was held here in Louaize. In addition, we continue to be active members of the European Federation of Catholic Universities (FUCE) and the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities (ACCU) in the United States. Of importance, in June NDU will welcome the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) in an institutional visit as we pursue our U.S. accreditation goal, which will benefit many of our alumni living in North America and aid with international student recruitment. Undoubtedly, these are exciting times for the University.

But more needs to be done, especially in reaching out to our alumni, friends, and partners to make sure they stay abreast of changes taking place at the University.



As such, I am happy to attend the National Apostolate of Maronites (NAM) Convention, which is being held in early July 2010 in Birmingham, Alabama, U.S.A. This occasion, along with accompanying visits to multiple destinations across the United States and Canada, will serve as a platform to state unequivocally NDU's outreach commitment to Lebanese communities in North America. In the process, NDU will highlight its leading role as a national Maronite institution of higher education in Lebanon.

As President, I strongly believe that NDU has established a remarkable history of success of which we can be proud. I trust that an ongoing dialogue with our friends worldwide will build on these successes and help usher the University into the third millennium.

Fr. Walid Moussa, President

Message from Dr. Assaad Eid, Vice President of Sponsored Research and Development

When Notre Dame University – Louaize decided in 2001 to reach out to friends living abroad, the idea of the e-chronicle arose, and was met with a positive reception. The result was a series of successful bulletins. During the past nine years, NDU has come a long way to strengthen its bonds with Lebanese and non-Lebanese friends, but there is still lots of work to be done. Today, the University is a much stronger and more dynamic institution than it used to be, both as a result of the momentous friend-raising campaign that the President initiated in 2004 and by the way the accreditation process has been managed. Fr. Moussa, who in addition to his enormous responsibilities, tirelessly led the way. His willingness to accept and meet the demands of traveling anywhere in order to answer questions, solicit feedback from alumni, partner institutions and friends, and above all to promote NDU's mission and role, made it possible for NDU community to meet the challenge.

This issue of the e-chronicle highlights some of the activities and/or events that have marked the University's academic life during the past six months. They are a living portrait of the successes that NDU has witnessed in the campaign for excellence and quality education.

In a couple of months, NDU will be present at the National Apostolate of Maronites' Convention (NAM). Such an occasion affords NDU a platform to unequivocally state its commitment to Lebanese community in the US. To that end, a workshop under the title "Bridging the U.S. and Lebanon through Higher Education: A Presentation by Notre Dame University – Louaize (NDU)" will be held. It will highlight the University's ongoing efforts to forge lasting links with the Lebanese community in North America. Also, a meeting with president Moussa will take place as an occasion for more 'friend-raising'.

As Vice President for Sponsored Research and Development, I strongly believe that NDU has managed to establish a remarkable history of successes, and I trust that an ongoing communication with its friends worldwide will prove to be both productive and mutually beneficial.

Dr. A. Eid, VPSRD

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NDU Lebanon and Abroad: Fr. Walid Moussa's U.S. Tour

Within the framework of Notre Dame University's (NDU) mission to serve as a bridge of communication between Lebanon and its diaspora, President of NDU Fr. Walid Moussa toured various universities during a recent visit to the United States of America.

Fr. Moussa kicked off the leg of his U.S. tour in the State of Ohio where he visited the University of Dayton (a Catholic university) and met the Board of Trustees and a large number of the university's Lebanese staff. The meetings served to exchange expertise and pursue joint projects between NDU and the University of Dayton.

Fr. Moussa continued to New York for the second leg of his tour where NDU Friends warmly welcomed him. Based on Fr. Moussa's slogan, "Raising Friends," the New York visit aimed at promoting communication given that NDU represents Lebanon and NDU

Friends abroad represents its diaspora. The President of NDU then visited Bishop Gregory Mansour who praised and commended the work of NDU for the services the university offers to its diaspora.

The final mission in New York dwelt upon creating continuous linkage chapters between Lebanon and its diaspora through the formation of the "NDU Friends" in each state of the U.S. (the chapters currently exist in Washington, California, Los Angeles, and Dayton.)

The final leg of the tour took Fr. Moussa to Washington D.C. where he attended the annual conference of the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities (ACCU), which discussed the topic of Catholic identity in universities.

In Preparation for Accreditation

Guided by the visionary and purposeful leadership of President Fr. Walid Moussa, NDU has engaged unyieldingly over the years in the challenging, yet vivacious preparation process of applying to institutional accreditation. Indeed, the President's decision to engage the NDU's community in preparation for accreditation as enunciated in his inauguration speech of the academic year 2006-07, has culminated in a number of important reforms to accommodate for the emerging academic needs of the University and address quality standards set by the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education (CIHE) of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC).

Affiliating with NEASC will represent a historic achievement for NDU. In fact, NEASC is the oldest accrediting association in the USA, serving more than 2,000 public and independent schools, colleges and universities. Further, it is recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education as a reliable authority on the quality of education for the institutions it accredits. Moreover, the Commission is also recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), affirming that its standards and processes are consistent with the quality, improvement, and accountability expectations that CHEA has established.



Following NDU's official submission of the Eligibility Report to NEASC on January 19, 2010, the CIHE-NEASC assessment visit to NDU will take place on June 14-19, 2010 as part of the process outlined in the Commission's program of Candidacy for Accreditation for Free-Standing Institutions Abroad. This visit will provide numerous exciting opportunities of exploring the University's academic performance-quality nexus in greater depth and bring inspiration, vision, and a renewed commitment to excellence in teaching and learning at NDU.



In preparation for the forthcoming assessment visit, the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs had launched 17 presentations totaling 26 hours that extended over a period of one month and a half addressed to MMO Monks at NDU, faculty members, and students. The presentations addressed to the Monks focused on the meaning, background and demonstrable benefits of institutional accreditation. In addition, the presentations addressed to all faculty members flagged up the 24 Eligibility Requirements and how NDU addressed each requirement. As for students, they were made aware of the meaning of accreditation, the nature of the team-visit and their role in it. These topics included the academic

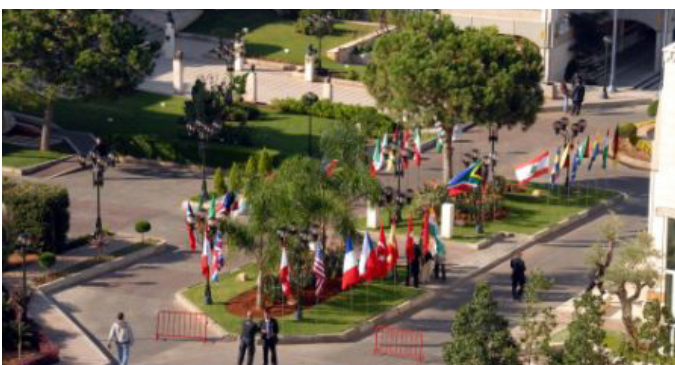
significance of accreditation, the mission of the University, and the importance of integrity as an essential component for the accreditation standards.

The presentations offered a podium for discussion regarding NDU's current status pertaining to meeting the requirements of candidacy; a status of affiliation which indicates that an institution has met the Commission's Criteria for Candidacy and is progressing toward accreditation. Also, the presentations provided opportunities to reflect on the self-study that takes place after an institution has been granted the status of candidacy.

Dr. Kamal Abouchedid

Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs

NDU Hosts the International Association of Universities 2009 Conference on "The Role of Higher Education in Fostering the Culture of Dialogue and Understanding"



A conference on "The Role of Higher Education in Fostering the Culture of Dialogue and Understanding" was held at Notre Dame University between 4 and 6 November 2009, under the auspices of Dr. Tarek Mitri, the Minister of Information, representing H.E. the President of the Lebanese Republic General Michel Sleiman..

The conference was attended by a large number of Lebanese and international figures, among whom included the President of the Episcopal Commission of Universities, Bishop Youssef Bechara; Superior General of the Maronite Order of the Holy Virgin Mary, Abbot Semaan Abou Abdo; Head of Press Syndicate, Mohamad Baalbaki; President of International Association of Universities (IAU), Juan Ramón de la Fuente; IAU Secretary-General, Eva Egron-Polak; Secretary general, Association of Arab Universities, Saleh Hashem; Director General, Higher Education, Ahmed Jammal; President of the National Centre for Research and Pedagogical Development, Leila Fayad; Former Director-General of UNESCO, Federico Mayor Zaragoza; President of Association of African Universities (AAU) Is-Haq Oloyede; President of the Union of Lebanese Universities, Hassan Chalabi; Director of the National News Agency, Mrs. Laure Saab; President of Antonine University, Fr. Antoine Rajeh; General Director of Issam Fares Foundation, retired General William Mojalli; President of the Global University, Former Minister Adnan Traboulsi; Director General of the Ministry of Power, Dr. Fadi Qomeir; Rector of Université Saint Esprit de Kaslik (USEK), Fr. Hadi Mahfouz; Consul of Laos, Mr. Jack Hekayem; and several heads of Lebanese and Arab universities, deans of schools and colleges, as well as political, cultural, educational and intellectual figures.

Mr. Souheil Matar, Director of Public Relations at NDU inaugurated the conference with a welcoming speech, . Matar greeting an audience that traveled from numerous international universities to gather in Beirut. Despite fog and fume, Beirut remains the Lady of Cities and meeting point of the East. Then, the audience viewed a chronological documentary on NDU depicting the university from inception until today.

In his address, NDU President **Father Walid Moussa** welcomed guests that overcame obstacles, ignored negative media reports, and disregarded rumors that claimed Lebanon was in the middle of a crisis, because it had been unable to form a government for the past five months. He said, "It is true that Lebanon has witnessed some political tension and disorder. However, on the human, social, and security fronts, day-to-day life has not been adversely affected... Just as our conference tackles the issue of fostering the culture of dialogue, we hope our national issues will soon be resolved in a spirit of unity, harmony, and equality."

Father Moussa added, "This is Lebanon; a small country (10,452Km²) with a population of less than four million but with eighteen co-existing sects. Lebanon is in itself a model for the theories and views we shall be examining during our conference. However, the main question is this: can these groups of diverse religious backgrounds peacefully co-exist within these constricted borders and socially complex contexts without resorting to conflict, hostility, and animosity?"

Father Moussa went on to assure, "The university's mission falls within the umbrella of this multifaceted dialogue." He added, "We are living in an age of globalization, which necessitates dialogue that transcends the boundaries of geography, religion, ethnicity, and ideology. On top of this, the culture of dialogue takes on different dimensions that transcend Lebanon to touch the world and beyond Notre Dame University to touch all universities around the world."

A documentary film followed the President's address on the IAU and the several conferences it has convened around the world since its inception.

Then, the IAU President, **Juan Ramón de la Fuente**, called for opening a window to listen to others, share in their cultures differences, and deal with our teaching and research responsibilities. He said, "We are here to listen to each other and talk about our concerns with audacity, especially since we live in a world of communication. Therefore, we should understand others, their cultures, and societies. This cannot be achieved without dialogue, understanding the other party, and listening to him. He concluded, "Cultural education is among the best choices for the building the future of societies."

For his part, the Director-General of Higher Education, **Dr. Ahmad Jammal** briefly presented the system of higher education in Lebanon. He said, "When different groups of humans roamed and met, either a clash or fusion would ensue. Overall, fusions usually resulted in the renaissance of civilizations and constituted a source of information exchange, creativity, dynamism, and progress.

"In this global age of open frontiers and multiple, high-speed communication channels, providing information exchange, the topic tackled by your conference is significant on many levels. The particularly positive role of universities in this interactive process appears at this level. This role becomes more significant at the conflict level, which recently began to appear, nurtured by negative theories that are limited in scope and vision such as the theory of 'The Clash of Civilizations.'"

Jammal concluded that Lebanon, in the present circumstances, is in dire need of such discussions to promote kinship through dialogue among all its sects.

In his address, **Dr. Mitri** considered, "Dialogue is not only an intellectual issue, rather the power to really influence positions taken in times of conflict as well as in times of agreement. The President of the Lebanese Republic reminded us at the United Nations in September 2008, 'The philosophy of the Lebanese existence is based on dialogue and harmony. We need to build trust between the Lebanese in order to give a new meaning to citizenship and equality while respecting diversity or co-existence as it is stated in the Lebanese constitution.'" Moreover, the president stated loudly and clearly that Lebanon should be adopted as a center of dialogue for civilizations, because no other country in the world can assume the role of a laboratory for dialogue as Lebanon can.

At the end of the opening ceremony, NDU President offered medals of appreciation to Minister Mitri and IAU President, De la Fonte.

In the first session chaired by De la Fuente, the President of Culture of Peace Foundation, former Director-General of UNESCO, Co-Chair of the High Level Group United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, **Federico Mayor Zaragoza**, considered, "Historically, humanity is at a turning point in; thus, it should chose the future it wants, because we are one big family, living on one planet and facing one fate. Therefore, we have to work together in order to build a sustainable society based on human rights, freedom, peace, and justice."



The second session, chaired by **Janyne Hodder**, President of The College of the Bahamas, tackled the objectives and means to develop the culture of dialogue and the challenges from institutional, local, and global perspectives. Keynote speakers were Is-Haq Oloyede, Vice-Chancellor of the HYPERLINK "<http://www.unilorin.edu.ng>" \t "_blank" University of Ilorin in Nigeria and President of the Association of African Universities (AAU); Antoine Messarra, Member of the Constitutional Committee in Lebanon; Georges Nahas, Rector of Balamand University in Lebanon; and Damianos Kattar, Former Minister of Finances and Former Minister of Economy and Trade in Lebanon.

Following lunch, two parallel sessions took place in Friends' Hall and Abu Khater Auditorium successively. The first session chaired by **Norbert Kis**, Vice-Rector of Corvinus University of Budapest, tackled the issue of shaping the future citizen and the competencies graduates should have to be prepared for effective intercultural dialogue. Keynote speakers were Darla Deardorff, Executive Director of the Association of International Education Administrators from Duke University, USA (10minute Video Conference); Simon Ho, Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs at the University of Macau, China; Leila Fayad, President of the National Center of Research and pedagogical Development in Lebanon; and Yazmín Cruz López, Project Officer of the Global University Network for Innovation (GUNI), Spain.

Agneta Bladh, Rector of the University of Kalmar, Sweden, chaired the second session by and discussed dialogue as a means of conflict prevention, management, and resolution, using the Lebanese case as an example. Keynote speakers included Antoine Rajeh, President of Antonine University, Lebanon; Amr Galal el-Adawi, President of Beirut Arab University; and Michel Nehme, Director of University International Affairs Office at NDU.

The subject of instilling the culture of dialogue in higher education was discussed on the second day of the conference. The chair of the session, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Delhi, India, considered that educational institutions were mainly responsible for providing an institutional model and putting dialogue into practice.

For his part, the Head of the Department of Higher Education and History Education in Strasbourg, France, **Sjur Bergan** held that

development could not take place unless we assess the ideas we receive. Whereas the Secretary-General of the Association of Arab Universities in Jordan, **Saleh Hashem** stressed the importance of dialogue between the different civilizations, especially since the world had suffered wars, which caused impacts far beyond the capacities of people.

Dr. Abdo Kahi, the Coordinator of the Lebanese Center for Societal Research at NDU, asked about the possibility of dialogue within education in general and higher education in particular.

After a short break, two sessions were held at Issam Fares Hall and Friends' Hall respectively. The topic discussed was comparative research and cultural studies as a means to enhance dialogue through curricular innovation.

Former Rector of the University of Geneva, Switzerland, and Honorary President of the International Association of Universities (IAU), **Justin Thorens** chaired the session. Keynote speakers included Saouma Bou Jaoude, Professor at the American University of Beirut; Tore Saetersdal, Director of the Nile Basin Research Programme, University of Bergen, Norway; and Edward Alam, Secretary-General of the Council for Research in Values and Philosophy, Lebanon.

The afternoon session chaired by **Patricia Pol**, Vice-President of University Paris 12 – Val de Marne, France, and **Assad Eid**, **Vice-President for Sponsored Research and Development**, NDU, tackled the role of leaders, administrators, faculty members, and students in nurturing on-campus culture of dialogue and understanding.

The third parallel session tackled the subject of internationalization of higher education --cross-border and at home--promoting the culture of dialogue and appreciation for diversity. The Vice-Chancellor of University of Ghana, **Clifford Tagoe**, chaired it. Keynote Speakers were Alf Rasmussen, Senior Advisor at the Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research, Department of Higher Education, Oslo, Norway; and B.A. Digolo, Dean of the School of visual and performing arts, Kenyatta University, Kenya.

The other parallel session Chaired by **Imma Tubella**, President of Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (UOC), Spain, discussed ICTs as Facilitators or Obstacles of Inter-Cultural Dialogue in Higher Education. Speakers were Bakary Diallo, Rector of African Virtual University, Kenya and Ana Perona-Fjeldstad, Executive Director of the European Wergeland Centre in Norway.

The closing session was chaired by IAU Secretary-General **Eva Egron-Polak** who confirmed that the topics discussed during the conference were a means for reaching a peaceful, productive, and harmonious world that transcends the borders and distances, which separate us and which still constitute obstacles for interaction between people of different races, languages, and ethnicities.

Then, the Director of Mykolas Romeris University, which will be hosting the IAU International Conference in June 2010, made a short speech and followed it through with a documentary on his University in Lithuania.

For his part, IAU President De la Fuente expressed his deep appreciation and thanks to NDU for hosting the IAU Conference. NDU President Father Walid Moussa also thanked the international guests whose presence contributed to the success of the conference.

At the end, the IAU Secretary-General presented the following recommendations:

- 1- Respecting the other party despite differences.
- 2- Recognizing the contributions of civilizations and their impact on our daily lives.
- 3- Opening our hearts and empathizing with other parties
- 4- Braving the unknown
- 5- Considering the other as different and enriching
- 6- Considering the role of the marginalized
- 7- Respecting time when approaching the other party
- 8- Focusing on the role of higher education by coordinating with the people concerned inside and outside the university

9- Coordinating with NDU to publish the proceedings of the Conference on a special page on the internet

10- Gathering international advertisement related to dialogue between cultures

11- Preparing a common publication between the European Council and NDU

12- Obtaining the best report published on the proceedings of the Conference

13- Considering the cultural identity as the most important threats of globalization

It is worth noting: the IAU 2010 International Conference, which will take place in Mykolas Romeris University, Vilnius, Lithuania, on 25-26 June 2010, will address the theme of:

" HYPERLINK "http://www.unesco.org/iau/conferences/pdf/Vilnius_2010.pdf" Ethics and Values in Higher Education in the Era of Globalization: What Role for the Disciplines?"

The Question of Religion and the World in the Genius of Pushkin

– Seminar –

Summary by Suhail Farah – Abdo Kahi

The Lebanese Center for Societal Research (LCSR) at Notre Dame University–Louaize (NDU) organized a seminar on December 2, 2009, in celebration of the 210th birth anniversary of Alexander Pushkin, the spiritual father of Russian poetry. The seminar was held in collaboration with the Lebanese-Russian House and the Russian center.

Many Russian intellectual, religious, and political figures took part in the seminar in addition to Lebanese, Syrian, and Arab francophone intellectuals and poets who have been fascinated by this poet and philosopher's greatness. Pushkin bestowed upon Russia intellectual, philosophical, and cosmic dimensions, concerning the question of religion and the world. The audience converged to pay tribute to his literary genius and communicate to the twenty-first century Pushkin's dream as an individual who rebelled against tyranny.

During the seminar, Pushkin's lyrical poetry and prose were recited, tackling the religious questions he raised as well as the broad spiritual implications of his poetry, which conciliated between the dreams of Eastern values and the expansive human dimensions of the West's freedom. Hence, these writings reincarnated the kinship between the playful side of nature and nature's face that

elevates itself to reflect its beauty in Man, human life, and the earth, stressing the importance of the poetic and human journey to nature's noble, exalted core.

All presentations and speeches demonstrated Pushkin as a revolutionary of early nineteenth century Russian intellectualism - an intellectual who during that era strongly interacted with the sources of liberal intellectualism from East to West. In the midst of this interaction, Pushkin derived his intellectual, literary, and poetic greatness from the power of rebellion and love in which he immersed his words. He was the constant traveler between the dreams of the spirit, which flamed with passion for the values of the East, and the hopes that this spirit nurtured as it crossed into the realms of controversial contemplation settling from the West, creating a crossroads that can only be translated through poetry and dramaturgy.

The speeches may be summarized as follows:

Pushkin was not only a Russian genius and poet, but also an international genius and poet.

Pushkin's talent lay in his artistic capability to create infinite beauty between the symphony of earthly existence and that of divine beauty.



Despite his Russian roots, Pushkin's work carried a universal message and interpretation.

Pushkin's creative capabilities were not limited to lyrical poetry; he also produced prose, history essays, and philosophical visions of the universe.

Pushkin, the man who indulged in all the pleasures that life had to offer, worshipped God with all his energy.

In a pure and pacific manner, Pushkin revealed the purity and peaceful nature of Islam.

Pushkin is a unique poet whose spirituality was influenced by the prophecies of the "People of the Book" - from Moses and Jesus Christ to Mohammed.

Pushkin was influenced by the age of enlightenment; the revolution was evident in all his work despite the human and material obstacles that stood in his way. His work sets the human being free and makes him master of his own destiny.

Pushkin's heritage has profoundly influenced the art movement scene in Russia, particularly in music, theater, and literature. Pushkin is widely taught as part of Russia's educational curriculum.

Originally from the East, Pushkin found a spiritual destination that helped him reshape Christian spirituality closer to Christ, Mohammed, and prophets, and this was what motivated his new creations.

To a certain extent, Pushkin was Westernized both intellectually and behaviorally but retained Eastern emotions and feelings.

Between realism, symbolism, and historical dramaturgy, Pushkin manipulated the Russian spirit at the level of the message and this is obvious across all his works. It is a message that tackles the legitimacy of aspiring to the bliss created by the chaos of freedom and love. Pushkin sought to conciliate between freedom and love, on one hand, and the order that ensures harmony in the human dimensions of freedom and love on the other, despite the many contradictions between order and chaos. This chaotic spirit was ever visible and stopped him from realizing his dream of harmony.

Isn't this the societal scene we try to recreate through research and discussion drama to resolve the contradictions that set us apart? What if Pushkin had been called to a duel to test the extent of his attachment to order and his fondness of his passionate, lethal feelings, which, in fact, are no different from the chaotic behaviors that resist the principle of order? This is a preoccupying question that requires diligent educational work on the memory to release life's hopes from the chains of dogmatic principles, where freedom and love simultaneously break free from chaos and order, and become the path that leads to the place of creation, the place where the ever-dynamic system is born - the system of life's eternal rebirth.

LERC Activities

Brazilian Professor Visits LERC

Wednesday 23 September 2009, LERC, NDU
Reported by Elie Nabhan

The Lebanese Emigration Research Center welcomed to its premises Professor Miriam Abduche Kaiuca, the Vice General Director of the School of Application at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ) in Brazil. Professor Kaiuca was accompanied by her husband Mr. João Alfredo Navarro da Costa de Artagão, an economist, and Mr. Roberto Khatlab, LERC's Latin American Liaison Officer, who was instrumental in arranging the visit.

Professor Kaiuca is currently at the UFRJ researching her PhD Thesis, that studies 9th and 12th century Arab mathematical philosophers and their contribution to the philosophical development of Western civilization and scientific life. Mr. Khatlab is the coordinator of this research in Lebanon.



Professor Kaiuca donated to LERC a collection of original photos, documents and identity and family registration cards on behalf of her family and the Bedran and Ananias families, who are all Brazilians of Syrian and Lebanese descent currently living in Rio de Janeiro.

Professor Kaiuca also donated to LERC a book from Libania Nacif Xavier entitled *Memórias da Tia Hilda: História de Uma Família de Imigrantes Libaneses No Brasil* written by Hilda Nascif of Rio de Janeiro.

LERC Director Ms Guita Hourani held a meeting with the Brazilian visitors during which she discussed methodology of collecting

and writing family migration history. Professor Kaiuca promised to record the history of her own family and to continue to collect material on Lebanese migration for LERC.

The group were then shown around the Center and Ms. Basma Abdul Khalek introduced them to the Lebanese Electronic Archives Database. Ms. Abdul Khalek gave a thorough overview of LERC's Brazilian Collection, showing the visitors exactly how their photos,

books, and other material would be electronically documented in the future.

Delighted with what they were shown, Elie Nabhan then took the group on a tour of the Lebanon and Migration Museum at NDU, where they were shown first-hand the original materials that LERC collects.

LERC Invited to Join UNDP's National Academic Group on Migration in Lebanon

Tuesday 27 October 2009

Reported by LERC staff

The Lebanese Emigration Research Center at Notre Dame University was invited to join the National Academic Working Group on Migration in Lebanon, formed by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

LERC was invited to participate in this event by Mrs. Martha Ruedas, UNDP Deputy Special Coordinator for Lebanon, who is also serving as the United Nations Resident Coordinator.

Director Ms. Guita Hourani and LERC Adjunct Associate Researcher Professor Eugene Sensenig-Dabbous—who joined representatives from the Lebanese-American University, St. Joseph's University, and the American University of Beirut—represented LERC.

The purpose of this working group was to create a mechanism that will allow the sharing of knowledge and the free flow of information in order to make sound policy recommendations on the issue of migration in Lebanon.

Director of LERC Ms. Guita Hourani is Awarded the Civic Education and Leadership Fellowship (CELf).

January-June 2010

Reported by LERC staff

Director of LERC Ms. Guita Hourani has recently been selected and awarded the Civic Education and Leadership Fellowship (CELf). Ms. Hourani's fellowship period will be spent at the Maxwell School for Public Affairs at Syracuse University in upstate New York, USA.

The objective of the CELf program is "to enhance international standards in social science education through improved curricula development and course delivery, increased institutional capacity, expanded student and faculty engagement, and improved critical thinking and analytic capabilities of educators in institutions of higher education."

Ms. Hourani will spend the four months at Syracuse University examining case studies applicable to Lebanon insofar as contested

citizenship is concerned; investigating the problematic of citizenship in highly diverse, conflict-ridden nation-states; formulating curricula with the aim of teaching courses on citizenship; identifying effective strategies for a student-centered classroom; and improving general classroom management skills.

In her absence from LERC, Dr. Eugene Sensenig-Dabbous will be Acting Director. Ms. Hourani will continue following up LERC projects and activities, and will be reached via her NDU e-mail address.

LERC: Special Workshop on Fieldwork Skills with Dr. Kamel Dorai

Tuesday 19 January 2010

Reported by Elie Nabhan and Basma Abdel Khalek

In cooperation with the Lebanese Development Network (LDN), the Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) at Notre Dame University organized a workshop on January 19, 2010 at NDU entitled, "Conducting Biographical and Expert Interviews." The object of the workshop was to introduce the participants to primary skills in administering fieldwork questionnaires and conducting interviews and biographies; and to deliver essential knowledge of ethics in fieldwork.

Dr. Kamel Dorai, Researcher at the CNRS, Paris (the French National Center for Scientific Research), gave the workshop. He is currently based at the French Institute for the Near East in Damascus (IFPO) and is visiting researcher at MIGRINTER, University of Poitiers (France). His work mainly focuses on asylum seekers and refugees in the Middle East, new migrations, and geopolitical reorganization in the Middle East, and migration and transnational practices within the Palestinian Diaspora. Dr. Dorai is currently conducting research on the Iraqis in Syria as well as on the urbanization process of Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon. He has been conducting fieldwork in Lebanon, Syria, Sweden, and Jordan on different refugee groups since 1996, collecting biographies, migration trajectories, and urban mobility. The comparative study between refugees residing in and out of camps as well as the analysis of their migratory experience and spatial practices provide an account of the refugees' socio-spatial dynamics in exile and of relations between the camp and their urban environment.

In front of over forty participants who attended from universities, NGOs, embassies, and government institutions as well as professors, researchers and staff from NDU and LERC, LERC Director Ms. Guita Hourani opened the session by welcoming the participants and introducing the main sessions of the workshop.

During the first session, Dr. Dorai introduced the participants to a contextual and theoretical overview on questionnaires and interviews. He explained that qualitative research differs from quantitative research in its analytical objectives. The type of questions they pose should allow researchers to obtain information and statistics.

Drawing on his experience in the migration and transnational practices within the Palestinian diaspora, the Iraqis in Syria, and the urbanization process of Palestinians' refugee camps in Lebanon, he stressed the issue of trust that is absolutely vital in qualitative research.



While conducting either field or expert interviews the researcher must always be prepared for the unexpected or to be asked questions on his political, religious or social affiliations.

In addition, Dr. Dorai highlighted the importance of conducting consented interviews either orally or in writing.

During the second session, the trainer went deeper into the different types of methodology that could be used by the researchers. For instance, purposive sampling allows the researcher to choose the people to be interviewed, but group sampling may target a selection of different groups of interviewees with specific criteria. As for snowball sampling, this gives the researcher the opportunity to reach a wider range of people by asking the people being interviewed to recommend other people.

Dr. Dorai then explained the way of organizing focus group discussion with experts in the field that could provide invaluable input because of the significant level of interaction that may be raised during this kind of discussion.

The third session of the workshop focused on Dr. Dorai's field experience in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, and Iraq. He mentioned some indications to avoid risks while dealing with sensitive issues such as illegal migrants.

Dr. Dorai then explained to participants the difference between in-depth interviews and biographies, and concluded his presentation by giving important tips on interview techniques and ethics.

The workshop ended with a Q&A session during which participants interacted with the trainer and asked for some clarifications on the dress code and communications techniques in preparation for the interview.

Finally, Dr. Kamel Dorai and Ms. Guita Hourani distributed certificates to all participants, who expressed their interest in having similar workshops in the future.

LERC Participates in a Migration Expert Meeting at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Tuesday 13 October 2009, Beirut, Lebanon
Reported by Basma Abdel Khalek, LERC Project Manager

At the invitation of the Directorate of Emigrants of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, LERC Director Ms. Guita Hourani attended the preparatory meeting for the Third International Forum on Migration and Development that took place in Athens on November 4-5, 2009. LERC project manager Ms. Basma Abdel Khalek accompanied Ms. Hourani. High-level officers attended the meeting from the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the Lebanese Directorate of General Security, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Investment Development Authority of Lebanon (IDAL), the Ministry of Social Affairs, the National Institution for Employment, and the General Directorate of Statistics, among many others.

In his welcoming note, the Director of the Directorate of Emigrants at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Haitham Jomaa, stated that Lebanon is participating in this Global Forum for the third consecutive year - after Brussels in 2007 and Manila in 2008. Mr. Jomaa added that this meeting was also an occasion for government institutions and the private sector that deal with the issues of migration and development to set up an expert working team to prepare recommendations and to later follow up on the Forum's proceedings.

Following Mr. Jomaa's statement, Ms. Magida Karaki from the Directorate of Emigrants introduced the audience to the main points of focus of the Forum. She first revealed the results of previous forums and then detailed the issues related to migration and development that would be raised in the forthcoming meeting in Athens.

The floor was then opened for attendees to comment and present their points of view in order for the Directorate to synthesize the main challenges that face Lebanon as both a sending and receiving country.

The meeting closed with the decision to have the attendees form a committee that regularly meets to discuss the subject further.

Australian-Lebanese Researcher Pays Visit to LERC

Tuesday 8 August 2009, LERC, NDU
Reported by Elie Nabhan

Dr. Youssef Taouk, a Lebanese-Australian and Associate Researcher at the Institute for Advancing Community Engagement (IACE) at the Australian Catholic University (ACU) paid a visit to the Lebanese Emigration Research Center at NDU to meet up again with LERC Director Ms. Guita Hourani and be introduced to the Center.

Dr. Taouk had previously met Ms. Hourani at the First Maronite Youth Forum held in Sydney in July 2008 and is interested in further research on certain aspects of Lebanese migration.

His discussions with Ms. Hourani centered on bringing closure to the research project that accompanied the Maronite Youth Forum of 2008 and the role that NDU and LERC could play in this endeavor and on future projects related to the Lebanese in Australia.

After the meeting, Dr. Youssef Taouk was shown around the LERC premises and introduced to its staff. LERC Indexer Ms. Liliane



Haddad then gave him a presentation of the Lebanese Emigration Archives Database. His visit was concluded with a tour of the Lebanon and Migration Museum at NDU.

Dr. Taouk left LERC with an indelible impression of both LEAD and the museum saying that "its collection is a treasure trove that will be useful to any researcher...it is a researcher's dream." He also stated his interest in returning to LERC for further research.

Associate Professor from Eastern Michigan University Visits LERC

Wednesday 12 August 2009

Reported by Elie Nabhan

Dr. Kristine J. Ajrouch, Associate Professor at the Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Criminology at the Eastern Michigan University in Michigan, United States of America, paid a visit to the Lebanese Emigration Research Center to conduct research at the Center and to learn more about the Center's work and activities.

Professor Ajrouch is the mother of Mr. Ali Ajrouch, an intern at LERC for the summer 2009, who is researching material pertaining to acquisition and loss of citizenship in Lebanon.

Professor Ajrouch met with LERC Director Ms. Guita Hourani, with whom discussions centered on Dr. Ajrouch's ongoing research work on the elderly parents of Lebanese migrants, particularly those who are left behind, and their social conditions and networks.

Following this, Professor Ajrouch was shown around the LERC premises and introduced to members of the LERC team. She was then given a presentation of the Lebanese Emigration Archives Database by LERC indexer Mrs. Liliane Haddad, who guided her through some selected samples of the variety of materials collected by LERC. The visit concluded with a tour of the Lebanon and Migration Museum at NDU with LERC member Mr. Elie Nabhan.

Dr. Ajrouch was full of gratitude to LERC, saying, "LERC is a gem, housing extraordinary resources that aid those of us interested in learning more about Lebanese emigration and make available the information needed to better understand the long history of past as well as present-day migration of the Lebanese."

LERC Presents the Results of the Joint Project with Relief International in the Presence of USAID.

Thursday 23 July 2009

Reported by Damian Naylor and Ali Ajrouch, LERC Interns

The Lebanese Emigration Research Center at Notre Dame University – Louaize hosted a presentation for high level officials from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Relief International (RI) to show the results of the joint project executed between RI and LERC "Profiling Expatriates Prospects for Local Development Partnership" from December 2008 to March 2009.

Those who attended the event included: Ms. Denise Herbol, Mission Director for USAID in Lebanon; Dr. Sateh Arnaout, Advisor to the Presidency of Council of Ministers; Mr. Imad Hamze, Chief of Party of Relief International in Lebanon; Mr. Amin Nehme, Director of LDN, and from NDU; Dr. Assaad Eid representing NDU President Fr. Walid Moussa; LERC Adjunct Researcher Dr. Eugene Sensenig-Dabbous with a group of his students; LERC Director Ms. Guita Hourani and staff, researchers, and interns at LERC.

The morning began with the signing of the national anthems of the United States of America by Damian Naylor and of Lebanon by Joelle Zlaket and Basma Abdel Khalek. LERC Director, Ms. Hourani, welcomed the guests and gave a brief introduction on the objectives of the cooperation between LERC and RI. Then, on behalf of Fr. Moussa, VPRD Dr. Assaad Eid welcomed the audience to NDU, discussed research strategies, and stated the commitment



by NDU and LERC to continue building for the future. "I wish to reiterate my conviction and that of our President that such projects and endeavors should always be met with support and encouragement," said Dr. Eid.

Following the opening remarks, Ms. Herbol discussed USAID's efforts to build local development projects across all of Lebanon. "We cannot overestimate the positive impact of the Lebanese Diaspora on Lebanon's economy," stressed Ms. Herbol during her speech. She outlined USAID's commitment to help foster economic relationships between Lebanese emigrants and those residing in Lebanon, especially at the local level.

Mr. Imad Hamze, who spoke about the importance of the Empowering Municipality and Local Economic Development (EMLED) program, represented Relief International. He stressed the need for allowing emigrants to give back to their country. He recalled, "I was an emigrant myself and I wanted to help my country on many occasions but was unable." His efforts, along with all those of Relief International have helped to remedy these difficulties. He made a poignant observation about the preservation of a Lebanese identity among all emigrants worldwide.

To give a detailed description of the EMLED project conducted by Relief International and LERC, Project Manager at LERC Ms.

Basma Abdel Khalek presented the methods and conclusions of the research. The project surveyed emigrants from Northern and Southern Lebanon, specifically Akkar and Jezzine on their willingness to assist in community-building projects in their respective villages. The research concluded that an overwhelming majority, approximately 95% of those profiled, demonstrated a readiness to assist in local development.

Following Ms. Abdel Khalek's presentation, Ms. Hourani and Ms. Liliane Haddad gave participants a virtual tour of LERC's electronic archives, describing their use of new computer software

to facilitate research and collection of information. Ms. Hourani and our distinguished guests used this opportunity to acknowledge the hard work of Mr. Ali Hijazi and Ms. Basma Abdel Khalek in managing the joint project. Their dedication ensured the success and growth of the project.

The ceremony concluded with refreshments and a tour of the Lebanon and Migration Museum at NDU. On behalf of USAID, Relief International, and LERC, we would like to thank all who participated in making the day a huge success.

WEERC Activities

Water, Energy, and Environment Research Center

2009: A year of International Activities

MEdIES Teacher Training on Water-related Issues

Seminar held at WEERC, NDU (Saturday 2 and Sunday 3 May 2009)

Seminar Objectives:

To introduce the MEdIES Network and its material, emphasising the substance of water to Lebanese educators who are yet unaware of it.

To introduce both the Water in the Mediterranean package and its philosophy.

To exchange views between practitioners in the ESD field and merge their experiences in an enjoyable and fruitful manner.

To get feedback from Lebanese educators who have already applied the water material.

To apply or demonstrate and explain characteristic activities from Water in the Mediterranean.

To work on methodologies for applying water material and EE/ESD material in general.

To cultivate interest in the subject of water.

To welcome those interested in MEdIES e-network www.medies.net.

Seminar Report

Following the successful launch of MEdIES, which took place in Beirut on November 2005, MEW, GWP-Med, MIO-ECSDE, and WEERC organized a one-day training program for Lebanese educators on Saturday 2 and Sunday 3 May 2009. The goal was to provide both primary and secondary school level Lebanese

educators and those of the non-formal educational system (staff of NGOs, museums, parks, etc.) with efficient teaching tools to address the critical issues of water management with their students, including demand, pollution, consumption, etc.

Dr Fadi Comair, Director-General of Hydraulic and Electrical Resources at MEW and head of WEERC warmly welcomed participants. Ms. Vicky Malotidi and Ms. Iro Alampei, two experienced MEdIES staff undertook giving the presentations and workshops of the training. After the theoretical introduction, the participants were empirically introduced to selected activities of the Water Kit.

58 participants attended the training (33 on Saturday and 25 on Sunday), most of whom were public servants as well as a few NGO staff. At least 10% of the participants had attended the previous 2005 training, and they shared their experiences with the rest of the attendees in the application of the water kit in their schools during the period 2005-09. At the end of the training, certificates were distributed in addition to a copy of the educational material, Water in the Mediterranean in Arabic, French, and English. During the seminar, interpreters provided simultaneous translations in English, French, and Arabic language were provided.

Most of the participants expressed their interest in the MEdIES network and their willingness to subscribe as e-members and provide the MEdIES secretariat with reports of their ESD activities.

Joint Workshops

The Ministry of Energy and Water (MEW), the Water, Energy and Environment Research Center at Notre Dame University-Louaize (WEERC-NDU), Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU), in cooperation with the Italian NGOs AVSI and Istituto per la Cooperazione Universitaria (ICU), organized two workshops within the framework of the project, "Integrated River Basin Management and Monitoring of Nahr al-Kalb Watercourse, including Chabrouh Dam and Jeita Aquifer:"

- **March 30, 2009:** training on Water Framework Directive and a Stakeholders workshop at the WEERC, Old Campus of Notre Dame University.

- **March 31, 2009:** seminar presenting the results of the study of Nahr al-Kalb watershed final workshop at Friends Hall, Notre Dame University main campus.

1-On Monday March 30, 2009: training on the European Water Framework Directive in the framework of the project, "Integrated River Basin Management, Monitoring and Data Management of Nahr al-Kalb Water Course and Jeita Aquiferi."

Lecturers

Dr. Comair, General Director of Hydraulic and Electric Resources at MEW and Director of WEERC.

Dr. Alberto Mazzucchelli, Specialist in Water Resources and Hydrology from Milano, Italy.

2- Tuesday March 31, 2009, Notre Dame University, MEW, WEERC-NDU, and the Italian NGOs AVSI and ICU concluded a one-year project on the study of Nahr al- Kalb watershed. The Lombardy Region and the Municipality of Milan funded this project in its first phase.

3- The final workshop took place on March 31, 2009 at Friend's Hall at NDU; it presented the results of the study on the pressures and impacts of water at the level of pollution load, urbanism, and agriculture, in addition to a Geographical Information System elaborated for the entire basin (GIS created by Eng. Salim Roukoz).

Funding is a major requirement for further studies.

EWRI World Water and Environmental Resources Congress (18 May 2009)

At the 2009 EWRI World Water and Environmental Resources Congress in Kansas City, Missouri, USA, the American Academy of Water Resources Engineers (AAWRE) held a special 5th Anniversary Diplomate Induction ceremony and reception for diplomats on Monday evening, May 18, 2009. On this occasion, the President of AAWRE, Daniel W. BOY presented Dr. Comair, Director-General of Hydraulic and Electrical Resources at the Ministry of Energy and Water, the distinction and designation certificate of Diplomate Water Resources Engineer (D. WRE).

Dr. Comair is the first non-American to receive this award.

Solar Thermal Electricity

WEERC-NDU jointly organized an on-campus workshop on "Solar Thermal and Photovoltaic Electricity Market in EU Mediterranean Countries" with the MEW, the Lebanese Association for Energy and Environment Conservation (ALMEE) and NDU, on Friday June 19, 2009, at Bou Khater Auditorium. NDU President Father Walid Moussa , Dr. Andreas Poullikas, Michele Genovese, and Hassan Jabber were present at the opening.

In his opening speech, Dr. Comair said that renewable energy had not been a Lebanese Government priority and this had contributed to less than 2% of domestic energy use. However, there were plans to increase hydro-electricity through additional dam construction. In addition, there now exists a strong official interest in solar energy.

Dr. Comair said that through its universities, ALMEE, and the MEW-LCPC Center, Lebanon could offer theoretical research and training in the areas of solar, wind, hydro, and biomass technologies. In addition, major Lebanese consulting firms could offer services in feasibility and engineering studies related to the integration of renewable energy systems into existing power systems.

Projet FASEP QADISHA

The FASEP QADISHA Project National Seminar and Presentations of Results at NDU, held on July 29, 2009, was realized by WEERC-NDU in coordination with MEW and in collaboration with ASCONIT, SED IC, and CORAIL.

Contributors included Dr. Fadi Comair, Director General of Hydraulic and Electric Resources, Ministry of Energy and Water (MEW) and Director of WEERC; M. Nawfal Chedrawi, President of the Federation of Municipalities – Bcharreh; M. Jamal Krayem, CEO of the Establishment of North Lebanon Water; Youcef KARAM, CDR, L. Belmont (Ascona), Mr. S. Dore (SED).

Management of Unusual Crisis, Water Security, and Energy



On March 11, 2010, the Water Energy, Environment, and Research Center (WEERC) at Notre Dame University-Louize (NDU) organized a training seminar on "Management of Unusual Crisis, Water Security, and Energy".



The seminar was attended by H.E Denis Pietton, Ambassador of France to Lebanon; H.E General Jean Kahwaji, Lebanese Army Commander represented by H.E General Maroun Khraish; Father Walid Moussa, President of NDU; Dr. Assaad Eid, Vice President for Sponsored Research and Development; Mr. Edgard Chehab, Energy & Environment Program Manager UNDP; Dr. Fadi Georges Comair, Director-General of Hydraulic and Electric Resources, Ministry of Energy and Water, and Director of WEERC; General Maroun Khraish, Lebanese Army; Father Simon Faddoul, President of Caritas Lebanon; General Darwish Hobeika, Director-General of the Lebanese Civil Defense; General Yahia Raad, Secretary- General of the Higher Relief Commission; Mr. Sami Dahdah, President of the Lebanese Red Cross; Mr. Georges Kettaneh, Director of Emergency Medical Services, Lebanese Red Cross; Ms. Martine Andraos, Miss Lebanon 2009-2010, among numerous other guests.

Following the Lebanese and French national anthems, the NDU Director of Public Relations greeted the audience. Miss Lebanon, Andraos, tackled the importance of training sessions on unusual crisis management.

Ambassador Pietton presented the French system that relies on two main elements; firstly, the coordination and cooperation between different ministries in the case of an unusual crisis, and secondly centralization of crisis management in the hand of local authorities such as executive bodies.

In his address, NDU President Fr. Moussa refused the notion that accusations are thrown left, right, and center. According to him, crisis management must be carried out in a serious, steady, and absolute manner.

Director of WEERC, Dr. Comair considered NDU the platform to conduct a national dialogue on crisis management through a policy that gathers all Lebanese institutions including civilians to promote effective assistance of citizens in times of crisis. He hoped this initiative would lead to the creation of a Ministry Crisis Cell to manage different types of potential disasters, including fires, floods, earthquakes, explosions, epidemics, etc.

At the end of the opening session, Father Faddoul, President of Caritas, Lebanon, highlighted the significant role played by organizations during disasters, especially in July 2006 when more than 2,000 of its members responded efficiently to the crisis that destroyed the country. However, this crisis did not affect the Lebanese arm of Caritas given its structure, and it was able to respond to emergencies effectively and quickly.

The first session chaired by Dr. Cortas, former Minister of Agriculture, identified the Lebanese experience in the management of unusual crises. Speakers were General Maroun Khraish, Lebanese Army; General Darwish Hobeika, Director-General of the Lebanese Civil Defense; General Yahia Raad, Secretary General of the Higher Relief Commission; Mr. Sami Dahdah, President of the Lebanese Red Cross; and Mr. Georges Kettaneh, Director of the Emergency Medical Services, Lebanese Red Cross.

The second session tackled the security of the Chabrouh Dam, and whether the pollution is accidental or intentional. It was chaired by Dr. Fadi Comair, President of Mediterranean Network of Basin Organizations (MENBO). Speakers were engineer André Atallah, ESIB professor specialized in dams auscultation; and Mr. George Rizk, Head of Operation Services, General-Directorate of Hydraulic and Electric Resources, Ministry of Energy and Water.

French General Quesnot chaired the third session. It discussed the nature of unique crises: typology and information. Christian Sommade, General Delegate of the High French Committee for Civil Defense talked about the role of state in planning and managing crises. He was followed by Mr. Xavier Guilhon, Strategic Advisor of EDF and CEO of XAG Conseil. He discussed the management of unusual crises by energy experts. The last speaker was Mr. Franck Galland, Director of Safety Suez, who handled environment anticipation and management of crises in fresh water supply systems.

At the closing of the seminar, Training Certificates were delivered by Ambassador Pietton.

City Street Conference

A Faculty of Architecture, Art, and Design Event

Between 18 and 20 November 2009, the Faculty of Architecture, Art, and Design (FAAD) organized an International conference entitled, "City Street: Cultural Intimacy and Global Image." The conference's subject matter was city streets, which are places where more than two-thirds of the world's population dwell, communicate, exchange, and interact.

Accordingly, and at the turn of the millennium, the "City Street" conference focused on the most vivid and established part of the world's cities: the street. The conference also served to propose a (re)reading and (re)thinking of its people, physicality, image and virtuality, and the conference questioned the street's multi-scalar dimensions, disciplines, textuality, and structure. The millennium's culture, technology, and manifestations (from political and economical to philosophical, artistic, and media manifestations) were further subjects proposed for discussion.

The objective of the City Street Conference was to provide a platform for multi-disciplinary interaction and discussion, which aim at projecting new perspectives and initiating creative prospects about the city. Today, the twentieth and twenty-first centuries ideologies and technologies, the post-industrial societies, the postmodern cultures, the deconstructivist urbanism and architecture, the multi-media art and graphics, and the cybernetics, all form the themes in which the city's street is to be (re)considered.

The City Street conference invited international researchers, architects, designers (graphic, interior, media) urbanists, artists, photographers, filmmakers, geographers, anthropologists, philosophers, and thinkers to present full papers, posters, workshops and projects/exhibitions. The themes of the conference included Interactive Sustainability: the street's physical context, its interaction and sustainability, heritage, vernacular, cycles; Mobility: pedestrian, vehicle, crossing, networks, and patterns and speed, common and public transportation; Dialectical Relations - Cultural Dialectics: cultural expressions and manifestations, cross and diverse cultures, performances, festivals and spectacles, scenography, tags and graffiti... etc, Spatial Dialectics: context (spatio-temporal), terrain vague, urban morphology/debris, boundaries/interfaces/limits, appropriations of and into the street, iconic landmarks... etc, Social-political Dialectics: social; struggles and segregations, ghettos, other; Tools: promotional tools (political messages), graphic tools, services (street furniture); Millennium extensions: globalization, technical advancement and its impact of the street, the age of digital, cybernetics, street image and mass media; Visualization and Semiotics: signage, codes and street names, codification, street imagery/imagination and fantasy, tags and graffiti; Collective memory-ies and performance(s): narrations, history, memory, processions, events and rituals, mental image, virtual lines/places.

The event was directed, organized and progressed by committees as follows:

Honorary Chairperson:

Fr. MOUSSA, W., President; Notre Dame University (NDU), Louaize, Lebanon

Steering Committee:

Dr. RIHANI, A.; Professor; Vice-President, Academic Affairs; NDU, Louaize, Lebanon

Dr. EID, A.; Professor; Vice-President, Sponsor Research and Development; NDU, Louaize, Lebanon

Mr. MELKI, H.; Senior lecturer; Acting Dean, Faculty of Architecture, Art and Design; NDU, Louaize, Lebanon

Dr. ASMAR, JP.; Assistant Professor; Chairperson of Architecture Department; NDU, Louaize, Lebanon

Mr. MATTA, N.; Lecturer; Chairperson of Design Department, NDU, Louaize, Lebanon

Technical Committee:

DR. ELSHESHTAWY, Y.; Associate Professor; Department of Architecture; UAE University, UAE

Dr. JAHSHAN, P.; Associate Professor; Department of Humanities; NDU, Louaize, Lebanon

Dr. McMillan, J.; Reader in graphic Design; School of Art and Design; University of Ulster, Northern Ireland; and International Society of Typographic Designer (istd)

Dr. REA, P.; Professor; Archetype Visual studios; London, England; and Intermedia Design, Bremen, Germany

Dr. SALIBA, R.; Associate Professor; Department of Architecture; American University of Beirut, Beirut, Lebanon

Dr. TOMBAZI, A.; Professor; Alexandros Tombazis and Associated Architects; Athens, Greece

Dr. Voss, J.; Assistant Professor, Department of Architecture; NDU, Louaize, Lebanon
Dr. YOUNES, F.; Associate Professor; Department of Architecture; NDU, Louaize, Lebanon

Organizing Committee:

Chairperson Ms. BAROUD, D., Instructor; Department of Architecture, NDU, Louaize, Lebanon

Mr. GABRIEL, N., Senior Lecturer; Department of Architecture; NDU, Louaize, Lebanon

Mr. KORTBAWI, J.; Lecturer; Department of Design; NDU, Louaize, Lebanon

Mr. BTEICH, C.; Co-Academics; Department of Architecture; NDU, Louaize, Lebanon

Ms. MAJDALANI, R.; Co-Academics; Department of Design, NDU, Louaize, Lebanon

The conference organizers invited three keynote speakers (listed in order of their presentation schedule): Mr. John McMillan (Reader in Graphic Design; School of Art and Design; University of Ulster, Northern Ireland; and International Society of Typographic Designer—istd, Ireland); Dr. Robert Saliba (Associate Professor at the Department of Architecture and Design at the American University of Beirut, and is the coordinator of the graduate program in Urban Planning and Policy and Urban Design, Lebanon); and Mr. Sergio Lopez Figueroa (a cultural activist, composer and creative producer, and the director and founder of Big Bang Lab a cultural-social enterprise working across Film, Music and Heritage from innovation consultancy to independent production, UK).

In addition to the keynote presentations, 17 international participants attended and presented their topics. The conference also issued proceedings and published nine papers after being reviewed and approved by the technical committee.

The papers included:

Street, Yesterday's Community Venue, Today's Access Road

(A Case Study: Tehran's Vli- Asr Ave.)

Amini, Elham and Atefeh Faridnejad

The Renaissance of Jakarta's Streets as Urban

Atmoko, Teguh Utomo

London Chinatown: An Urban Artifice or Authentic Chinese Enclave?

Chung, Simone Shu-Yeng

3D Digital Modeling of Traditional Alley Façades in an Islamic City

A Case Study in Mosul

Dawood, Momtaz H. and Tallat I. Mohammad, Omar Adil Sabah

Heritage Areas: A Strategy for Protecting And Utilizing Heritage Resources

Elwazani, Salim

The historical passage of Saf Street: (Bagh-E- Sepahsalar)

Hakim, Media and Elham MahinRousta

The Social Elevation: A Visual Survey of the Coastal Façade in Modern Lebanese Architecture

Melki, Habib and Sylvie Melki

Concrete Streets We Have Lived Along: Mapping Memories in Klijptown, South Africa

Roux, Naomi

Giving New Life to an Old City – Preserving Streets' Image

Ulbar, Ulfe and Liudmila Cazacova, Ayse Erdelhun, Natalia Cazacova

The conference program introduced by Dina Baroud, City Street chairperson followed by a welcome word by Mr. H. Melki, FAAD Acting Dean, leading into the conference word by Dr. A. Rihani, VP, AA. The conference was divided into six sessions chaired by Dr. J. Harb, Dr. G. Abdelnour, Dr. C. Kfoury, Fr. B. Wehbe, Dr. C. Ghais, and Dr. A. Farhat. Field trips were scheduled for the participants to Beirut Down Town, Jeita Grotto, and Byblos.

A final word, the success of the City Street conference was due to the effort and support of the NDU community and FAAD, and in particular, Mr. Melki, FAAD Acting Dean for his unbridled support.

Film Festival Audio Visual Facilities

For the third consecutive year, the Audio Visual Facilities organized its annual film festival between November 8 and November 15, 2009 under the theme "Women in Lebanese Cinema".

Last year we honored Youssef Chahine and the year before Georges Nasr. This year's festival focused on women directors, script writers and actresses in the Lebanese Cinema with their contribution to the success and prosperity of the industry. Late Director Randa Chahal was honored in addition to Layla Assaf, Jocelyne Saab, Renee Deek, Carmen Lebbos, Julia Kassar, Nadine Labaki, Liliane



Nemri and Joelle Touma. Thirty-two students from the following universities competed with their short films: NDU, LAU, USJ, USEK, ALBA, LU, CLET and AUST.

This year's Festival hosted film directors and specialists from the United States Straton Leopold and Anthony Dergham to present workshops for Lebanese students from all participating universities. The Festival took place in Issam Fares Conference Hall and was liberally covered by the Lebanese media.

The first prize of 4.500.000 LP went to Robert Cremona from IESAV for his film *Les Temps des cerises*. The second prize of 3.000.000 LP went to Amanda Abou Abdallah from USEK for her film *Haki Bala Ta3me* and the third prize of 1.500.000 LP went to Alain Donio from ALBA for his film *Tabe2 Bel Wejj*. Bank of Beirut offered a prize for one talented director Jessica Younes from NDU

for her film *Elias*. The fourth prize went to Farah Alame from IESAV for her film *Docile*. The fifth prize went to Sarah Poutine from LAU for her film *Fi Raham Fikri*.

The Festival was sponsored by Sony, BCS (Broadcast Communication Systems), Bank of Beirut, ALITALIA, Final Cut, The American Embassy of Beirut, Electra AV, MEAS, In Motion, Vatech, Adkom, and The Gate Kodak Cine Lab, in addition to Melody FM and NRJ FM.

Next year's Film Festival will take place between November 7 and November 14, 2010. We look to more successful festivals at NDU.

First Engineering Alumni Reunion 2009

The First Engineering Alumni Reunion 2009 offered Bassel Baaklini, (BE '99), much more than a chance to see some of his classmates, even though he enjoyed the opportunity. "Meeting classmates I hadn't seen in ten years was wonderful," he says. "Bonds were reinstated. Dormant friendships were reactivated. Plans are already underway for acquaintances prior to our next reunion."

The Reunion, which took place on Monday, December 21, 2009, was attended by Fr. Walid Moussa, President of NDU; Fr. Bechara Khoury, Director of Finance; Dr. Shahwan Khoury, former Dean of the Faculty of Engineering; Dr. Georges Eid; Mrs. Nina Helou, the spouse of the late Dean Dr. Fares Helou; Chairpersons of the Faculty, faculty and staff members.

In his address, Mr. Simon Abou Jaoude, Director of Alumni Affairs Office made sure to point that 2009 marks the 10th Anniversary of the first graduating class from the Faculty of Engineering. A wise man once said, "All our dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them." And it all started 15 years ago with the Engineering first class session in 1994."

For Hassan Saab (BE '99), however, said friendships were not the only things that got a boost during the event. The reunion revitalized his assurance, especially after hearing Fr. Moussa deliver the discourse saying, "You are the pioneers that began paving the way for the success of NDU Faculty of Engineering. NDU Engineers have an outstanding reputation. As our alumni make their mark, future generations of students benefit in turn. Ten years have gone by, and NDU continues to place dedicated professionals such as you into the marketplace and prepares them for the bigger challenges in life."

The highlights of the reunion were two documentaries; the first shed light on the history of the Faculty of Engineering, and the second documentary contained testimonials of graduates of Class of 1998/1999 who emphasized the dedication, time, effort, and loyalty the Faculty has given to make NDU the edifice it is today.

Dr. Elias Nassar, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering stressed that Alumni feedback is critical to future planning. He added, "Your feedback is important to the Faculty as we work to grow and improve our academic and outreach programs. It gives you an opportunity



to comment on the program's strengths and areas where it could improve."

Though she's only three years past graduation, it was the opportunity to reconnect with old friends and former graduates that brought Ahlam El-Khazen (BE '05), to the reunion. Ahlam brought her classmate Maria Akl (BE '05) to share in the experience.

While most attendees participated in the full schedule of events, many named socializing at the coffee tent at the Faculty of Engineering as the finest moment to make meaningful connections with their professors who were able to catch up on the graduates' professional and personal progress.

But just as long-anticipated as its beginning, the reunion's end came too quickly for Engineering alumni, who spent last few minutes exchanging phone numbers and email addresses.

"I left campus rerunning the conversations of these few hours and thinking that what is most inspiring about my classmates and their spouses is not what they do, but who they are," said Peter Taouk (BE '99) says. "I left campus marked with confidence that with people like my classmates, there is good reason to be optimistic about the future of Lebanon."

"Leaving campus definitely was bittersweet," Souhad Abou Chabke (BE '04) says. "We knew the fantasy of the moments and the magic of the gathering couldn't last forever, but it can't hurt to dream, right?" He glanced at the place, and the steer light of memory flashed in his eyes.

The Faculty of Engineering expressed its utmost gratitude to Mr. Simon Abou Jaoude and Mrs. Rose Mady for helping drive this reunion, particularly for the time and effort they invested to locate lost Engineering graduates.

The event turned out to be a great success and both Engineering Alumni and Engineering Faculty & Staff members alike enjoyed their time and remembered all the happy and sad moments they had lived at the NDU's old and new campuses. Another wise man also said, "We do not remember days; we remember moments."

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

A memorandum of understanding is an agreement between two parties in the form of a legal document. It is not fully binding in the way that a contract is, but it is stronger and more formal than a traditional gentleman's agreement. Sometimes, a memorandum of understanding is used as a synonym for a letter of intent, particularly in private law. A letter of intent expresses an interest in performing a service or taking part in an activity, but does not legally obligate either party beyond their will of cooperation.

In international public law, a memorandum of understanding is frequently used. When compared with treaties, it has many practical advantages. When dealing with sensitive or private issues, a memorandum of understanding can be kept confidential, while a treaty by the provisions of the United Nations Charter cannot.

A memorandum of understanding can also be put into effect in a timelier manner than a treaty, because it does not require ratification by the legislators of a specific academic unit unless it states so. In addition, a memorandum of understanding can be modified without lengthy negotiations. This is especially useful, except in multilateral situations. In fact, most memorandums of understanding are bilateral.

An example of an international memorandum of understanding is the Oil for Food program, which the United Nations created in 1995 and lasted until 2003. This agreement allowed Iraq the right to sell its oil in global markets in exchange for humanitarian aid such as food and medicine for Iraqi civilians. However, the memorandum of understanding forbade Iraq to rebuild its military.

In international relations, MoUs fall under the broad category of treaties and should be registered in the United Nations treaty database. In practice and in spite of the United Nations' Legal Section insistence that registration be done to avoid 'secret diplomacy,' MoUs are often transparent yet kept confidential among Institutions of higher education. As a matter of law, the title of MoU does not necessarily mean the document is binding or not binding under international law. To determine whether a particular MoU is meant to be a legally binding document (i.e. a treaty); one needs to examine the intent of the parties and well as the position of the signatories. If the signing parties are private non-governmental entities meaning the MoU does not involve Ministers of Foreign Affairs vs. counterparts or Ministers of Education, then the respected MoU is not considered as an international treaty. A careful analysis of the wording will also clarify the exact nature of the document. The International Court of Justice has provided some insight into the determination of the legal status of a document in the landmark case of Qatar v. Bahrain, 1 July 1994 where one could inclusively label an agreement among units of higher education as free from United Nations bindings.

Notre Dame University has adopted a system in its Memorandum of Understanding with other universities that falls in the zone of a gentleman's agreement and an internationally recognized treaty. Thus, NDU need not report such agreements to the United Nations Treaty Database. NDU simply signs mutual academic agreements that are bilateral in nature avoiding the multilateral to be safe of any international law bindings.

Thus far, the University has been active to generate the best possible agreements with the below displayed:

Name of Institution	Inception date	Expiry date
Assumption University in Bangkok, Thailand	2002	2007
Brigham Young University, Utah (Digitization of manuscripts)	2000	2010
Central Connecticut State University	2003	2008 (April)
Centro Libanès, Mexico City	2003	2008
Corvinus University of Budapest	2010	2015
El-Camino University	2006	-
El-Colegio de Mexico, A.C.	2003	2008
ESC Bordeaux, France	2001	auto. Renewal

Italian Cultural Institute in Lebanon	2002	
John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin – Poland	2010	2013
Lebanese University	2009	2010 (Jan.)
Madonna University	2001, 2004	
Madonna University (presidential scholarships for students of both institutions)	2007	
Mexican Lebanese Cultural Institute	2003	2008
Middlesex University, England	2005	2008
Núcleo de Estudos Libaneses (NEL) of Universidade Federal de Santa Maria/Brasil (UFSM)	2006	2009
Politecnico Di Milano	2009	2012
St. Louis University, Missouri	2006	2011
Swiss Hotel Management School, Switzerland	2006	
TAFE Commission of New South Wales	2000	2003
Tatar State University of Humanities and Education	2009	2014
Ukrainian Catholic University	2009	2014
Ulm University, Faculty of Engineering, Germany	2007	
Universidad Iberoamericana Ciudad de Mexico	2003	2008
Universidad Libre, Columbia	2008	2013
Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico	2003	2008
Universita degli Studi di Firenze, Facolta di Architettura, Italy	Not signed simultaneously	
University of Alcalá, Spain	No date	
University of Bahrain	2010	2015
University of Concordia, Canada	2007	2017
University of Cyprus	2009	2014
University of Dallas	2000	2003
University of Dayton, Ohio	2009	2014
University of Leicester	1993	
Université Catholique de Louvain	2008	2013
University of Malta	2004	2009
University of Michigan – Flint, Michigan, USA	2002	2006
University of Ottawa	2001	2004, 2007 (auto. Renewal)
University of Petra, Jordan	2005	2010
University of Poitiers, France	2007	2010
University of the Arts - Bremen, Germany	2006	2011
University of Western Sydney	2004	2007
Vaxjo University, Faculty of Engineering, Sweden	2004	2007 (auto. renewal)
Wayne State University, College of Engineering, USA	2004	2009

Regional/International Associations/Organizations

ACCU:	Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities
ACE:	American Council on Education
AARU:	Association of Arab Universities
CMU:	Communauté des Universités Méditerranéennes
EMUNI University	– Euro Mediterranean University
IAU:	International Association of Universities
IAUP:	International Association of University Presidents
FIUC:	Fédération des Universités Catholiques
NAFSA :	Association of International Educators
EPUF:	Euromed Permanent University Forum
RMEI:	Réseau Méditerranéen des Ecoles d'Ingénieurs

A number of activities under the umbrella of the above MoUs have been approved by the parties concerned at NDU and counterparties of other higher education institutions in addition to a list of proposals in the pipeline awaiting finalization.

Visit to University of Bahrain (UOB)

During their one day visit to the University of Bahrain (UOB), on April 11, 2010. Fr. Walid Moussa, President, Dr. Assaad Eid, Vice President for Sponsored Research and Development, and Mr. Suheil Matar, Director General of Public Relations, have met with UOB President and his senior staff. The purpose of the visit was to support the development of ongoing links between NDU and UOB. During the meeting, a number of initiatives were discussed. They were built around the possibilities of exchanges of students and faculty members, as well as academic and research cooperation.

NDU's delegation did present a framework for cooperation in the form of suggestions (Please see attached) which could be carried forward through visits in both directions, workshops, seminars and lecture programs. Collaborative research, joint publications, training and/or professional development activities for both faculty and students were explored and approved by both parties.



NDU and Social Media

The Washington, D.C. Office has recently pulled NDU into the social media game! Social media is media that is created by the user and can take many different forms. Some types of social media are forums, message boards, blogs, wikis and podcasts, and social media applications include sites such as Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube.

The D.C. Office has been focusing attention on Twitter and Facebook in an attempt to disseminate information about NDU and the D.C.-based alumni group, American Friends of NDU (AFNDU). While our follower base is slowly increasing, we still have a long way to go before we can recruit the number of followers we would like to have.

So far, information such as scholarship news and announcements, registration information, and NAM convention updates have been disseminated via our social networking channels.

Want to follow NDU on Twitter? Follow the D.C. office handle @NDUDCOffice. Are you an alumnus residing in the United States? Be sure to visit us on Facebook at NDU Alumni, AFNDU – Washington, D.C. Chapter, or American Friends of Notre Dame University Louaize Lebanon Groups. Got news to broadcast? E-mail Haley Kalil at the D.C. Office (dc-office@ndu.edu.lb) if you would like to share news and views via Twitter.

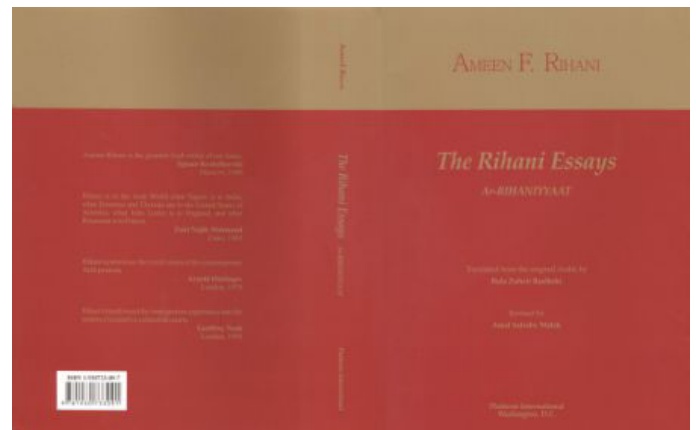


English Translation of *Ar-Rihaniyyaat*

Platform International, Washington, D.C., U.S.A., published the English translation of Ameen Rihani's book, *Ar-Rihaniyyaat*. Dr. Rula Zuheir Baalbaki of the American University of Beirut's English Department translated the book and Dr. Amal Saleeby Malek of Lebanon's Notre Dame University Louaize Education, English, and Translation Department, reviewed it. The fluid-like 535-page book is printed on chamois paper and proudly flaunts a distinguished colored hardcover. This publication coincides with *Ar-Rihaniyyaat's* centennial, which includes several literary and intellectual events, spanning Lebanon, Australia, Russia, and the United States of America.

In the introduction, the translator states, "The difficulties of controlling the 'tempo of the style' in Rihani's writing, was one feature of working on [this translation]. The range and cadences of the expressions used therein to flatter or criticize the looks or mannerisms of typical men and women in Arab society presented a problem in translating these expressions into English without 'craving' to generalize, summarize, and simplify..." Baalbaki in another part of the introduction writes, "The timelessness of Rihani's ideas was [an incentive] for the translators to contend with developing a certain insight into what the final version of a certain text would look like."

One of the characteristics of this translation is the inclusion of specific footnotes weighing *Ar-Rihaniyyaat* against Rihani's other Arabic and English works; it also includes a thematic index,



categorizing the essays into their philosophic, literary, political, and social aspects. These factors enrich this publication, especially given these are not included in the Arabic editions of *Ar-Rihaniyyaat* or in the other translations of this remarkable literary work.

The Centennial festivities of *Ar-Rihaniyyaat* during 2010 will include:

Publishing of the English translation of *Ar-Rihaniyyaat* under the title of *The Rihani Essays* by Platform International, Washington, D.C. - February 2010.

Planting a Cedar tree in the Rihani Museum gardens, in Freike, Lebanon - February 20, 2010.

Inaugurating the exhibition on "*Ar-Rihaniyyaat* in a Hundred Years" on March 6, 2010, at the Rihani Museum Main Hall. The exhibition will remain open until September 30, 2010.

Literary-musical recital, "World Genius of Romantism" (Amin ar Rihani - poet of prose), Maria Nikolaeva and Yelena Draginda, Pasternak Library, Moscow - March 26, 2010.

Publishing of the book, *The Politics and Poetics of Ameen Rihani: The Humanist Ideology of an Arab-American Intellectual and Activist*, by Professor Nijmeh Hajjar. London: I. B. Tauris Publishers - April 2010.

Defending the Ph.D. dissertation presented by Mrs. Mariam Hashimi, under the supervision of Professor Wajih Fanous, by mid-April, at the Islamic University, Beirut, Lebanon. The title of the Dissertation is, "The Great City in Rihani's work *Ar-Rihaniyyaat*."

A lecture by Professor Boris Chukov on Rihani and *Ar-Rihaniyyaat* at the Russian Education Academy in Moscow -May 21, 2010. This event will include selected readings from *Ar-Rihaniyyaat* in Arabic and Russian.

Publishing of Rihani's Arabic collection of essays that were printed in the migration newspapers of New York and other North and South American cities and were the prelude for *Ar-Rihaniyyaat*. The Book is entitled *Kashkoul-lul Khawater* (The Patchwork of Ideas); it is edited and introduced by Mr. Jean Dayeh, and will be released in early October 2010.



An International Literary Conference about *Ar-Rihaniyyaat* will be organized in Beirut at St. Joseph University(USJ), Faculty of Letters and Humanities -October 22-23, 2010- with the participation of scholars from universities in Lebanon and overseas (the conference's program will be announced in due course).

Organized by the Faculty of Humanities, an International Symposium on Rihani and *Ar-Rihaniyyaat* will take place at the University of Sydney, Australia. The Symposium opens on November 24, Rihani's birthday, and closes on November 26, 2010. Scholars from Australia, Lebanon, U.K., Russia, and U.S.A. will participate in the symposium (the symposium's program will be announced in due course).

A lecture/panel will be held on Rihani and *Ar-Rihaniyyaat* at The University of Maryland in the United States of America - December 3, 2010. This activity is organized by the School of Social and Behavioral Sciences at the University.

"Rihani and *Ar-Rihaniyyaat*, Facts and Figures", a statistical PowerPoint presentation on CD will be released by the end of December 22, 2010, and will include the complete Program of the Centennial events.

NAM Convention

NDU in the USA: University to Attend National Apostolate of Maronites' Annual Convention in Brimingham, Alabama, this Summer

As part of its ongoing efforts to reach out to Lebanon's communities abroad, NDU will attend the National Apostolate of Maronites' (NAM) Annual Convention from July 7-11 in the historic city of Birmingham, Alabama. NAM's yearly convention hosts members of the Maronite community from across the United States for an educational and fun-filled gathering in order to promote awareness of Maronite history and of Maronites' special bonds with Lebanon. If you haven't already done so, you can register for NAM's annual convention electronically by visiting the convention's site at <http://www.naminbham.com> (If you would like more information about the National Apostolate of Maronites, including its many activities across the United States, click on <http://www.namnews.org>). The University will use the occasion to strengthen ties with NDU's growing alumni presence in North America and to "friendraise" during this important gathering. In addition to a presidential address

to NAM's General Assembly by Fr. Walid Moussa, the University will conduct a workshop on "Bridging the U.S. and Lebanon Through Higher Education" focusing on NDU's various academic programs such as student exchange and study abroad, the Summer Arabic Program, and research internships. An information booth will be set up during the Convention and representatives from the University will be on hand to answer questions and solicit feedback from alumni and friends about how best to strengthen the bond between NDU and Lebanese communities abroad, and to encourage individuals to take advantage of NDU opportunities in the future.

Attending NAM's Annual Convention? Let us know!

If you are planning to attend NAM's Annual Convention, let us know so we can keep you informed about NDU's activities during the convention (to preregister for the Convention, click on <http://www.namnews.org/index.php?page=registration>). NDU alumni are kindly requested to drop a brief message to Miss Haley Kahlil, NDU Washington DC Office coordinator at dc-office@ndu.edu.lb. We look forward to seeing you there!

NDU Choir's Visit to New York

NDU Choir is invited to give a performance with other Lebanese choirs, at the prestigious Carnegie Hall, on May 30, 2010, under the direction of Dr. Joanna Nachef.

On June 1, 2010, the Choir is also invited by NDU Friends in New York to give a concert at the Hudson Theater at Millennium Broadway Hotel, at 8:00 pm. The program will be composed of classical and Lebanese music.

Fulbright Scholarships

Two NDU students were granted Fulbright Scholarship for academic year 2010-2011:



Yara Youssef Zgheib, International Affairs and Diplomacy, was accepted at Georgetown University in Washington DC to study MS in Security Studies.



Philippe Bou-Melhem, Clinical Psychology, was accepted at University of Oregon.