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## Editorial

This issue of E-Chronicle features the election of Archbishop Beshara Rahi as Patriarch of the Maronite Church, along with other activities and initiatives that have taken place at Notre Dame University – Louaize campus. In their entirety, these items include a measure of self-congratulation as we reflect with pride upon these and other achievements and developments. It is a legacy we cherish and seek to uphold.

In a message titled: Creation... once again! Fr. Walid Moussa, President of NDU, speaks of Patriarch Rahi; he says

"It was in October 1978, three years after the war broke in Lebanon, when death was dominating and life had little chance, when conditions became unbearable and miracles were most desperately sought. Then, a monk had a blessed vision under the guidance of his religious order, one which had always been seeking the welfare of society and looking after every member of the community. Then, Father Beshara Rahi of the Maronite Order of the Holy Virgin Mary brought light into the darkness and his religious order inaugurated a new dawn of hope.

... When nothing seemed to have any value and all systems were collapsing, there was someone who was convinced that education was the right approach for a better future.

... During that time, when the nation was torn apart and the situation was chaotic, a community came together and laid the foundation of an academic institution.

When everything was on fire and destruction was all that lent itself to the view, one heart was on fire, burning with zeal to launch a center for higher education to cater for community needs. It was his heart!

... What happened at that time was the laying of foundations for a university at the service of the community; it was the beginning of Notre Dame University – Louaize! It was creation... once again!"

As Senior Editor of E-Chronicle, I wish to extend, on behalf of all NDU community members, our heartfelt congratulations and wishes to His Beatitude Beshara Rahi on his new assignment. May God grant him wisdom and strength to carry on his worldly duties.

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## NDU Students Visit University's Founder, His Beatitude Mar Bechara Boutros Rahi



*NDU Board of Trustees with his Beatitude.*



*His Beatitude greeting NDU community.*

Students of Notre Dame University – Louaize (NDU), recently visited Bkerke – the See of the Maronite Catholic Patriarchate – to congratulate the new patriarch, His Beatitude Mar Bechara Boutros Rahi. Following the patriarchate's inaugural Mass, everyone from NDU received the patriarchate's blessings.

NDU administrators, faculty staff, and alumni also participated in this visit, including the NDU Board of Trustees, headed by Dr. Francois Basil; President of NDU, Father Walid Moussa; Director of the NDU North Campus-Barsa, Father Samir Ghosoub; and Director of the Shouf Campus, Father Boutros Bou Nassif.

Father Moussa offered a prayer on behalf of all NDU staff members. Father Moussa said, "Lord, bestow your blessings upon him [Rahi] and us, and may Lebanon flourish with love and peace. Lord, we thank you. For it was your blessed hand that inscribed the name of Bechara Rahi on the voting bulletins, and it was your voice that resounded across the heavens, commanding, 'O Bechara, feed my lambs.' Lord, from whence we pray, and in the name of NDU, which is dedicated to the Virgin Mary, we beseech your blessings, because the Patriarch bears a heavy cross and his journey to Calvary is an agonizing one. But through him, there is the promise of resurrection. From the university you [Rahi] founded thirty – three years ago – the age of our Lord Jesus Christ-we salute you. Our University is entrusted once again into your hands for guidance and care. This little girl [NDU], who was born in your heart and mind, has today grown into a young, bold, free, and cultured woman through the intercession of Our Mother Mary, the continued love and efforts of the Maronite Order of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the dedication of the faithful who work at NDU."

In conclusion, Father Moussa said, "Thousands of students have graduated from NDU, and your name will forever remain engraved in their hearts."

In response, His Beatitude addressed the students of NDU, saying that a university education secures a future despite trepidations.

His Beatitude's address also included students of every university across Lebanon who feel victimized by the current situation; many perceive horizons as limiting and life as valueless.

Patriarch Rahi said, "Your experiences at university cannot be replicated; the entire course of your life takes shape on campus. Our prayers, thoughts, and hearts are with you. We empathize with you and share your worries and concerns, and work with you to help you to achieve your unique distinction."

His Beatitude asked students not to fear trials and tribulations. He also thanked God and Our Lady of Louaize, who have both watched over the university and nurtured it toward growth and development.

In closing, the Patriarch saluted the Order-his mother-and his brothers-the monks-who keep the university in a special place in their heart and prayers.

At the end of their visit, NDU representatives presented the Patriarch with a gift: a four-volume Arabic-language series entitled Christian Education.

*Translated by: Christine Rayess*

## Ressol-Medbuild Conference at NDU highlights positive role of solar energy



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2

1. The audience

2. Emilio Matar, ME student at NDU

WEERC (Water Energy and Environment Research Center), in cooperation with Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) and the Lebanese Association for Energy Conservation and Environment (ALMEE), and in collaboration with CRES (Greece) and Fraunhofer ISE (Germany) Energy Research Centers, organized a one-day science conference on solar energy research activities on April 2, 2011, under the title of RESSOL-MEDBUILD. The conference sought to highlight the positive role that this project can play through its activities, and its potential to provide accessible equipment and software simulation on relevant topics such as electricity, water heaters, heating, solar cooling, etc.

The conference attracted a large number of professionals, including experts, researchers, and university professors as well as university students. The majority of the audience is in either scientific research or focusing on solar or renewable energy.

Eng. Milad Mallah, WEERC Technical Project Coordinator and Assistant National Project Manager ICT Project Italian Cooperation Office, opened the conference. Mallah, representing Dr. Fadi Comair, General Director of the Ministry of Energy and Water, and Director of WEERC at NDU, welcomed the audience and expressed WEERC's continued support for scientific activities and wished all those present every success in their endeavors.

Tony Matar, an expert on energy at the ALMEE, provided an overview of the topics and lectures to be presented.

Dr. Adel Mourtada presented the policy and renewable energy plans and targets set by many countries to reduce the effects of GHG emissions and then went on to discuss the Lebanese Energy Strategy, the National Energy Efficiency Plan, and the 12% target objective from renewable energies announced by the MEW. Mourtada also noted the need to elucidate the objective, which currently vague and leads to several interpretations.

Dr. Imad Mougharbel, professor at the Lebanese University (Faculty of Engineering), presented the Lebanese case of PVs and discussed his team's research activities in this field.

Dr. Adnan Jouni presented the international solar energy status, the Lebanese situation, and the "Solar Research Project Activities and Perspectives".

Emilio Matar, an NDU student, majoring in mechanical engineering, presented his experience at the Franhofer Institute in Germany entitled, "Introduction to Solar Cooling Technologies, Design, Dimensioning, Monitoring, and Evaluation.

Lina Charfane and Elissa Zahar, both ESIB students majoring in electromechanical engineering, introduced what they learned at CRES in Greece, entitled, "Energy Policy Analysis Using Planning Tools-Demand Forecasting.

Dr. Adnan Jouni, providing both the second and last presentation of the day, discussed Equipment and Software for Research Activities (under RESSOL-MEBUILD). Representing NDU, Dr. Assaad Eid, Vice-President for Sponsored Research and Development, had the opportunity to take part in the work of the two-day convention. On the agenda were issues pertaining to "University Cooperation in the Mediterranean Area". In his speech, Dr. Eid promoted NDU as an ideal destination for both European and Mediterranean students by highlighting the University's programs and facilities.

Dr. Eid Also took the opportunity to meet colleagues from Morocco, Egypt, Greece and Spain interested in developing cooperative relationships with NDU in areas of mutual interest such as joint research and student exchange.

## Preserving Water Resources by Using Impermeable Plastic Films Notre Dame University



*Mrs. Merhi presenting the speakers*



*Dr. Fadi Comair*



*The panelists*

In an unprecedented step aimed at preserving the natural resources in Lebanon, Masterpak sal, member of INDEVCO Group, in cooperation with the Ministry of Energy and Water, and Water, Energy, and Environment Research Center (WEERC) at NDU, organized a conference on impermeable polyethylene plastic films to preserve hydraulic resources in Lebanon.

Mrs. Amal Neemeh Merhi, Marketing Director at Masterpak inaugurated the conference with a welcome note. Mr. Souheil Matar, Vice-President for Cultural Affairs and Public Relations at NDU, followed her. Matar considered that real efforts were needed in order to implement useful projects in Lebanon.

For his part, Dr. Assaad Eid, Vice-President for Research and Development, said, "Given the water shortage envisaged in the coming years, along with climate change, and the increase in water consumption, Lebanese policymakers and the public must recognize the need for proper water management... If we are to succeed in this endeavor, we have to come up with creative ideas and ways of involving governmental and non-governmental entities."

Dr. Fadi Comair, Director of WEERC and General Director at the Ministry of Energy and Water, thanked the INDEVCO Group for their constant and innovative ideas, which are aimed at protecting and preserving the environment. He considered the conference an important training session especially given that climate change has negatively affected hydraulic resources.

Mr. George Hanna closed the opening session by giving a presentation on the INDEVCO Group, which has been in the service of industry for 55 years and has become a leader in the production of plastics in the Middle East.

Hanna added that INDEVCO is currently in the process of producing impermeable polyethylene plastic films to preserve water resources. This technology is being developed in the world to alleviate the scarcity of water on one hand and to possibility produce alternative energies on the other. He noted that INDEVCO was cooperating with international companies to implement this project successfully and export the product to the Middle East and Africa.

After a short recess, Mr. Peter Riegl, General Manager and International Sales Manager at AGRU, Austria, introduced the various international new projects of this leading company in the production of plastic films. He also explained the benefits of polyethylene compared to chloride polyvinyl.

For his part, Mr. Rida Achkar, General Manager of BMC Gulf, a company specialized in designing and installing plastic films, presented all current projects across the Middle East region and Africa.

At the close of the conference, a discussion session took place between the speakers and the audience.

*Translated by: Christine Rayess*

## Human Civilization in the Scientific Prophecies of Pitrim Sorokin Notre Dame University



(L to R) Dr. S. Farah, Fr. B. Wehbe, Dr. A. Kahi, Dr. Y. Iakovets



Dr. A. Eid

In the framework of its research and reflexive mission, the Lebanese Center for Societal Research (LCSR) at NDU organized in cooperation with the Lebanese-Russian House an international seminar on “Human Civilization in the Scientific Prophecies of Pitrim Sorokin”, which took place on March 24, 2011, at the Pierre Abou Khater Auditorium, NDU.

The conference was attended by NDU President, Fr. Walid Moussa; Representative of HE Minister of Information and President of the Lebanese-Russian House, Mr. Souheil Farah; Representative of the Embassy of Russia in Lebanon, Sergei Vorbyov; specialists in the field from Lebanon and abroad; deans; professors, and students.

The conference was opened by the Lebanese and Russian national anthems, followed by a welcome message delivered by Ms. Darine Rachkidy. Vice-President for Cultural Affairs and Public Relations, Mr. Suheil Matar, inaugurated the first session by introducing the great Russian thinker, Sorokin and shedding light on his life path and major works.

Mr. Suheil Farah delivered the address of H.E. Minister of Information, Tarek Mitri who commended the theme of the conference in “times of political conflicts and doctrinal, economic, and military clashes among countries, parties, religions, and individuals; a situation that ought to be considered in depth”. Mr. Farah pursued his speech discussing Sorokin, the man who was rebellious in his culture, learning, and knowledge, and who is considered an added value in Russian history.

On his part, Fr. Moussa highlighted the effects of Sorokin’s thought, which were due to three factors that can be summarized

by the following: first, the marriage between Eastern Russian and Western American cultures; second, Sorokin was able to break the boundaries and impose himself as a pioneer in sociology at high levels of analysis and research; and third, Notre Dame University endeavors to reach excellence and openness, it admires those great thinkers and strives to become a symbol of cultural broadness characterized by freedom and creativity.

The Vice-President for Research and Development, Dr. Assaad Eid underlined some ideas pertaining to Sorokin’s prophecies, the man who believed in love as a source of real power, which might halt the violence of individuals and groups and make relations friendly. He also stressed the importance of dialogue among religions and civilizations in the process of reaching an integral global society.

The representative of the Russian Ambassador in Lebanon and Cultural and Media Advisor at the Russian Embassy, Dr. Sergei Vorbyov discussed the role of education and its importance in making profound conclusions, which can help us in our contemporary life despite its complexities. Thus, Sorokin’s product is invested in practice.

The former Russian Ambassador to the Organization of Islamic Conference and Director of the Cultural Coalition Center at the Moscow State Institute of International Relations, H.E. Veniamin Popov thanked NDU for hosting the conference and discussed Sorokin’s theory, which is still present today via dialogue and equal relations among civilizations. He added that humanity is confronting complicated and global problems, which it cannot resolve without joining efforts to find stable and well-thought solutions.

The Coordinator of the LCSR, Dr. Abdo Kahi closed the inauguration session by tackling the Russian Thinker Sorokin, who set off from America in the quest of another world and went beyond sociology to reach Man. Following an in-depth reading of his writings, we were able to discover a culture that takes us back to our inner selves and sets us in opposition to all other cultures and a dynamic culture, which opens our eyes to a socio-cultural dialogue on the global level and the scientific, ethical, religious, pedagogical, and human fronts.

After a short break, Dr. Chahine Ghaith, Dean of the Faculty of Political Science, Public Administration and Diplomacy, chaired the first session "Pitrim Sorokin, the Person and the Scholar Founder of a New School of Sociology". Panelists included: Dr. Saad al-Mawla, Professor at the Lebanese University's Social Sciences Institute. Founding Member of the Islamic-Christian Dialogue Committee; Dr. Yuri Yakovets, President of the Pitrim Sorokin International Institute; Dr. Boris Kuzik

Correspondent member of the Russian Science Academy, and former Economic Advisor of Russian President Boris Yeltsin; and Dr. Marina Lomonosova, researcher and University Professor at Saint Petersburg Public University, Human Sciences Department.

The second session "Contemporary Human Sociology and the Future of Civilization in Sorokin's Prophecies" was chaired by Dr.



Carol Kfoury, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities. Panelists were Mr. Suheil Farah; Dr. Alexander Ageev, President of the Russian Futures Studies Academy; Prof. Ramazan Abdulatipov, Vice-President of the Russian Council of Ministers (during the mandate of former Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin), President of Moscow State University of Culture and Science; and Ekatrina Kovrikova.

After lunch, Fr. Boulos Wehbe, assistant professor of Social and Behavioral Sciences at the Faculty of Humanities chaired the third session during which three new research works on sociology were presented and were followed by the screening of a short documentary film about intercultural dialogue.

*Translated by: Christine Rayess*

## LERC News

### Distinguished Professor Dr. William Clarence-Smith Delivers Lecture on Migration to the Philippines

Wednesday 10th November 2010, YCC, Zouk Mikael

Reported by Aurelia Eid, LERC Intern



Ms. G. Hourani, Ms. E. Fersane, Mr. N. Nawfal, H.E. G. Asuque, Dr. W. Clarence-Smith

The Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) in cooperation with the Department of Management and Marketing of the Faculty of Business, Administration, and Economics at Notre Dame University- Louaize (NDU), hosted a lecture delivered by Dr. William Clarence-Smith, Professor at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) at the University of London in the United Kingdom, under the title of Migrants from the Ottoman Empire and its Successor States to the Colonial Philippines, 1860s to 1940s. The event was held as part of LERC's ongoing lecture series at the Youth and Culture Center (YCC) at Zouk Mikael Municipality on November 10, 2010.

## Bulgarian TV visits LERC, Shoot Scenes at the Lebanon Migration Museum

Tuesday 15th December 2010, LERC, NDU

Reported by Elie Nabhan



*R. Iliev, Mr. N. Doynov, Mrs. L. Haddad, Mr. E. Nabhan, Mr. A. Medlej, Mr. M. El Bakary*

LERC welcomed an international team of correspondents for a filmed interview and photo session. The team was led by journalist Mr. Nikolay Doynov and cameraman Mr. Rossen Iliev of NOVA TV of Bulgaria, and included Mr. Mohamed El Bakary, Egyptian emigrant and president of BBC-Arabic Balkans, Sofia, Bulgaria. It was sponsored by the Association of Lebanese Industrial Investors

in Bulgaria, president Mr. Joseph Feghali. Mr. Abdo Medlej, Lebanese financier living in France, accompanied the team. The visit to LERC was at the recommendation of Maronite League and World Maronite Foundation member, and close friend of LERC, Mr. Antonio Andary.

## Corporate Social Responsibility Expert Mr. George Akiki

Wednesday 22nd December 2010, LERC, NDU

Reported by Elie Nabhan



*Mr. G. Akiki*

LERC welcomed on its premises the Senior Director at Cisco and Head of Strategic Operations for Cisco's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), Mr. George Akiki. Cisco is a globally recognized leader in networking, providing innovative solutions. Akiki embarked on his CSR career in January 2007, and he and his family have been back in Lebanon on a three-year assignment since 2008. At Cisco, Akiki's 11-year career centered on "engineering management roles driving large scale cross-functional programs". He is also the Acting Program Director for the Partnership for Lebanon.

## Brazilians of Lebanese Descent Maluf and Tourinho Visit LERC

Friday 7th January 2011, LERC, NDU

Reported by Elie Nabhan

Political analyst Dr. Rui Tavares Maluf, accompanied by his wife Monica, and Architect Mrs. Andréa de Oliveira Tourinho, all from Brazil, visited the Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) at NDU along with Mr. Roberto Khatlab, LERC's Latin America liaison officer. Dr. Maluf's grandfather, Iskandar Butrus Maluf, emigrated from Zahle in the Bekaa Valley to Brazil in 1915.

Dr. Tourinho is a PhD holder in Architecture and Urbanism and works at the Vale Foundation in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Her great-grandmother moved to the state of Bahia in northeastern Brazil when only fourteen years old.

Dr. Maluf promised to send LERC some material that he had authored which would be of use to the Center after congratulating the Center for its important work in studies on emigration.

## Danish Students Schmidt Hansen and Becker-Jostes Seek out LERC for Information on Lebanese Migration

Monday 7th February 2011, LERC, NDU

Reported by Elie Nabhan

Mr. Jonas Schmidt Hansen and Mr. Petter Becker-Jostes, Danish students of journalism studying at the Danish School of Journalism (DSJ), are both on an exchange semester at the American University of Beirut (AUB). They are currently working on their graduating bachelor project at the DSJ with a series of articles about Lebanese

migration and Lebanese society, and came to interview LERC's Director Ms. Guita Hourani and NDU's Professor Eugene Sensenig-Dabbous on migration and insecurity. Their questions were based on Lebanese migration in general, but also on insecurity and its role in perpetuating migration.

## LERC Director Hourani Returns from Fieldwork in Germany

February 2011

LERC Director Guita Hourani, who is working on the migration trajectory, citizenship, and political participation of the Lebanese-Kurds, traveled to Essen in Germany to conduct fieldwork on members of the community who had immigrated during the Civil War in Lebanon. Hourani was invited as a Fellow to the Institute for Islamic Studies (Orientalisches Seminar) of the University of

Cologne; Dr. Wolf-Hagen von Angern, who was affiliated with LERC while conducting research for his PhD thesis three years ago, facilitated this invitation. Contact with the community in Essen was facilitated by Mr. Issam Omayrat, the owner of *Al Mughtarib* Magazine.

## LERC Celebrating Human Rights Day 2010 at the Lebanese Parliament

Monday 13th December 2010, Beirut

Reported by Michele Fenianos, LERC Research Assistant

On Human Rights Day, the Lebanese Human Rights Parliamentary Committee, in partnership with the UNDP and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in the Middle East, launched on Monday 13 December 2010 the Draft of the National Human Rights Action Plan, under the patronage of the speaker of the house Mr. Nabih Berri at the Library of the new building of the Lebanese Parliament. The final part of the conference set the stage for a positive debate and recommendations from NGOs and Civil Society Representatives. It should be noted that LERC played a pivotal role in the drafting and consultation process, being part of the NGOs consultative structure since September 23, 2010, on one hand and member in the specialized working group related to the Refugees Rights on the other.

## Dr. Salwa Karam Participates on Behalf of LERC in the First Conference on Arab Expatriates

Reported by Elie Azar

4th to 6th December 2010, Cairo, Egypt

The Arab Expatriates Department of the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States (LAS) held the first conference of Arab Expatriates under the title of *A Bridge for Communication*, from December 4 to 6, 2010, at the League headquarters in Cairo, Egypt. The Conference was attended by Ministers of Arab States in charge of migration, representatives of Arab expatriate communities and organizations, ambassadors of foreign countries with large Arab communities, the Head of the Delegation of the European Union to Egypt, and the President of the Permanent Delegation of the African Union to the League of Arab States.

Dr. Salwa Karam, Associate Researcher at LERC, presented a study under the title of [the] State of the Arab Communities in Asia and Australia. The paper was well received and was publicly

recommended to be photocopied and distributed to all participants to help them benefit from its scholarship. Dr. Karam was given a book from the Arab Expatriates Department with the following dedication, "To Dr. Karam, for the adequate presentation that helped to enrich the conference and for providing informative statistics about the expatriates." The dedication also read, "There is no doubt that the information and statistics provided by your study will benefit the Arab Expatriates Department in its future work." Thanks to Dr. Karam, many participants were eager to learn more about the LERC and its activities.

## LERC Director Hourani Participates in The Protection Project of Johns Hopkins University

3rd to 5th January, 2011 at the Beirut Arab University and Notre Dame University

Reported by Elie Azar

The Protection Project at Johns Hopkins University, School of Advanced International Studies, represented by Dr. Mohamed Mattar, Executive Director, and the Council for Research in Values and Philosophy, represented by Dr. Edward Alam, General Secretary, invited Ms. Guita Hourani, Director of LERC, to the Conference on Trafficking in Persons in Lebanon, held in Beirut, and to an International Expert Round Table on International Migration, Women's Employment and Child Labor held at Notre Dame University.

Hourani participated in the first event, under the title of *Combating Trafficking in Persons in Lebanon: Government and Civil Society Partnership*, which was held on January 3 and 4, 2011, at Beirut Arab University, with Ms. Jocelyne Issa, who is completing her MA at NDU on the topic of such trafficking in Lebanon.

The International Expert Round Table, held on January 5, 2011, at NDU- Louaize, was opened in the presence of NDU President, Fr. Walid Moussa; Dr. Mohammed Y. Mattar, Executive Director of the Protection Project at the Johns Hopkins University, School of Advanced International Studies in the United States; Dr. Edward

Alam, NDU Professor and the General Secretary of the Council for Research in Values and Philosophy; and Dr. Chahine A. Ghais, Dean of the Faculty of Political Science, Public Administration and Diplomacy at NDU.

The International Expert Round Table under the title of *International Migration, Women's Employment, and Child Labor* and held at NDU on January 5, 2011, covered the themes of employment and exploitation of women and children, and economic corruption, ethics, and development.

Hourani participated in the first Expert Group Discussion, which dealt with international migration, globalization, and the "brain drain". The presenters were Dr. Majid Habibian Naghibi and Dr. Javad Saadatfar, faculty members of the Department of Economics at Mofid University, Qom, Iran.

Dr. Eugene Sensenig-Dabbous, Adjunct Research Associate at LERC and Chairperson of the Political Science Department at NDU, was also a participant at the second Expert Group Discussion on *Child Labor and Women's Employment*.

## Deborah Trent Gives Lecture on US Public Diplomacy Towards Lebanon

Thursday 5th May 2011, LERC, NDU

Reported by Elie Nabhan



**1.** *Listening to the lecture of Ms. D. Trent: (sitting front row left to right) Dr. A. Eid, Ms. G. Hourani, Mrs. S. Kassis-Abi Rached, Mrs. L. Haddad with (back row) Mr. E. Sfeir. (May 2011).*

**2.** *All in attention: Dr. R. Sabat (front right) and Ms. N. Mazraani with NDU students and members in the background (May 2011).*

Public Diplomacy “is a government’s direct engagement with another country’s citizenry to support official foreign policy as well as goals and interests shared between the two nations,” so explained the summary of the lecture given by Ms. Deborah Trent.

A doctoral student at the George Washington University’s Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration in Washington DC, USA, Ms. Deborah Trent’s lecture Exploring Diaspora Diplomacy Through the Case of U.S Public Diplomacy in Lebanon was based on her preliminary findings of her doctoral dissertation fieldwork on US public diplomacy towards Lebanon.

Modern diplomacy tends to be formal, even hierarchical and defined by protocol, said Trent. On other levels, however, informal diplomacy, such as the public diplomacy of the US government, expresses itself through educational, cultural and economic programs that engage people and promote better relations in the way that the British government reaches out through the British Council, the French Government with the Alliance Française, and the German government with the Goethe Institute.

The US Administration may regard “diaspora diplomacy as a transnational dimension of public diplomacy at home,” she said. “The government may engage at home with the Lebanese-American diaspora, seeking the opinion of the Lebanese-American community on certain policies, speeches, and initiatives,” in order to gauge their attitudes and possible reactions.

To address these shortcomings the Lebanese-American Diaspora in the US can help with the study and understanding of Lebanese and Middle Eastern cultures to overcome language gaps and lack of information that US diplomacy may face.

“The Lebanese-American community in the US allows people to sit and learn from each other with great cultural implications,” she added, going on to explain that diaspora diplomacy can facilitate collaboration and engagement programs that improve Lebanese-American relations.

The Lebanese-American community is conservatively estimated at 400,000 and though Lebanon maybe small in size, she

said, its strategic location is important and US. Civil Society building programs, along with government investments in a region, she feels, are so challenging for the US government that they lend greater importance to public diplomacy

US foreign policy towards Lebanon, in all different forms of engagement, in terms of identity, culture or education, can be forged with the help of the diaspora, an engagement with the public.

Networking also plays a part in public diplomacy. Diplomats are known to attend many events through their partner organizations where diaspora policy, as an effective dimension, can focus on groups, promoting dialogue and communication with people on the ground.

Collaborative engagements, she said, can provide for policy and programs whereby shared interests can provide mutual meeting points. This collaboration should be based on trust, she explained, as it plays a vital role in networking public diplomacy, with the work of partners, international programs or government initiatives to keep people connected, more so effective in today’s social media age.

“Diaspora diplomacy, reflecting diplomacy at home, can lead to the national development of Lebanon, its reconstruction and growth, by the Lebanese themselves in the same way as other diasporas’ involvement in international development,” Ms. Trent concluded.

A question-and-answer session followed with much discussion centered on the effectiveness of lobbying in US politics. Ms. Trent informed her audience of numerous groups and organizations in the US with special appreciation for Lebanon that seek to safeguard and influence in a positive way US foreign and cultural policies towards Lebanon.

Those present at the lecture included Dr. Assaad Eid, NDU’s Vice-President for Sponsored Research and Development; Dr. George Eid, Academic Advisor to NDU President; Mr. Mounir Hamza, Vice-Chairman of the Lebanese Nigerian Friendship Association; Dr. Rita Sabat, Assistant Professor at NDU’s Faculty of Political Science, Public Administration & Diplomacy; LERC Director Ms. Guita Hourani, NDU students, and members of LERC staff.

## Ms. Debora Trent at LERC

After her lecture, Ms. Deborah Trent, paid a visit to LERC to meet with staff members and to be shown around the premises, in her capacity as a visiting lecturer but also as an emigrant of Lebanese descent.

Her grandparents, Mr. Attas Atiyeh Boutros and Mrs. Della Nassif Boutros, born in the tiny village of Ain Arab, nestled in the Bekaa Valley, emigrated to the United States around 1910. This made Ms. Trent's visit to Lebanon, though an essential part of her dissertation field work, also a voyage of discovery.

Throughout her trip to LERC, and NDU, Ms. Trent's discussions with LERC Director Ms. Guita Hourani centered on her fieldwork in Lebanon for her dissertation on US public diplomacy in Lebanon and how, according to her biography, "the cross-sector, transnational relations between and among US and Lebanese governmental and civil society actors inform effective US public diplomacy policy and programs toward Lebanon." Over 2000 participants attended. Mr. El Khoury presented a paper on behalf of the LERC entitled Citizenship Rights of the Lebanese Diaspora: A Roadmap to Returning Home in the panel Citizenship in the Arab World chaired by Dr. Gianluca Parolin, Assistant Professor of Law at the American University of Cairo.



*Ms. D. Trent (right) with Mrs. L. Haddad at the LEAD offices (May 2011).*

Ms. Hourani attended the Congress as part of her CELF fellowship with the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs.

She was introduced to the materials collected by LERC in its electronic archives, an experience she said that transported her around the world, ultimately reducing her to tears of joy.

"I am overwhelmed with the care and thoroughness of this archive and with all your efforts to expand the history of Lebanese migration," she said. "The diversity of the people is even greater than I imagined! Bravo!"

## University International Affairs Office

- As representative of NDU and in his capacity as Director of the University International Affairs Office (UIAO), Dr. Michel Nehme attended a meeting with representatives of Lund University at AUB on 13 April 9.00 – 4 p.m. to discuss details of the new LEEN partnership proposal. AUB has kindly offered to host the meeting and the agenda entailed all the steps that need to be discussed to meet the fulfilling of requirements needed to finalize application to Erasmus Mundus for student and university exchange.

- USA Embassy representatives visited NDU on the 6th of April 2011 to provide orientation for students wishing to apply for a grant to obtain a master's degree at a university in the United States. The Fulbright Student Scholarship Program, which covers a maximum of two academic years of study beginning in August 2012, is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State through the Embassy of the United States of America in Lebanon. AMIDEAST administers the program, which is funded by the U.S. Congress. Originally proposed by Senator J. William Fulbright in 1945. The scholarship has become the U.S. government's flagship program in international educational exchange. The grant includes: roundtrip airfare between Lebanon and the United States, tuition, books, health insurance, and room and board.

## Rihani International Conference



1st row – L to R: Mr. S. Matar, Dr. N. Hajjar, Dr. A. Rihani, Fr. W. Moussa, M. H. Zgheib, Ms. G. Gebara, & Dr. N. Oueijan.



Dr. N. Oueijan

To celebrate the centenary of Ameen Fares Rihani's *Book of Khalid*, the Department of English, Translation and Education, Faculty of Humanities, at Notre Dame University–Louaize, Lebanon, organized an international conference on “Ameen Rihani’s Arab-American Legacy: From Romanticism to Postmodernism,” which took place on the main campus of NDU on April 28-29, 2011.

Rihani's travelogues, correspondence, poetic, and prose works, especially *The Book of Khalid*, testify to his deep sense of Romanticism and Modernism. His eagerness to launch a cultural, political, economic, social, and spiritual revolution, one which would question both Western and Eastern traditional norms and propose new systems of thought, is an expression of Ameen Rihani's universality. Plenary Speakers included: Prof. Roger Allan, USA; Prof. Geoffrey Nash, UK; Prof. Nijmeh Hajjar, Australia, and Prof. Ameen Albert Rihani, Lebanon. Besides the plenary speakers, 16 scholars from the United States of America, England, Australia, Russia, the Republic of Georgia, Kuwait, and Lebanon, participated in this academic event, which was one of several other events that had already taken place or will take place to celebrate Rihanism all over the world.

The celebrations started with an international conference, in November, 2010, in Australia, organized by the Department of Arabic & Islamic Studies at the University of Sydney. In Lebanon, the Lebanese American University (LAU) organized a Symposium on Ameen Rihani, on January 19, 2011. Several presentations were made to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of *The Book of Khalid*, the first

Arab-American Novel, at Yale University and the Library of Congress, Washington DC. Forthcoming activities will be held at the American University in Washington D.C. on April 13, 2011, the Women's National Republican Club's Black Tie Dinner; and at the Municipality of Deek El-Mihdi and Deir Tameesh to unveil the Statue of Ameen Rihani at the entrance of Mid-Metn on the highway of Antelias-Bikfaya on July 30, 2011. In mid October 2011, a celebration will take place to unveil the Bust of Ameen Rihani on Syracuse University Campus. And as a final event, the New York Public Library will hold a public presentation on Ameen Fares Rihani on October 25, 2011.

The international conference at Notre Dame University, however, was one of the major highlights of the centenary celebrations involving one of the greatest Lebanese-Arab-American thinkers of the twentieth century. Besides the lectures presented by scholars from around the world, a special students' session and two exhibitions were organized: The Rihani Student Art Exhibition and The Rihani English Publications Exhibition. The conference attracted a large audience interested in Ameen F. Rihani; however, the participation of about 600 NDU students in the conference as performers, speakers, and audience marked the significance of this conference. The Conference Organizing Committee was Chaired by Prof. Naji Oueijan, and included: Prof. Ameen A. Rihani, VPAA, Honorary Member; Dr. Carol Kfoury, Dean, FH; Dr. Sami Samra, Chair, DETE; Dr. Colette Guldimann and Dr. Amal Malek.

## Implementation of Ethics in Research at NDU



(L to R) Mrs. L. Hage, Miss Z. Nehme, Dr. C. Chalhoub, Dr. J. Voss, Dr. E. Sensenig-Dabbous



The Research Ethics Subcommittee (RES) of the University Research Board (URB) of Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) organized an event on the Implementation of Ethics in Research Committees in academic institutions on Thursday, May 5, 2011 at 12:30 p.m. in Abou Khater Auditorium.

### RES:

RES was formed by the URB on January 13, 2011. Its aim is to implement an ethics in research committee in order to promote ethical research and perform ethical reviews of research proposals at NDU. This is a requirement in American institutions and will be required for the accreditation process. RES members consist of Dr. Eugene Sensenig-Dabbous (Chair), Dr. Jesse Voss, Ms. Leslie Hage, and Ms. Zeina Nehme.

### The Event and its Outcomes:

In order to raise awareness on the importance of ethics in research involving human subjects at NDU, and to highlight the need for policies to protect the welfare and rights of human subjects in research, RES hosted Dr. Christine Chalhoub, an expert in the field. Many deans, chairs, and faculty members attended. The presentation was excellent, and the audience benefited from the information and demonstrated their concern on the need to create such a committee at NDU. In addition, several faculty members showed interest in joining RES.

### The Guest:

Dr. Chalhoub, a member of the Research Ethics Committee at the Lebanese-American University (LAU) and one of the founders of the Institutional Research Board (IRB) at the American University of Beirut (AUB), has worked extensively on this subject. Her presentation was tailored to research conducted by members of the NDU community, involving human subjects.

### Further work: RES is in the process of

- formulating policies for the implementation of an ethics research committee;
- welcoming faculty members who are interested in joining the committee.

*Faculty members with an interest or experience in the ethics in research field who would like to participate in RES, are encouraged to contact one of the RES members.*

## Report-Panel Discussion V



*Dr. N. Oueijan, Dr. A. Eid, Fr. W. Moussa, H.E. H. Mavrommatis*

The COMMON PLATFORMS FOR BRIDGING WORLD CULTURES-NDU, PANEL DISCUSSION V, May 9, 2011, 'Cultural Tolerance' was one of a series of panel discussions that began in 2008, and appears to continue with the same, if not more vigor, during spring 2011. The Organizing Committee—including Prof. Naji Oueijan, who initiated this activity, Dr. Eugene Sensenig-Dabbous, Dr. Jacques Harb, Mrs. Linda Choueiri, and Dr. Hassan Hamadi—works as subcommittee of the University Research Board (URB), which is dedicated to enhance research at NDU, especially among students. Panel V hosted His Excellency, Mr. Homer A. Mavrommatis, Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus, as Keynote Speaker. In the Introductory session, Prof. Oueijan gave his own definition of "cultural tolerance" as knowledge anointed with love. He explained, "Knowledge devoid of love may become a destructive tool, prompting conflicts and contempt between Self and Other. Knowledge marinated with genuine love is a positive power, which eliminates fear and misperceptions and acts as a binding force between Self and Other.

In the Arab world and the world! The earth's color is turning red; and the skies are polluted with the smoke of guns and factories. Those are the products of knowledge devoid of love! And unfortunately, in our current world and for many self-centered people, knowledge has become a tool for destruction and pollution, and love to the same egocentric people is a tool for fools."

Prof. Assaad Eid, VPSRD, highlighted the importance of tolerance in today's society and outlined the role of higher education in fostering its values. In the presence of Rev. Fr. Moussa, President of NDU, His Excellency, Mr. Homer A. Mavrommatis, gave a presentation, expounding on the historical similarities between Cyprus and Lebanon and advancing tolerance as he experienced in his own country, Cyprus. Other speakers included: Ms. Christine Loy, "Accepting Inner Plurality as a Prerequisite for Tolerance," Germany; Dr. Walid Sarkis, "Understanding Cross-Cultural Psychology," NDU; Dr. Savo Karam, "Ameen Fares Rihani: Promoting Religious Tolerance," NDU; Nathalie Badran, "Washm...Disgracing or Tattooing, The Case of Body Art in the Middle Eastern Society," NDU; Nada Sakr Bechara, "When Ignorance Begets Tolerance," NDU; Melkar el-Khoury, "A Gracious Insult Called Tolerance," NDU; Firas Mghames, "Beirut, The City Where Chaos Meets Tolerance," NDU; and Hala Abi Aad, "Tolerance Unveiled: Being on the Edge of Human Action or Business Accomplishment," NDU. *NDU Spirit* congratulates the Organizers of Panel V and awaits Panel VI.

## NDU Open House 2011



high school students visiting NDU engineering labs



Admissions office personnel

On April 15, 2011, Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) opened its doors from 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. to receive more than 4,600 students from around 93 schools.

Organized by the NDU Admissions Office, Open House 2011 was a resounding success thanks to the tremendous efforts of the Admissions Team, headed by Dr. Viviane Neamy, Director of Admissions, who, after greeting the visiting students, highlighted NDU's significant role in

assisting students to make the right decision in choosing their major. On the other spectrum, representatives of every NDU department and faculty, as well as students, were present at the event to answer the questions prospective students raised concerning majors and services offered at NDU.

Visiting students embarked on a campus tour, visiting the various faculties, the Computer Center, Science Labs, HTM Labs, Engineering Labs, Studio, Library, and Museum.

## NDU Students Win Awards and Prizes at Local, Regional and International Events

### Students of the Department of Hospitality and Tourism Management at the Faculty of Business Administration and Economics

- Ten students of the Department of Hospitality and Tourism Management (DHTM), participated in the HORECA competition 2011: the International Trade Show for the Hospitality & Foodservice Industry (March 29 – April 1 2011, at Biel, Beirut, Lebanon). NDU students won one gold medal, one silver medal, and five bronze medals.
- Joey Ghanem, a DHTM student, won the "Hospitality Leadership Challenge" competition organized by the American Hospitality Association (AHA) on February 15, 2011. Joey was granted one-year scholarship training in the USA.

### Mechanical Engineering students

Once more, NDU graduates are singled out for their exceptional performance and achievements. This time, Hassan Youness, Mechanical Engineering graduate, is the recipient of the "Young Engineer of the Year Award" for 2010, organized by MEP Magazine.

### Department of Mass Communication – Radio/TV

Radio/TV Gaby Milky won the Best Animated Film Award for his film "Once Upon a Feather" in the Zayed University Middle East Film Festival held at Abu Dhabi on Thursday April 21, 2011.



(L to R) Mr. S. Lahoud, Mr. G. Melki, Mr. N. Khabbaz

## Announcements

### National Apostolate of Maronites' Annual Convention

The National Apostolate of Maronites (NAM) will hold its annual convention in Philadelphia on July 6-10, 2011. NDU will be represented by Dr. Assaad Eid, VPSRD, and Dr. George AbDelnour, Director, CARE.