

# ALUMNI E-NEWS

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NDU ALUMNI AFFAIRS OFFICE

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P.O.Box 72 Zouk Michael Zouk Mosbeh, Lebanon  
Phone: 961 9 218 950 Ext. 2303-2313  
Website: [www.ndu.edu.lb](http://www.ndu.edu.lb)  
Email: [alumni.affairs@ndu.edu.lb](mailto:alumni.affairs@ndu.edu.lb)

## FROM THE PRESIDENT OF NDU

Once I was asked for advice on what to tell others – Non-NDU about NDU and its potencies. Even though, the University is well-known on the national level, my advice goes in the direction of sharpening their perception of NDU.



I believe there are two ways of doing so. One way is to talk about the graduates of NDU and what they have achieved and the second way is about the faculty and staff that have helped in making these graduates successful. I recently welcomed the new class of 2007 and in my brief remarks; I highlighted NDU Alumni as an example of how NDU students could some day benefit through their NDU education. On a daily basis, I witness the evidence of NDU's effectiveness in the success stories of our Alumni. From our most accomplished Alumni to our newest graduates, it is truly amazing to see all the wonderful things they are doing nationally and internationally.

Dear Alumni,

Thank you as always for your commitment to NDU. Let us know your thoughts about how we can best assure that NDU's third decade is as full of accomplishments as the first two decades.

Fr. Walid Moussa, MMO

## FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI AFFAIRS OFFICE

This electronic issue of NDU Alumni news comes after the termination of NDU's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations. It is time to review what had occurred in the past year and to thank all the

NDU community who supported the Alumni events in various ways.

For this New Year, the Alumni Affairs Office plan has four broad aims: *the first priority* is to intensify the efforts at working on the Alumni database. *The second priority* is to visit the Alumni in the Gulf region in early March. *The third priority* is to have more interaction with senior students soon to pass into the Alumni body. Finally, *the fourth priority* is to continue connecting with Alumni through different activities. I look forward to keeping you posted on these exciting developments throughout the year.



Within these pages you will read about the Alumni and their stories, experiences, activities, and accomplishments that show your Alma Mater to be a strong vital institution for the future. I can't wait to see where we will go from here.

Simon A. Abou Jaoude, AAO

## NDU HAPPENINGS



### Time Burial Capsule

In the framework of celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Notre Dame University, the culminating event was the "Time Burial Capsule: We Were Here."

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

NDU administrators, faculty, staff, students and Alumni.

The selected items for the time capsule convey information about the present year 2007 to whoever opens the time capsule in the year 2027. Representatives of NDU constituents placed items from their faculties, divisions and departments in the time capsule, including the President of NDU who addressed through a letter his 2027 counterpart. Following the presentations that took place on Wednesday January 16, 2008, NDU facilities staff sealed the time capsule and lowered it into the ground at the entrance of the NDU Administration in front of the NDU community.



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

## NDU Alumni Couple Reunion

More than 400 Alumni celebrated the **NDU Alumni Couple – Tonight I Celebrate My Love To You**, enjoying the opportunity to catch up with old friends and meet new ones.

The reunion, which was presented by Ms. Rania El Sabeh, NDU Alumna '03, debuted with a welcoming address by the Director of the Alumni Affairs Office, Mr. Simon Abou Jaoude. The program of the event included "a wedding scene" presented by NDU Alumni couple Georges and Nicole Milan. Two documentaries were projected on a large screen; the first one, included wedding pictures of NDU Alumni couples as well as married NDU Faculty/Staff members and the second documentary included three NDU alumni couples, Victor Kahi and Saria Rahme, Wissam Melhem and Rania Abboud, Rabih Moubarak and Sabine Ghanem who gave a personal testimony about their love stories that started at NDU.

In addition, the event continued fabulously with "words of love" narrated by the poet and General Director of Public Relations, Mr. Suheil Matar. The memorable dialogue of the event was when Fr. Fadi Bou Chebl, University General Chaplain,

was invited to the stage where everyone in the Hall lifted up their hearts by reading the renewal marriage vows distributed earlier at the entry to the event.

President Walid Moussa epitomized the mood of the Alumni Couple Reunion. He captured the essence of the event by saying: "Good evening, an evening filled with happiness and beauty that are so needed in our days".



Rafka Phares, NDU Alumna '07, who is gifted with a voice of such beauty that competent judges recommend singing as a career for her, sang a few love songs and the evening was over.

A few days later, the Alumni Affairs Office received the following e-mail from **Ramzi Hage** (BA'04) who attended the event: "The reunion helped me retrieve many intimate university memories; meet former colleagues whom I have lost contact with, and share the happiness and joy of those who got married or engaged. Best of luck to the Alumni Affairs Office and keep the great ideas coming!"

## Remembrances: Gone but Not Forgotten

Life is full of people that are here today and of who will be gone tomorrow; but as time passes hopefully we can learn to move on. However, sometimes we just have to sit back, think about them, pray for them and miss them.

A joint activity between the NDU Pastoral Work, Student Affairs Office and Alumni Affairs Office was prepared for All Souls' Day. The intent was to keep them a part of the university memory - the names of those who were there once, laughed, lived and worked well and left something for us to remember.

Some say that people will know that they are about to leave. I always thought this was true. However, upon thinking it over, crying until my eyes were puffed, there was one thing that was in my mind. Only a few of our NDU students knew their time. Most of the 37 of them passed away in

a car accident, the majority of who were pronounced dead at the scene.

During the past twenty years, NDU said goodbye to several distinguished colleagues and students. To pay tribute to all those people we wanted to remember, a mass was held on Monday November 5, 2007 at 12:00 noon in Issam Fares Conference Hall. Fr. Fadi Bou Chebl, University Chaplain, sent out a request to all NDU constituents to help in building up the **memorial database** of "Faculty, Staff, Alumni and Students". The result was a documentary, prepared by the Alumni Affairs Office that compiled photos of the 43 persons who have left us so early but will always live in our hearts.



The memorial mass was celebrated by Fr. Bechara Khoury, Director of Student Affairs Office and concelebrated by the NDU fathers, in the presence of the families of the last three students, Marwan Mouawya, Jad Korkomaz, and Roland Ammoury - who departed during the months of September/October 2007. Fr. Bechara Khoury started his homily as such "If tears could build a stairway, we would walk right up to heaven and bring you back with us!" and ended by the different stages of grief until we reach the acceptance of what has happened. The peak moments of remembrance were when a candle was lit for every person of the forty-three in the form of a heart. The Sports' Office presented to the family of Roland Ammoury Maalouf, who was also a national basketball player, some memorable pictures of Roland. A wise man once said, *"I think maybe you never get over anything; you just find a way of carrying it as gently as possible."*



## COVER STORY – The American Experience

PASCALE KOAYESS, FAY NASR,  
PIA ZEINOUN, MONY KHOUZAMI



Read it and ask yourself. Would you be interested in telling an American Experience 'in a pair of jeans?' Anyone who takes time can discover the scale of diversity.

**PASCALE KOAYESS** (BA '01) writes, "I don't know where to start from, or what to say exactly about my American experience. I graduated from NDU with a BA in International Affairs and Diplomacy in July 2001. I came to the States to pursue higher education in 2002 and graduated with an M.A. in Political Science from San Diego State University in May 2004. California became my Home state, and I refused all the job offers related to my field on the East Coast, whether D.C. or N.Y.! :) I moved from Southern California to Northern California 3 years ago, and I am working with the Defense Language Institute here in Monterey as an Assistant Professor. The academic environment is exceptional and challenging. I got the chance to meet so many politicians such as Presidential Candidate, Mrs. Hillary Clinton, intellectuals, researchers, and participated in many conferences and trainings all over the U.S. and Canada. I will also be starting my PhD; most probably in University of California Santa Cruz which is 40 minutes away from where I live, known for its highly competitive Political Science program.

"I do miss Lebanon a lot, but my American experience made me love Lebanon more and more every day. It taught me to become stronger and work for Lebanon no matter where I was, since Lebanon is in my heart and soul! My office is called "The Lebanese Embassy" at work, since it is full of Lebanese flags, pictures, posters, brochures, etc,,,, and all my American students before graduating become "Lebanese wanna be".

**FAY NASR (BA '05) writes,** "After graduating from NDU with a BA in Clinical Psychology, I wanted to get a masters degree in Communications and Public Relations and therefore I moved to Houston in summer of 2005, and then got a job. I hoped that this venture would widen my horizons and show me what life means outside "home". Having come from an environment that provided me with all my needs, be it emotional or financial, living in the US by myself was not easy at the beginning, but it taught me a lot, and I will never regret it. It taught me independence, responsibility, and most of all, appreciation of what I had back home. Family, friends, and familiarity with everything around you is something that is very hard to get and establish whenever you leave your country. I miss all of that and much more.

Despite everything, I'm taking advantage of the fact that I'm in a country where you learn to be independent, you learn order instead of chaos, you meet people from all over the world and get to know their culture, and introduce them to yours.

Another important thing that America offers is a wide range of opportunities that are waiting to be seized by us - dreamers, innovators, and entrepreneurs.

People talk about the American experience, and some dream about coming to visit this country one day; trust me, all this country offers you is financial security, other than that, we all find ourselves longing for our land, wanting to be with our friends and family, wanting to sit by the beach and look at the never-ending horizon.... this is what I miss the most... and there is no amount of money that will replace this feeling."

**PIA ZEINOUN (BA '06) writes,** "I graduated from NDU with a BA degree in Clinical Psychology. In 2006, I was awarded the Fulbright Scholarship to pursue a 2-year Master's degree in the U.S.A. Since then, I've been pursuing (unremittingly!) my MS in Clinical/Counseling Psychology at Illinois State University in parallel to psychotherapy training/internship. Besides the commonly dry flavor of academia, the U.S. offers many opportunities for those who seek them – professional, recreational and social. I've done my best to savor as many of them as possible! It is however an acquired taste... Throughout my sojourning, I have slowly, but steadily, grown keen of the culturally-distinct (for lack of a better description) socializing, the less-than-hospitable climate, the ever-captivating worldview of the average person, and the many, MANY, different flavors of this society and its people. My U.S.

experience in bite-size; an expansion of schemas. My message to you amidst these lines: if you are interested in U.S. studies, it is indeed a solid investment – one that is of course best capitalized upon by returning, with after-taste n' all, to ones home country. See you soon!"

**MONY KHOUZAMI (BA '98) writes,** "I am a graduate of NDU/NLC. My degree was in Interior Design. After graduation, I executed few interior design projects for friends and family. During this time I was sending my CV to a few companies and I had a few interviews, but it seemed I didn't have a back up or I'm not related to any political group to be hired. My luck came when my uncle, who owns a construction firm in New Jersey USA, visited Lebanon with an American architect to buy construction material for a high rise building in the States. This American architect, owner of an architectural company in New York City, offered me a job. He said, "Why don't you come to the States?" and that's when I got my first job offer. I was so excited but for my parents it was a shock, especially my father (you know how Lebanese dad's feel.

I convinced him that I will make a trip to see how life is the States. I had nothing to lose since I have family there. I stepped on the plane in March 2000 heading toward a new adventure. I can say I loved it here especially the work experience in New York City. You feel like people respect you for who you are, and for your job performance not whom you belong to. The company offered me a work permit visa which is a 3-year visa, that I can renew or I can apply for a green card.

I don't think you find a reason for everything you do until later. I met my husband **Joseph Balou (BA'95) who's an NDU graduate.** He works for Lucent Tech. He was transferred from Riyadh to New Jersey. We've been married for 5 years now, we have 2 boys. Life is great here, except that we miss our families and friends."

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## NDU PEOPLE: INTERVIEWING NDU FACULTY AND STAFF MEMBERS

Whether he speaks for five minutes or half an hour, **Kamal Darouni**, Pioneer of Advertising in Lebanon and Professor at

NDU, leaves his audience with ideas worth thinking about and talking about.



### How did you start in the Advertising business?

Eighteen years have elapsed since I joined NDU. I never thought I would turn out to be an academian, for I come from a long professional background. Before I joined NDU, I was living in England and working for a network of advertising agencies. After that, I moved to Al Qabas newspaper then to Dar-As-Sayad. I introduced the Advertising and Marketing Major at NDU in 1990 which so far had fulfilled my mission in my life.

In 1990 just few months before the first Gulf war, I ventured with a GURU in Advertising business that is based in Dubai and we opened a company whose specialty is to promote the UAFA football events on Satellite. The Gulf War broke out which made me lose all my property i.e. my house in England, car, bank accounts etc. I then decided to come back to Lebanon.

### When did you start teaching at NDU?

In 1990 just a few months after the first Gulf War, I came back to Lebanon. Starting my career at NDU has changed my destiny in life, because I have discovered that I did enjoy GIVING. Teaching is all about giving. This was the ultimate power in satisfying my ego.

### What do you remember from the early days of NDU?

I enjoyed the old days in the old campus, it was cozy, and everybody knew everybody and all were friends. My early days of teaching gave me an endless love for discovering myself, since teaching is learning. This experience gave me a feeling of a priesthood dwelling in my soul which continuously provided me with an inner satisfaction that exceeded all of my expectations.

### How would you like your students to remember you?

I was a good friend to all of them, I have passed all my life experience to this new generation and made them feel that they would become leaders in this ever-growing business, just the way their ancestors the Phoenicians did. I have published for them four books on Advertising, the only books ever produced in all the Middle East area. I made them believe that they should be proud to belong to NDU. I have always asked them to

remember my teaching, which aimed at helping them succeed. Most of them did.

### Do you still keep in touch with your students? Name few of them.

I have always kept in touch with my students and exchanged correspondences with them since I am still working in this field. I have always provided them with assistance and found jobs for them, because I consider them as my children who need to be nurtured all the time, even if they have grown up and became professional. I remember hundreds of them since over 600 advertising students have graduated from NDU since 1990 but I will give a few names: Hilda Khalife, Jean Pierre Keyrouz, Betty Hindi, Gloria Mattar, Nicole Bardawil, Nathalie Saikali, and Fouad El Rassi.

### Do you have any particular memory or anecdote from your years of teaching?

In 1995 when we were still in the old campus, one student raised his hand to ask me a question. I did not give him the chance to do so, I told him to wait until the class ends. Just five minutes before the session was over, I told him to ask his question. He said, "Sir, I just wanted to tell you to close your zipper." I asked him why he didn't say it before; he replied, "I tried, but you did not give me the chance."

### Is there one advertisement that has gotten the most powerful reaction from people?

Johnny Walker (*Keep Walking*). I know that this is one of the favorite advertisements of Fr. Walid Moussa, President of NDU.

### Tell me about a time where you failed. What happened, and how did you succeed again?

I failed because I took a decision to leave England in 1990 and to get based in Dubai; this made me loose all my fortune. The time I succeeded was when I have joined NDU, because I found myself in teaching, I have discovered who I am, what I am looking for, why I am in this world. More so, I have found the truth which I was looking for all my life, and this has given me an inner satisfaction.

### Tell us what you are currently doing?

Academically, I am teaching the latest techniques in Marketing Communications both in the undergraduate and graduate program at NDU. I am also managing the Advertising Club and the mission we have this semester is to work on launching an NDU TV station, putting together

extensive seminars on Advertising and on ways to succeed in implementing a mini media city at NDU. This is too much, but to me its success lies in the secret of the Law of Attraction *"keep thinking about it until your dream becomes a reality"*. Professionally I have kept my old status as CEO of my advertising agency "Infomarkets" (established in 1980) and as General Secretary of the AAA.

### What advice do you have for graduates to become more involved as NDU Alumni?

NDU Alumni should have a server for chatting whereby the graduates and those enrolled at NDU campus could become friends and get engaged. In this way, Mr. Simon Abou Jaoude will increase the potential of NDU married couples, and then he will have more extra work to do. By the way we all love him.

### Viviane Tarabay Abi Nader,

one of the ten people you have to meet at NDU. She drew her professional skills and background from her twenty years working to guarantee the best service from the Office of Administration.



### When did you start at NDU? What can you tell us about the Old Campus?

I started working at NDU – Old Campus in October 1987. NDU had just received its decree as an independent university. At that time, NDU family was small and the working atmosphere was as always friendly.

### Many of your working years were in the Administration. Do you have particular memories of each mandate?

I have served in the Administration Office for around 20 years. My experience became wider year after year especially where I worked with five different Directors consequently. Each one of them contributed in his own way and they helped me to become more loyal to the institution, more dedicated to my work and more patient with people.

### What impact did NDU have on your personal and family life?

NDU became my second family, therefore, most of the time I find myself carrying home my work worries and difficulties. Nevertheless, my work helped me become more organized and decisive in my personal life. Real success is finding your lifework in the work that you love.

### What are the major changes you have noticed throughout these years?

Twenty years is a long way in the life of technology. During the days of the Old Campus, machines were very basic and gave us a hard time, whereas now, NDU has a challenging updated technological system and the Campus is big enough now to accommodate more than 5000 students in a very healthy and modernized environment.

### What would you most like to see happen to NDU?

NDU is working steadily to get accredited by NEASC, so I would like to see this happening very soon. Accreditation is an important step in the right direction.

### NDU is celebrating its 20th Anniversary, what would like to say to the NDU Community?

Working at an educational institution as NDU is both a huge opportunity and a great challenge. I would draw on the slogan of the 20th Anniversary of NDU, "From Joining to Belonging", in order to urge every NDU member to be more loyal, professional and committed.

## LOURDES 2008

Giving part of your holiday for a spiritual visit is not something easy to put in plain words to your friends. You can never really explain how much it is heartening until you have experienced it for yourself. I remember thinking that I probably wouldn't want to go to



Lourdes because of all the sick people. But now here I am one of them. Before leaving home I made it a point to watch Jennifer Jones in her

Academy-winning role as Bernadette in "Song of Bernadette" of 1943.

That summer I decided to apply as volunteer helper on pilgrimages for individuals with disabilities. The duty of volunteers is to maintain the level of support these individuals need to experience Lourdes as a holiday and pilgrimage. The friendships created and the spirit of serving and the grace of sharing are appropriate rewards for all those implicated. *"The World is A Book - Those Who Do Not Travel Read Only One Page"* St. Augustine

Why share this experience now? For a simple reason; **in 2008, Lourdes will celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Apparitions.** What do you mean by "Jubilee Year"? According to the Law of Moses in the Old Testament (first part of the Bible), every 50th year was dedicated to God. *The Jubilee Year of 2008 will begin on December 8, 2007 and finishes off on December 8, 2008.*

The pilgrimage group I was assigned to accompany included two priests, a registered nurse, and individuals with physical and mental disabilities on wheelchairs and their families. The facilities that housed the group were specialized wards for people with special needs. Nuns, professional staff members, in addition to local volunteers, manage them.

In the heart of the Pyrenees Mountains, southwest of France lies Lourdes. Until the Marian appearances, it was a small market village. It was Bernadette's eighteen visions that made it one of the most visited pilgrimage shrines in all Christendom. It is said that last year's number of pilgrims exceeded seven millions pilgrims. My roommate volunteer commented, "Watching the pilgrims is a pilgrimage on its own."



The story of Lourdes in a few words goes this way: Bernadette was the first child of a poor family. Her father was a miller but his business did not prosper. Bernadette was put to tending the sheep. On February 11, 1858, Bernadette was gathering firewood in the corner of Massabielle cliff near Lourdes when she saw a beautiful lady with a rosary over her united hands, wearing a

light blue mantle, a white veil over it and a yellow rose on each foot. It would be the first of the 18 appearances during which the Lady identified herself as the Immaculate Conception. Bernadette was instructed to have a chapel built on the site of the vision and told her to drink from a fountain in the grotto. No fountain was to be seen. When Bernadette dug at a spot designated by the Lady, a spring began to flow.



The Basilica was erected in 1870 and a lower church that seats 20,000 was completed in 1958 to commemorate the centenary of the apparitions. The spring of water is still flowing since then and the baths associated with it have known over 5,000 miraculous healings, Church authorities recognized only 278. Perhaps the best turn of phrase that can be used is from the preface of the film "Song of Bernadette": *"For those who believe in God, no explanation is necessary. For those who do not believe in God, No explanation is possible."* Dr. Charles Richet, Professor at the Medical Faculty of Paris, and Chief Editor of the skeptical review, the *"Annales des Sciences Physiques"* said in the course of a long article on Lourdes, *"On being there, unprejudiced minds cannot but be convinced that the facts are authentic."*

The nightly candlelight procession is one of the most moving experiences of Lourdes. The first night we arrived, the two priests and myself went down to get acquainted with place and the ramparts leading to the Basilica. As I was approaching the Grotto I saw pilgrims holding candles with paper lanterns on top. The scene of the glowing candles against the darkness of the night is overwhelming. "Extend your prayer. Buy a candle," the sign reads. The paper lanterns had prayers in different languages and pictures on them.

The next night we were all there, the whole group. We bought candles to almost everyone. In an instant I looked at Tony, the man I was taking care of that night, I saw him asleep and the candle to the side dripping all over making an abstract wax sculpture. From the loudspeaker, voices led the prayers in English, French, Spanish,

Italian, German, Dutch, etc. At times we amused ourselves by replying as best as we can in the same language. Taken by the spirit of the moment, I went up to the loudspeaker and said the Hail Mary in Arabic. To my surprise, a group of Lebanese cheered and answered back. In between the decades of the Rosary, we said the "Ave Maria". It was to my surprise that everyone articulated the same phrase while lifting up his lanterns. It is incredibly universal.

One colleague turned toward me the last night saying; "I bet you have never made so many processions in your life." Actually that is not true, I have done a lot, in Harissa, Annaya, Kifan, Jribta, Zghorta, Ehden, Deir-El Kamar, Jal-El-Dib, Zouk Mosbeh, Shaile, etc. Each had its own meaning. Here in Lebanon we are accustomed to such public expansions.

Among my much-loved walks in Lourdes are the Stations of the Cross. It is as if you are accompanying Jesus to the Calvary. They are extraordinary to take a look at and allow one to be drawn more deeply into Jesus' suffering.

The unexpected part of the Lourdes visit for me was saying so many rosaries. I never got bored. After I left Lourdes, I recognized that I had developed the habit of praying the Rosary daily. This spiritual discipline conveyed a kind of peacefulness to my life in times of challenge and confusion.



The last night in Lourdes was very sad. I was preparing to go back after a most moving and uplifting 30 days together. I made my last farewells to the entire group, took the last photographs and packed the last of my things. I recognized how blessed I was to have had "Lourdes Experience."

Lourdes was somehow asleep as we left to the airport. I dozed a bit at the airport, again on the plane to Paris where this time it was cloudy. We had three hours to kill at the airport, which were spent largely making notes of all the interesting tidbits from the trip.

The woman I sat next to on the plane told me that this was her ninth time to Lourdes. She is in her eighties and hopes to return again next year to experience this little piece of heaven. When I told her this was my first time. She responded that it is impossible to capture the reality of Lourdes

experience from one time. "You have to return back"

Back in Beirut, I was telling my family about the trip. I passed pictures of Bernadette when my mother inquired about what happened to her. After the apparitions, Bernadette was prepared for a religious life at Nevers. She died in 1879 at the age of 35 from tuberculosis. In 1909, her body was exhumed and found to be incorrupt. Today, she appears exactly as she has the day of her death in a glass casket. Her relics are now exposed at Nevers for public veneration. Pope Pius XI canonized her on December 8, 1933.

My sister questioned the meaning of "Immaculate Conception", did it refer to when Mary became pregnant with Jesus? NO!!!! The Immaculate Conception refers to Mary's own conception, when she was formed in her mother's womb. It means that Mary did not inherit the original sin of Adam and Eve. In this way, Mary could be the proper carrier of Jesus to this world. Pope Pius IX officially announced this teaching in 1854.

## CLASS NOTES

### You're in the News

Keep up with your classmates professionally and personally. Send us your promotions, career changes, marriages, births, publications, travels, etc., and we will share your milestones with NDU community.

Send your [Class Notes updates](#) to the Alumni Affairs Office today!

*\*NDU AAO reserves the right to edit all Class Notes submissions.*

### 1990-1995

#### Michel El-Murr (BS '91)

writes, "When I joined NDU in 1987, I was one of the first students entering this University; and even then, I knew that this University would have a brilliant future for being affiliated to a successful monasticism. In



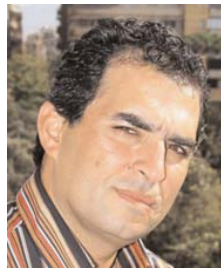
addition to the Computer Science specialization, NDU has enriched my experience, both personal and moral since I have presided over the Office

of the University Students from 1987 until my graduation; there after I was elected the President of the NDU Alumni Association from 1996 to 2001; In this capacity, I had the honor of meeting a lot of people from the university administration, professors, students and graduates; and meeting all these persons is in itself a testimony I am proud of.

At present, I work in my library in Adonis, and I always gladly welcome the University and the Alumni Affairs Office invitation to attend any activity so that I can meet Alumni, the administrative and teaching staff to whom I owe great respect."

### Elie Nasr (BS 1993, MS 1996)

the first NDU MS graduate in Computer Science. He taught at NDU from 1994 to 2000 in the Faculty of Natural and Applied science and in the Division of Continuing Education from 1996 to 2000. He was also a part-time faculty member at Université Saint Esprit de Kaslik, Faculty of Business. Then, Elie joined AUST and founded the Computer Science Department in 1997. Since 2001 he has been appointed a full-time faculty member and Coordinator of the Computer Science Department.



### Robert Mario Ohanessian (BS '95)

writes, "I graduated from NDU in 1995. I have been living and working in UAE since 1997. In 2003, I joined Data Processing Systems (DPS); an aviation company specialized in airports system integration which enhances airport safety navigation, in the capacity of Program Manager. My responsibility encompasses managing all the company's projects in Dubai, Northern Emirates, and Qatar airports. In July 2004, I married Nancy Zakharia. I have been actively involved in NDU Alumni Community, UAE group since 2000 as part of my social obligation towards the University and fellow alumni."



### Joanna Nakhal (BA '95)

writes, "I graduated with a BA degree in Advertising & Marketing. Immediately after I was recruited by an Advertising Agency called FREE LANCE as an Account Executive. I had a great and unparallel experience, working on an array of accounts; to name a few, Moulin D'or, Chilis... All the experience I gained from Free Lance allowed me six years afterwards to get a better position as a Marketing Manager in a company related to the Ministry of Tourism in which I was selected to achieve the best results for more than 2 years in a row. Few years later, I was offered a job in a big multinational group called Coface where I currently occupy the position of Credit Information Officer related to financial credits given by foreign suppliers to Lebanese Corporate Companies. I am the Head of the department with the mission of analyzing financial data with final recommendation for Credits approval to Coface Group outside Lebanon. In parallel to my active professional life I am grateful to NDU because not only did I earn the best academic education, but I also had the chance to meet **Edgard Farah**, who ended up being my husband, and we have two wonderful twin boys Joey and Rudy who are one year old. "Thanks to my DAD who gave me the chance to go on further with my studies at NDU, Thank you NDU Alumni Office for this remarkable initiative."



## 1996-2000

### Verna Jabbour (BA '96)

Coming all the way from Australia, Verna joined NDU in 1993 and graduated in spring 1996 with a degree in Advertising and Marketing. Her career path started as product specialist at Sanita, member of Indevco group. In just a short time, she became the company's marketing communicator. In 2005, Verna joined Philip Morris, the well-known multinational tobacco company (Marlboro, Merit, L&M...) as Marketing Executive based in Lebanon. What Verna remembers most about NDU is "the friendly atmosphere and guidance from her instructors."



**Fadia Hedayed (BA '96)**

writes, "NDU-NLC granted six Interior Design students the gate-path from the theoretical academic world to the practical working world in spring 1996. I was one of these graduates who were equipped with knowledge and passion for her profession as well as love and responsibility towards the family. After graduation I was constrained by the fact that I have to stay around my family, this hindered me from attempting higher opportunities as traveling abroad, but did not prevent me searching for challenges in the North region. I started my career as an Interior Designer as well as an Art teacher in various schools and institutions. My greatest joy is when I find myself transferring the love and passion about Art to my students, and when they tell me that they have chosen their career in Art fields whether Graphic Design or Interior Design because of me. Meanwhile, I am pursuing my master degree in Art, since my ambition is to improve my skills in order to face all the possible challenges in this field of work."

**Nancy Khoury Jurdy (BA '97)**

writes, "I graduated with Distinction in Translation and Interpretership as my major. I did some freelance translation and editing, gave some English sessions for school students, worked at Librairie du Liban Publishers, and ended up joining NDU again as the Secretary for the Social and Behavioral Sciences Department in October 2000. In 2002, I got married and decided to move to the Shouf Campus in January 2003. Since then, I have worked as Secretary to the following Offices: Assistant Director of Administration; Sciences and Engineering Programs; all five Faculties; FH/FBAE/FAAD; PAA for Branches; currently, I am Administrative Assistant to the Director of the Shouf Campus and AAP for Branches' Office. My husband works at AUB, and we have two wonderful kids, Teresa (2003) and Antony (2005)."



**Dany Bassil (BE '99)** You can never have missed him at NDU; he graduated from NDU in Civil Engineering. He pursued an MBA degree in Banking and Finance and an other in Marketing. He is a PHD candidate in Marketing at Toulon

University, France. He worked for two years as the Sales and Marketing Manager of Gulf and Projects Services Company in Qatar. He decided to move back to Lebanon and venture in the world of academia. Currently, he is the Campus Director of C&E American University, Kaslik Campus.

**Roland Khoury (BBA '00)**

President of Student Cabinet 1999, graduated with a degree in Hotel Management and Tourism. While still studying, he was already working as F&B Manager at Mtayleb Country Club. After graduation, he moved to Chase Restaurant as Restaurant Manager. He was offered an opportunity to travel to Dubai and work as Restaurant Manager for two outlets at Holiday Inn Hotel. In the meantime Roland was pursuing higher studies. He was called to return to Lebanon and work at Synergy Company as Manager in charge to launch many restaurants. Currently Roland assumes the position of Operations Director at Chase – restaurant. In addition, Roland teaches in two universities, A.U.T and C&E American University. Moreover he works as a consultant for AHLA (American Hotels and Lodging Association) in Lebanon. He is happily married to **Jihane Keyrouz** (NDU graduate) and has a six-month-old gorgeous daughter- Chloe (sure future NDU graduate).



**Raymond Khoury (BA '00)** a familiar face of NDU-NLC, writes, "I did International Affairs and Diplomacy as my major. I wasn't persuaded that I have to travel in order to work. I was trying to fight this idea but in the end I had to. So I started working at Saudi Arabia as a supervisor responsible for many boutiques in a famous company called Paris Gallery, a leading company in jewelry watches, skin care and perfume. So I was handling the jewelry watches floor. I stayed there for three years and in summer 2005 I went back to Lebanon and now I have been responsible for the Admissions Office at NDU-NLC since May 2006."

**Chadi Haddad**

**(BA '99)** graduated with distinction in the field of marketing. He pursued higher studies and at the same time he was working as Account Executive at



Starmanship Associates. He implemented a project aimed at assisting land mine survivors in South Lebanon for USAID (United States Agency for International Development) through the World Rehabilitation Fund. He was approached in 2002 by NDU to teach on a part-time basis where he still teaches in the Faculty of Humanities. In 2004, he joined SONY Lebanon as senior brand manager. Recently he was promoted to the position of Business Manager for SONY Lebanon.

## 2001 - 2007

### Ziad N. Saadeh (BS '01)

graduated with a BS in Computer Science. He is the Founder and President of the Human Rights Club, Best Club of the Year 2000.

He was also very active in the Sports' life at NDU: played for its football team, coached the NDU football women team, and participated in many national and international tournaments. Currently Ziad is Director of the Sports and Activities Office at AUST. He is also the Production Manager of Teen World Magazine and the founder of the Beirut Football Academy. Ziad writes, "NDU was more than a university to me. It was life in itself. NDU memories are all fixed firmly in my heart and mind."



### Marianne Samra (BA'02)

one of three children of Dr. Sami Samra, Assistant Professor, Department of English, Education and Translation, who graduated from NDU. Marianne holds a BA degree in Graphic Design and a Master degree in Media Studies. Her first job was at INFO Market Advertising Agency. Then she was offered a challenging job directly in her domain with VIVID Magazine, conceived and designed to highlight the value and refinement of Middle Eastern jewelry. At present, she is working as Graphic Associate in the Department of Publications and Communications at Université St. Joseph (USJ). Fingers crossed; hopefully soon we will be hearing wedding bells.



### Eddy Abi Gerges (BBA '02)

graduated with a degree in Business Administration.

At NDU he was very active in the Sports' life, especially playing in the Men's football team. After graduation, he joined the group of Bank of Beirut as teller and then worked in the Customer Service department. In October 2004, he was offered a job at Adidas Emerging Markets as Customer Service Manager. Eddy remembers mostly two offices at NDU: The Sports' Office and the Student Affairs Office.



### Abdo Ghaoui (BBA '02)

writes, "I graduated from NDU with a BA in Banking & Finance in 2002, worked two years with Expeditors International in Saudi Arabia (customer service/insurance) then was promoted and moved to Dubai as Iraq Coordination Manager for another 2 years before I moved to sales and spent few months. Currently I am working with a global company, Agility as the Regional Key Account Manager based in Dubai."



### Dany Abou Jaoude

(BA '02) a very active figure in the student life at NDU, graduated in spring 2002 in Banking & Finance. He travelled to the US where he obtained his MBA degree – finance concentration from Cleveland State University. Upon his return, he was offered a job at BLOM Bank as a credit analyst. Currently he is a senior credit analyst. Dany writes, "My finance courses at NDU were comprehensive enough with very high standards which made it easy for me to rank among the top students in the States. Allow me to acknowledge my professors for their academic excellence."



### Myriam Tawk (BA '04)

writes "I was lucky enough to finish my BA degree in Graphic Design in 2004 at the age of 20...and currently I am working as an art director in International Fair Promotion Group and as sports instructor at Les Mills. My schedule is pretty full...I am simply happy in what I'm doing;



I always wanted to be an athlete and an artist. I wish I can go back to NDU, we parted too early...I just can't get enough of the campus life friends and NDU spirit, in one way or another they shaped a part of me."

### Christian Sabella

**(BBA '04)** You can't fail to notice his big laugh, and he is known by all his colleagues "the man with the smiley face". He graduated with a degree in International Business Management (IBM). While he was still a student, Christian was working in the family company: "Souheil Sabella Brokerage Company". Currently, he is an "Insurance Broker Consultant" His message is simple to NDU, "I love NDU" (silence) then comes the big laugh.



### Lara Jalikian (BA '05)

graduated with a BA in Advertising & Marketing. She started working as a part time field researcher at Ipsos Stat, a great experience as a mystery shopper where she evaluated the company's professionalism and marketing tools. Afterwards, she worked at the Beirut Marathon Association in Marketing and Merchandising, for a few months. Then she moved to 3M, Societé Nada Nehme as a Sales Representative, which was also a challenging job. It has been one year since Lara joined Mazda, A.N.Boukather, which is where she has been able to implement her skills by establishing the Customer Service Department which she currently heads. It has been a great challenge in a company that is booming and fully customer-oriented. Lara writes. "I plan to grow with Mazda, since it is a job I believe suits my character and my career objectives."



### Patricia Abou Jaoude

**(BA '05)** graduated from NDU with a degree in Advertising Marketing. She was offered the position of Administrative Assistant at Arthur Murray Dance Academy. She recently got engaged to the "love of her life" **Elia El-Hachem** whom she met at NDU and who graduated in the same year with a BA degree in Advertising & Marketing. Elia currently works as a Media Manager in ICOM – Riyadh. Patricia



loves all outdoor pursuits and considers her greatest achievement gaining her university degree from NDU.

### Bruna Tohme (BA '07)

one of the notable faces in the media, she graduated from NDU in Graphic Design. While still at NDU, Brunna was contacted by LBCI to cast for a TV presenter. Few people know that she started her work in 2005 though still a student. Brunna took the host seat of two TV shows: Spotlight for three years and currently Up2date. Away from the studios, she presented numerous events such as beauty pageants, Murex D'or Awards and NDU Graduation Dinner 2007. During her break from TV presenting, she enjoys working as a free lance graphic designer.



**Paola Mokbel (BA'07)** graduated with a BA in management in spring 2007. Paola was well appreciated by her professors as a serious and diligent student. She is currently working as a store manager for Retail Group. Soon she is planning to move abroad to Canada to continue higher studies. Paola promises to keep in touch with NDU and all her classmates.

## NDU Blooms

NDU continues to grow and blossom. Ask NDU administrators why 2007 was such a green year, and all bring up the creativity, determination and coordinated effort of Fr. Elie Sfeir, Associate Director for Administration for General Services. Anyone who walks across the campus would be hard-pressed not to feel a touch of exhilaration. Once again, the autumn descends upon NDU, the mountain leaves are beginning to change color, the night air is cooler and the sun is setting earlier. Seasonal plants and flowers have brought the campus grounds to life like the first blossom of spring time soon to emerge.



When I see faculty, staff and students passing through the NDU garden plots; I think Fr. Elie Sfeir would be very pleased to be remembered in

this way. It is his form of adding to his long autobiography. Once I asked him whether he enjoys what he is doing, Fr. Elie answered with great pride, "Look my son, gardening is an exercise in optimism. Sometimes, it is a triumph of hope over experience." He is well right. Franz Kafka once said, "Anyone who keeps the ability to see beauty never grows old."



## A Gala Dinner like No Other

Around four hundred persons attended the **NDU Alumni Gala Dinner: NDU Ya Marhaba** which took place on Friday December 28, 2007 at Pearl Hall - Le Royal Hotel, Dbayeh. The date of the event was scheduled during the wave of holidays of Adha, Christmas and New Year in order for NDU Alumni residing abroad to attend. The event was held under the auspices of Fr. Walid Moussa, President of NDU and the main sponsor of the Gala Dinner was SIDIA, sole agent for Peugeot in Lebanon. The get-together, flow of events and the atmosphere made it a memorable gathering for all those who attended, from which they pouched a smile, a memory and a picture that they carried with them long after the evening was over and done. The celebrity One-Man Show Fadi El-Kadi studded the evening with oriental and Lebanese music.

Throughout the preparation and during the Alumni Gala evening, it was announced that the proceedings of the Annual Dinner will go toward Student Scholarship. The NDU Alumni Gala Dinner raised L.L. 10,630,000, funds that 10

current enrolled NDU students will benefit, each of L.L.1,000,000. Once again, NDU Alumni has dazzled the community with their commitment to their Alma Mater.



## LAST WORD

Three big Alumni events will frame the year 2008: **Invading the Old Campus** in the Eid-El-Fitr end of September and the **Alumni Annual Awards Ceremony** during the Christmas/New Year Holiday and the **United Nations designating 2008 as the International Year of the Potato**.

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Email: [alumni.affairs@ndu.edu.lb](mailto:alumni.affairs@ndu.edu.lb)

### Senior Editors

Simon **ABOU JAOUDE**  
Rose **MADY**

### Editors

Christy **MADY HALABY**  
Carole **MADY**  
Salim **BARADHI**

### Advisor

Mr. Kenneth **MORTIMOR**

### Design & Layout

Samer **NAOUM**