

DECEMBER 2010

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FROM THE PRESIDENT OF NDU

Every new academic year is exciting at NDU, but this one feels particularly special.

A few numbers help tell the story about – “a university that works”-. The number of enrolled students this fall is almost 6500 students or 12% enrollment growth among new applicants.

The number of newly-hired full-time faculty members in different specialties is 27 and their distinguished scholarly achievements will certainly enhance NDU’s commitment to higher education. Our current international students almost doubled in number. Students coming from distant Lebanese regions increased significantly. Of all these students, 350 are settling in the University dorms. Most faculties are undergoing an overhauling in their curriculum in an attempt to address what constitutes an “ideal” graduate, with an eye to easing the way into the workplace. Likewise, the campus life will respond enthusiastically with sustaining activities and events, adding breadth to depth.

An exciting addition to our campus is the Medical House which opened its doors during summer 2010. This new unit is the home of health services to NDU students, faculty, and staff located at the Student Housing Bloc A. Another major expansion to our campus is a new parking five-storey building that can accommodate up to 2000 cars. This new facility started to be in operation this fall. The campus itself is becoming remarkable for its harmonious blend of architectural styles and greenery landscapes. As always, I hope that this piece of news offers our Alumni new opportunity for both reflection and connection. I am excited at our plans and prospects to get them.

Last July, we celebrated our 20th Commencement. When meeting with the first generation of graduates, their insightful words express how NDU since then has prepared for whatever came next in their lives. One question always peaks up in my mind – “How do we create the next generation of leaders, innovators and experts?” Our students, like all those who have come before them, will benefit from the



heritage and tradition that generations of alumni have contributed to NDU. Their years here will prepare them to join the alumni family who has made a positive difference in the world. As such “Make a Difference” is a great and appropriate motto for the Alumni Fundraising Program.

I recall the phrase of Robert Kennedy during his campaign for presidency: “Some men see things as they are and ask “why”? I dream of things that never were and ask “why not?” Let us work together towards making things come true at our beloved NDU. I’m sure many of you feel the same way.

Going forward, there is a plenty of work to be done. With all personal wishes, may you have a rewarding and productive year.

Fr. Walid Moussa, MMO

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI AFFAIRS OFFICE

Recently, the Alumni Affairs Office set out plans for the upcoming year. Though we are beginning to see the fruits of our planning and have had many accomplishments to be proud of, yet we are still unable to connect with some our graduates. There

is a need to raise our profile so that NDU Alumni will feel the urge to contact us. The growth of our database must come from within our alumni community. If each alumnus/a recruits a new one, our numbers double. Organizing reunions, preparing programs, writing the Alumni e-newsletter and the updates on the Alumni website are just part of the ways to keep in touch, but we are working on more ideas, and we value your insights and viewpoints. In the graduation procedures, the soon-to-be graduates fill out the Alumni Exit Survey – a list of 20 questions measuring their perceptions, attitudes, and satisfaction of their university years. This year, three statistical outcomes emerged strongly. When it comes to newly-graduates, 82 % strongly recommend NDU to others, 76% revealed that their overall treatment as students was good and 77% strongly consider that Alumni is the center



that connects them to NDU. Our thoughts and actions are nothing less than audacious – reminding me of the words of John Dewey, the great American philosopher (1859-1952): “Every great advance.....has issued from a new audacity of imagination.” We are on the move, help us keep going.

Simon A. Abou Jaoude

NDU HAPPENINGS

SMART CLASSROOM

There has been a set of drone about smart classroom technology, from claims that it will change faculty-student interaction to elimination of any technical problems related to classroom crossing point. Just Google almost every university in the States and you can note that it is in the midst of a smart revolution, looking on how best to accomplish the transformation. A recent study revealed that eight out of ten students want universities to refurbish traditional learning environments to include more technology and collaboration. By definition, a smart classroom is a classroom that has an instructor station equipped with computer and audiovisual equipment, allowing the instructor to teach using a wide variety of media. These include DVD and VHS playback, PowerPoint presentations, and more all displayed through a data projector.



“A new generation of high technology classrooms is becoming a necessity on all school campuses,” said Fr. Marwan Tabet, who heads Lebanon's General Secretariat of Catholic Schools. “We need to figure out ways to bridge the gap between rapidly evolving technological applications and the educational field.” “NDU has made a commitment to upgrade the teaching technology installed in the classrooms on a continuing basis, adding to the number of Smart Classrooms each year.” declared Fr. Walid Moussa, President of NDU. “There are currently 22 classrooms that are designated as Smart Classrooms and they are maintained by the Division of Computing Services and E-learning (DCS). We want to make sure that faculty members buy into the

new technology and receive appropriate training in advance. When workshop dates were set, around 80% of our faculty signed in.” asserted Mr. Fawzi Baroud, the Director of Division. “Remember the time you had a brainstorm in class and wrote it out on the blackboard? The students took notes from it, but by the end of class the next professor was at the door and all you could do was hope you’d be able to remember your ideas later as you erased your hard work. Now with the click of a mouse button you can save your notes without having to rewrite them.” said Mr. Armen Balian, Head, DCS, in his presentation on Smart Classroom to NDU faculty members.



Thanks to funds from Al-Waleed Bin Talal Humanitarian Foundation, represented during the launching event by H.E Mrs. Layla El-Solh Hamadeh, the University is installing smart classrooms. “Taking class with technology definitely makes learning more interesting – a professor is finally able to show you the chart she’s talking about, or show a picture he’s talking about, or play a song,” said Karim Daoud, a senior Business major student.

ANOTHER NDU RECOGNITION

The Award Committee at MWH global, the global leader of the wet infrastructure sector, met on Friday, December 10, 2010 and selected the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering of NDU, Faculty of Engineering, as one of the five recipients of the MWH Soft Education Software Grant for 2010. This prestigious award valued at US\$124,000 is highly competitive and is a clear evidence on the Department’s continuing commitment to excellence in water resources engineering, under the chairmanship of Dr. Jacques Harb. The MWH organization is leading the world in results-oriented management, technical engineering and construction services to build a better world. The wet infrastructure sector encompasses a variety of water-related projects and programs ranging from water supply, treatment and storage to water resources management and coastal restoration, and from design and construction of hydropower and renewable energy facilities to full environmental services. Criteria used by MWH Soft to award this grant were based on both the excellence in teaching

and research accomplishments of the individual and his/her institution. This grant is intended to provide your engineering students with the latest advances in water and wastewater technology to further their education and academic pursuits. "Congratulations for being selected by MWH Award. This award, which reflects excellence in teaching and research accomplishments makes us all proud here at the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering of NDU." wrote Dr. Talal Salem, Assistant Professor of the Department.

CLEAN ELECTIONS CAMPAIGN

"It is not winning that counts, it is how you win." inspired by examples from around the world, the Club of International Relations (CIR) proposed introducing "ethical" considerations into this year's Student Union election. Based on the Clean Elections Campaign developed by the Geneva based, international NGO, Initiatives of Change (IoC) developed a succession of events over 10 days, building up to election day. It was divided mainly into two parts: the launching ceremony that introduced the Lebanese Association for Democratic Elections which later on monitored the process on elections day, and the second part on ethics and leadership where CIR hosted Mr. Assad Chaffari, and Dr. Eugene Sensenig-Dabbous, to speak about their experience with ethics and the political process on the ground. The Club of International Relations adopted this initiative to instill in the Lebanese youth a hope for a culture of integrity at NDU. The Club wanted to show that it is possible to make a difference. A Gandhi once said: "You must be the change you want to see in the world" The campaign focused on the elections on campus that calls upon both: voters and candidates to be aware of their rights and responsibilities, and to vote consciously for better leadership for all. For this purpose, the Club prepared pledges for both the voters and the candidates that detail the commitment to be made. These pledges were presented to public in the map area, for all NDU students to sign if they convinced of the declared ethics goals and wanted to commit to their content. Hopefully this first step, one of a kind at NDU, was able to serve the objective of creating an electoral process that is efficient, ethical and transparent on the national scene. (written by CIR President: Angela Abdel-Sater).

NDU ALUMNI HAPPENINGS

NDU/NLC First Alumni Reunion

2010 was a very special for NDU-NLC as it marks the 20th Anniversary of the founding of the North



Lebanon Campus of Notre Dame University (NDU). The North Lebanon Campus is an integral part of the NDU family, without which it would not be the great educational and cultural edifice it currently is. Such an amazing presence had to be recognized and the NDU Alumni Affairs Office took it upon its shoulders to show the NLC graduates how much they mean to the NDU community, particularly the NDU Alumni community. Within this context, the NDU Alumni Affairs Office organized the first NDU-NLC Alumni gathering: *Connect to Reconnect* to bring this great family closer on Saturday, May 1, 2010 in the afternoon at NDU/NLC, Barsa El-Koura. The gathering provided the NDU-NLC graduates the opportunity to catch up with old classmates and professors, meet other fellow alumni and maybe even make new friends and widen their social circle. Speeches, chats, casual talk and memories were bound to blend in to anticipate a very promising get-together. Father Walid Moussa President of NDU, and Fr. Samir Ghsoub, Director of NDU-NLC welcomed an audience of more than 100 graduates and listened to them, shared their experience in the professional world, as well as the good old days at NDU. Mrs. Mona Kana'an and Mr. John Moufarrej, two members of NDU Board of Trustees were among the audience. Gladly, the event attracted past NDU/NLC directors and administrators such as Dr. Elham Hasham, Dr. Antoine Francis, Dr. Akl Keyrouz, Miss Wadad Ghosn, Miss Viola Zakharia, and Mrs. Sana Khoury. The reunion included two documentaries; one highlighted the history of the NDU/ NLC Branch and the second testimonies from NLC graduates spanned the different periods of the branch. The Opening Address was delivered by Mr. Micheal El-Hajj (MA'95), Lecturer, and the Alumni Representative at NDU/NLC who expressed his joy to reconnect with many of his students and follow up on their professional progress. Mr. Simon Abou Jaoude, the Director of Alumni Affairs Office remembered his first steps at NDU where he started as an instructor in spring 1992 and then the Coordinator of SAO in fall 1993, and continued his speech saying, "With every Alumni event, it never ceases to amaze our alumni how much NDU has changed since their days as students. I was able to see it today and hear from many of you that you take pride in what has happened and what is happening here at NDU. Some of you have graduated from Chekka campus and have never visited this campus before. The decision taken two decades ago by the Maronite Mariamite Order to



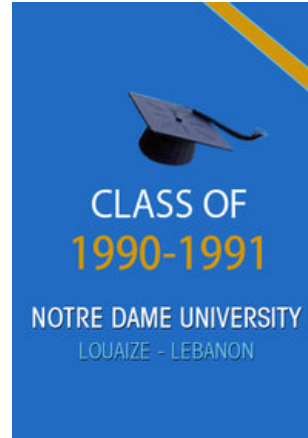
establish a university has played in the progress and reshaped this region of the country since then. In his address, Fr. Moussa asserted that, "There is a saying by Isaac Newton: If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants." I am fully aware that many of you have known giants... perhaps they were teachers, coaches, friends, mentors ...This may be a good time to remember them and thank them for the incredible and often quiet contributions they have made to NDU and to your life. I, too, if I am able to see far from where I am standing now, it is because of many good administrators who had the potential to become the type of leaders needed to improve our university, particularly NDU-NLC." Fr. Samir Ghsoub said, "In the announcement of this event sent via email, you have read that this year is very special for NDU-NLC. We are celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the founding of NDU-NLC. We have come a long way and we still have a long way to go and I know that we will never fully get there. Even at such historic moments, there is no end to the horizon of our ambition. We can look back, probably most of us here, on direct experience of that progress."



ALUMNI UPCOMING EVENTS

HONORING CLASS 1990-1991

Reaching the 20th anniversary in any institution calls for celebration – not just for the longevity but also for the endurance required to preserve and increase momentum. There's much to applaud. This year commemorates the 20th anniversary of the first Notre Dame University (NDU)'s graduating class. 74 graduates walked the podium during the 1990/1991 graduation ceremony. When the first graduates tossed their caps into the warm July air, and blue and white balloons were released, a new



tradition was born. This is not just any university's graduating class. These students are the pioneers who enrolled in NDU's bold experiment in higher education. The Alumni Affairs Office intends to bring them back to campus through organizing a memorable ceremony:

"Honoring Class of 1990-1991: Remember When..." The ceremony reunites those first graduates with their alma mater. This graduating class will come together to celebrate their unique place in the University history. Photos or memorabilia that you have of the first graduating class and graduation would be highly beneficial for our ceremony. To share them with us, please send them to the alumni affairs office: alumni.affairs@ndu.edu.lb and we will try to contact key people that were involved in the first graduation. A facebook group for NDU's first graduating class of 1990/1991 is being set up. Make it a point to inform graduates of this class to join this group. Once the reconnection is complete, the date of the event will be announced.

HTM REUNION

"We have every indication that this reunion will be amazing for HTM graduates as well as for NDU." said Mr. Ghassan Beyrouthy, the Chairperson of the Department of Hospitality and Tourism Management (HTM). The NDU Alumni Affairs Office, in collaboration with the Department in the Faculty of Business Administration and Economics is busy preparing **the First HTM Alumni Reunion: Golden Memories, Great Years** for all NDU Alumni who graduated with a degree in this major. Fr. Walid Moussa, President of NDU, in addition to the Dean of the Faculty, Dr. Elie Yachouhi and all faculty and staff members, will be present at this special occasion to greet them, and catch up on their professional and personal progress. HTM graduates will converge to the campus, many for the first time since graduation. They will have the chance to meet their classmates and reconnect with them, while promising to stay in touch with their alma mater until the next reunion. The presence of every HTM graduate will be greatly cherished and awaited, since every one of our graduates has contributed to the success of NDU and to the amazing reputation the Department of Hospitality and Tourism Management has gained throughout

the years. The Office encourages Alumni to join efforts in spreading the voice about this reunion to all NDU HTM graduates. The program and the date of the event will be communicated at a later stage.

Alumni Dish

The Alumni Affairs Office is initiating a venture under the title “Alumni Dish” with the intention to determine an official food dish for NDU Alumni. The Office invites all NDU graduates to play a huge part in helping select a food dish that will live on for eternity with NDU Alumni. It is intended to create a wide NDU spirit which extends to all Alumni anywhere in the world. “Our hope is that everyone will take part in this process over the next few



months and offers us feedback on each selection,” pronounced Gina K. Khoury, a member of the Selection committee. There are varieties of things to consider when selecting. Defining the Alumni Dish should reflect the current identity of the University as “A Lebanese University adopting the American System of Education.” It is very known that the distinctive cultural past of Lebanon has helped make Lebanese cooking the most popular of all Middle Eastern Cuisines. The Lebanese themselves have also helped bring foods of other cultures into their diet. The proposals sent By NDU graduates will decide which procedure to follow further. The project will evolve based on Alumni input. Once the decision is finalized by the Selection Committee, the NDU Alumni Affairs Office will release the five Alumni Dish finalists to the rest of the Alumni family and NDU community. “We are creating different ways to reach members of the Alumni family and really find an Alumni dish that we can rally behind.” says Sandra Khoury, another member of the Selection Committee. The new “Alumni Dish” will kick off as soon as this e-newsletter is published on the NDU website! This project is a trademark of NDU Alumni.

A New Alumni Program

In today’s world of rapid change and innovation, the need for life-long learning has never been greater. Do Alumni or their families receive a discount for Continuing Education courses? asked an NDU graduate. This question was forwarded in a call between Mr. Simon Abou Jaoude, Director of Alumni Affairs Office and Mr. Fawzi Baroud,

Director of the Division of Continuing Education. It was decided that a protocol would be drafted where NDU Alumni and their families are offered a preferential rate per course. The Alumni Affairs Office has started writing the draft, and will discuss it with Fr. Bechara Khoury, Director of Finance, and secure the final approval of the President of NDU.

COVER STORY – A VIEW FROM MY WINDOW

When the NEASC Accreditation team visited NDU last June, the Alumni Affairs Office was on their schedule. In our meeting, the chair of the team, Dr. Patricia O’Brien, solicited a very attention-grabbing question: “Being a former director of Student Affairs Office, what changes do you see in the student population today at NDU?” I felt compelled to confront myself with this question.

Most likely, the everyday life at university is a scene similar to when a graduate used to be a student. On a given day at the NDU New Campus, the main court is flurrying with action. Student life is a good environment to help students to evolve as responsible adults and widen their perspective on different aspects of life. Throughout the day, students are hurrying to and from their classes. The hallways near the exam halls are packed with students stealing a few extra minutes to review their notes before their exams. In addition, university life is like another world, a foreign realm, a land of unimagined pleasures, new meetings, and unknown emotions.



Most likely, things have certainly changed. Watch students today as they are crossing through the campus, what do you see? They are checking their e-mail via their cell phone; accessing their data on their SIS at one of the many computer stations placed around the campus; barely using their textbooks but rather researching online. Today students represent the first generation to have grown up with technology. They have spent their whole school life with computers and digital games. But with all such technological advancement, just how different are our students today from NDU students 10 or 20 years ago? What we see today in our

students is both fascinating and potentially challenging.

Traditionally, NDU was recognized a commuter place where they come to during the day and back home in the evening. Students back then did not live on campus, simply because there were no dorms. Very few lived in nearby places beside the NDU campus. Today dorms are a hot commodity at NDU, even if the student's home is less than ten kilometers away. Anthony, a Business student, explains that he wanted to learn life skills. He wanted to be independent in a safe environment. About his dorm experience, Anthony underlines that "you have to get used to being away from home and being the one who places your own safety in your hands." With students' welfare in mind, NDU has invested much over the past five years in its residence halls.



Such student housing facilities are attracting students from far regions of Lebanon and even luring international students. Compared to students 10 years ago, the percentage of such students has climbed to triple-fold. They are helping introduce a new sense of diversity to the predominant NDU student body. During the first decade after the inception of NDU, most of the students were from nearby regions, extending from the eastern suburbs of Beirut to Jbeil regions. Nowadays, there are nearly 400 international students coming from 25 different countries. "NDU Campus is a peaceful place and has an extremely beautiful hillside overlooking Nahr-El-Kalb. The access to the Campus is very easy, as NDU is just two kilometers away from the Main Highway," says Micheal, a Kuwaiti student.

More people are recognizing the value of higher education and enrollments have continued on an upward climb and the price of university education increasing. Today's NDU students, like any other university students, face a composite dilemma: they want to go to university but they are wondering how to pay their tuition fees. It is known that NDU has a rich history in developing financial aid programs to cater the financial needs of students wishing to pursue a university degree at NDU. "It is our hope," say Fr. Bechara Khoury, Director of Finance at NDU, "that students with financial need get the available aid that would allow them to work less." A recent national survey indicates that 76% of university students work while going to university. This represents a 38% increase in comparison to the previous decade. A query was asked to such

students on how work affects their studies and campus involvement. Evidence shows that the more a student works, the less time he has to interact with his faculty and peers and this might hinder his academic engagement. Dr. Joe Yaacoub, Associate Professor of Psychology in the Faculty of Humanities, invites NDU administration to think about strengthening and expanding on-campus work opportunities.

The popular field of study among students applying to NDU is still business in the first place, then engineering and thereafter graphic design. These majors gain their popularity because they are considered as having a strong hiring possibility. On the other hand there has been a consistent rise in Architecture, Interior Design, and Nutrition and Dietetics. When asked for the reason, the answer is simply because career opportunities are growing wider and larger. Students today are encouraged to settle toward majors they think will be personally satisfying; yet they are still more focused on getting a job that would bring in a steady income and job security.

There is no doubt that the university is an arena of political education of the student. Today NDU's students are challenged as much, if not more with political and social issues, as their predecessors. In fact, NDU has a rich history in student activism. NDU students were pioneers in political activism and have in no small measure influenced the political scene. The Student Cabinet, now the Student Union, arose out of the recognition that University students should have a platform where they practice political roles. It has been noted that the tempo of activism increased tremendously during the past five years. Throughout the past twenty years, NDU has been always trying to create a profound civic commitment and to maintain educating students towards democracy. Dr. Rita Sabat from the Faculty of Political Science, Public Administration and Diplomacy created a program before the last Student Union's Election entitled "Clean Elections Campaign" focusing on ethical behavior on both the voters and candidates.

Students, some faculty members and administrators say that what goes on at Notre Dame is no different from other universities. Such misconceptions stand out in faculty and administrators' memories because they believe otherwise. It is true that students



nowadays share common issues with their predecessors but times have changed and so have students and their lives on campus. Like other universities, Notre Dame University is providing an educational, social, political, cultural and multi-dimensional environment for students who come to learn theories and get a hands-on glimpse at what life as an adult might be. However, what really makes NDU stand out is its ability to give students a sense of having a second home, with their professors, administrators and faculty members acting as mentors and consultants on academic as well as career-oriented and sometimes also personal issues that students face.

Student life may have changed throughout the years, with technological advancement giving students new venues of learning and new ways for presenting the information they possess, as well as new pathways for creativity and expansion; however, one aspect of the NDU experience has not changed. This sense of belonging has always been a constant in NDU life, be it 20 years ago or presently and even in the future. This is what NDU students will always share together: a common 'place of their own'.

A TURN TO THE FATHER: An Interview with Fr. Fadi Bou Chebl, University Chaplain General

Many young alumni will no doubt be familiar with the name of Fr. Fadi Bou Chebl, who is perhaps best known for his various pastoral activities. On a personal note, you may find interesting that Fr. Fadi Bou Chebl loves music, reading, writing and pilgrimage travelling. His personal heroes of the Church include Pope John Paul II, remembering "the light that he had in the eyes" and Blessed Abouna Yaacoub, recalling that this holy man "planted the cross wherever he went."

You have been at NDU for the past five years as University Chaplain. Where were you before you came to NDU?

Soon after I was ordained a priest in December 1995, I was assigned as assistant pastor at our mission in Uruguay. It was hard for me to be away from home, but I knew it would be a great learning experience. I remained in that position until I returned to Lebanon in 1998, where I



was assigned as the Chaplain at Notre Dame de Louaize School and Assistant and Economist at St. Theresa Monastery, Sheileh. My first pastoral activity took place at the Lebanese University Medical School. In 2003, for one year, I was appointed as a Seminaries Master in Rome. In 2005, I was assigned to NDU as its University Chaplain General.

What in your background has most prepared you for this position?

Both my educational background and my missionary experience largely inspired me. These are some of the things that shaped me. While I was in Uruguay, in addition to my philosophy and theology degrees, I was studying toward a degree in Theology of Evangelization. Moreover, in conjunction with the year I spent in Rome, I took it as an opportunity to pursue higher studies on marriage and family. There is an important thing to say here— priesthood, in whatever capacity, is learning over and over again that "He must increase and I must decrease".

NDU has a rigorous student life. How much do you think our students are interested in pastoral work?

I am very appreciative of whatever goes on at NDU. We encourage a holistic approach to the human being, yet the spiritual dimension pertains to the very core of our personality and its relationship to something greater than ourselves. There is a group of students who are committed to pastoral work at NDU. I consider them as gifts that give the work its vibrancy. A quick profile of such students can tell me that they are initially committed in their parishes. I always communicate to them that their pastoral activity at the University is different. They are engaged to testify their faith – it is like a vocation. It is a chance to build a wholly different kind of faith community. The assignment to campus ministry will always be a very exciting time of my priesthood. "You did not choose me but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear the fruit that will last." (John 15:16)

What one change you would like to see happening at NDU?

I like NDU and how it functions. There is much change going on here and I want to see it continue. There is something that is not found especially in this place, an atmosphere of empathy, solidarity and values. Perseverance in change will not allow routine to enter the souls and the work. This is what makes NDU a vibrant academic institution. When Pope John Paul II was asked about love, he said, "I wish to be able to love more than yesterday and less than tomorrow."

So few men are entering religious life these days. Can you explain why?

I would like to correct your assumption, if you may allow me to do so. The Maronite Mariamite Order is currently witnessing vocations on the rise. This is a big surprise as we have been hearing for years about the overall drop in the number of vocation across the globe. The Church calls on each of us at this time to pray for an increase in the priesthood and religious life. I always pronounce in my homilies on vocations: *"the calling to religious life is an individual crossing that we will be led to in our own hearts and in our faith."*

We all know that you are a prolific writer. Which book has been most influential in your life?

I am the author of more than six books; however my favorite book is "Mary, Queen of My Heart". I tried to include in this book my spiritual thirst to understand the Blessed Virgin Mary. I may also say that two other books had a great influence in my priesthood. The first book is The Story of a Soul written by St. Theresa of Lisieux, which I made as my bedside book. Therese's "little way" appeared to make God accessible to people. She was able to offer the wisdom of the Gospel "Love and you will be transformed." The second book is The Glories of Mary" written by St. Alphonsus Liguori. It is one of the most complete books I've read about Mary. It includes contemplations on the mysteries of the Rosary, sermons on the main liturgical feasts of Mary. I can't get enough from these two books. I refer to them regularly. Each reading of these books makes me appreciate them more.

What is the best quote that you have read? What is your own reflection about it?

I will take a quote from the first letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians (13:1), particularly the passage on love. *"If I speak in the tongues of men and angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a tinkling symbol."* My reflection goes along with that of Blessed Mother Theresa of Calcutta, where in one of her addresses at an international conference, she said, *"Even the rich are hungry for love, for being cared for being wanted, for having someone to call their own."*

Do you have any final words of encouragement?

We need to strongly raise our voice and say:
If we believe in truth, let us embrace it.
If we believe in life, let us strive for it.
If we believe in God, let us unite ourselves with Him.

CLASS NOTES

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.*

Corine A. Rizkallah (BA 00) writes, "First,

I'd like to thank the NDU administration for their hard work and dedication. Words of gratitude go to every one of you who has made this university what it is and everyone who has supported me along the way. We have gotten a great education here which makes it far more than a step between high school and the real world but rather a cornerstone to our future. I graduated with a BA in Advertising & Marketing. While I was still a student, I started working at Layalina Magazine as Public Relations Officer, a social magazine that deals with events going on throughout Lebanon, and then I was promoted to Regional coordinator with the task of coordinating with Layalina branches in the region for events, articles and advertisement materials. My task was contacting with VIPs for main interviews, initiating contact with embassies, hotels and others to cover their activities, electing articles, coordinating with the printing press advertising agencies for advertisements and press releases. In 2006, I was asked to travel to Qatar as the Public Relations Manager for Layalina Qatar and off I went for 2 years till end of 2008. It was an extraordinary experience getting to know more about Qatar society and study their way of life and way of living. I have learned there the true meaning of responsibility, in owning a home, living alone and facing the hard days alone and no one to lend a hand. In the middle of 2007 I shifted to Authorized Dealers of Jeep, Dodge & Chrysler as a Marketing manager, implementing and following-up of marketing plan, assisting in the development & management of marketing related sales tools such as catalogues, technical data, showroom materials, roll-ups and banners and coordinating with the external media and advertising agencies and supervising the area of advertising and event management. I came back to Lebanon in 2008, where I was offered a job at Credit Libanais Bank in the Marketing & Development division as a product officer. I have worked with a very professional team in developing a group products and services, stressing more on segmenting and selecting the target markets in order to implement appropriate strategies for promoting products and services. Being a member of Credit Libanais, gives me a



challenging management position and an opportunity for advancement within a firm that conducts international and local operations. It's been ten years that I am away from NDU yet I can't forget the good old days at NDU, the old campus where we used to gather up for coffee breaks in the cafeteria, despite its small meters square. We used to rush from our classes to take places and chit chat on students, professors and how we have to manage and pass our courses. I am privileged that I have learned from the experience of many professors, such as Mr. Edgard Barakat, Dr. Ajami, Mr. Kamal Darouni and many others who have influenced my life and my career path through the "Golden" words they always used to say: "No matter what, aim high". A gigantic thank you to Mr. Simon Abou Jaoude and Mrs. Rose Mady for being next to us whenever we needed them, and a big thanks to all my friends who have walked with me those memorable days at NDU. And here I am, still aiming high to achieve the best I can."

Harvey Najj Oueijan (BA '01, MA '05)

writes, "I got my B.A. in English Language and Literature in 2001 and my M.A. in English Language and Literature in 2005. I got both my degrees from NDU. I got my first teaching position as a part-timer one year before I graduated with a B.A. in 2000. Two years later, I started teaching as a full-time teacher. In 2005, I started teaching at Adma International School until I became the Chair of Curriculum Accreditation Committee in 2007 and later the Head of the Departments of English and Social Studies in 2008. In summer 2006, I got accepted as a part-timer English instructor at NDU. I am currently a full-time lecturer at NDU in the Department of English, Translation and Education teaching English and Education. I am also an Ed.D. Candidate in the Education Program offered by NDU in collaboration with Saint Louis University, USA and hopefully will graduate in summer 2011. I am proud to say that I am the son of Dr. Najj Oueijan, Professor of English Literature at the Faculty of Humanities. I am happily married to my wonderful Elsy and I have two amazing children: Najj (5 years old) and Nour (3 years old). I honestly have so many happy memories at NDU as a student that I wouldn't know where to start. I met so many great friends and the best professors. I would like to thank NDU for it has always provided and still is providing me with the best opportunities possible to grow as a learner, professional and person."



Nemer Jreige (BS '02, MA '05) writes, "I

graduated from NDU in 2002 with a bachelor degree in Computer Science and I continued my higher studies to graduate with a Master's degree in 2005. My first official job was in a company for programming called Soft Solution. It was a fine experience, I met very good friends and most of all, I learned good managerial skills. Computer was my education but my real passion is in the sphere of Arts. I discovered by chance that I love flowers, acting, drawing, directing but honestly I am not dedicated to do them by myself. Then after my work in computers and due to my appreciation for arts, my real attraction to the management of arts embarked and here I am building a straight path into events organization. Currently, I am managing a company for flower decoration and events management. I am the executive manager and assistant general manager. The company is called Ma.Sa.Ha.



What can I say about NDU? Honestly, lines are very few to express what I retain about NDU. Mostly and beside the educational element, I do really envy all present students for being enrolled as we miss all the fairs and gatherings we had especially the Christmas Fiesta, Founders' Day, Halloween, conferences. There are many people I remember at NDU, mostly Miss Nouhad Rizk (who is currently in the United States) and Dr. Hoda Maalouf, the current Chairperson of the Computer Science Department. Among the many things I learned at NDU is that getting things done is not always what is most important. There is value in allowing others to learn, even if the task is not accomplished as quickly, efficiently or effectively." NDU was the basis for making me learn what is valuable and build a personality that allowed me to face any combat in life."

Elie Joseph Hanna (BS '04) writes, "I find

myself extremely lucky to be one of the students to enroll in the Actuarial Science program of the Faculty of Natural & Applied Sciences (FN&AS). NDU was among the first universities, if not the pioneer, to offer such a demanding major in Lebanon and the Middle East. I enrolled in year 2000 and there I spent four of the most memorable years of my life. I experienced a great deal of personal growth as the student life at NDU offered me the chance to be



active and engaged person as well as vigorous and energetic member through its varied clubs and activities. The exceptional reputation and image of NDU and its rich academic curricula played a great role in the job opportunities I got at a later stage. It was thanks to the endeavors and dedication of the Placement Office (Mrs. Grace Khalil) that I got my first Insurance full time job in Chedid & Associates, a regional Re-insurance brokerage firm based in Beirut directly after I graduated in 2004. I worked for this reinsurance broker for less than a year before I joined the multinational insurance company Chartis International – formerly known as American International Group (AIG) - in Kuwait to handle various underwriting and distribution assignments in the Middle East region. Most recently I've been relocated to the regional office based out of Dubai to head up the corporate Accident & Health division for the South Asia, Africa, Middle East and Eastern Europe region.

I got married more than 2 years ago to Georgine El-Khoury. My wife works in teaching and translation and is currently an English instructor at the University of Wollongong in Dubai (UOWD). We're expecting a baby boy and cannot wait to experience parenthood soon. Recently, I've signed up in an Executive MBA program at Sir John Cass Business School in London and will graduate in 18 months. Still, if I were to live in Lebanon again, I would proudly pursue my higher studies at NDU and would definitely want my son to be an NDU student. A word of gratitude and appreciation to all the NDU team....I found each of the faculty and staff members to be positive, hard working and accessible professionals. A special thanks to the Actuarial Science Academic Advisor Mrs. Claudia Abi Nassif, Dr. Ramez Maalouf and Mr. Simon Abou Jaoude, for their hard work and dedication to what has made NDU the success it is today."

Saleem Elias Baradhy (BA '06, MBA '08) writes,

"I am a proud graduate of Notre Dame University. I received a Bachelor degree in Industrial & Organizational Psychology with High Distinction in 2006, followed by a Master of Business Administration in Human Resources Management in 2008.



Somewhere along that line, I was granted the Said Akl Creativity Award for one my research papers, and got accepted for a postgraduate degree at the London School of Economics. The academic rigor of NDU's educational programs enabled me to join the world's #1 human resources management consulting firm, HayGroup. Initially located in Dubai and now based in Beirut, I relentlessly travel across 14 countries in the MENA region, helping some of

the largest national and international organizations turn their strategy into reality. My core area of expertise is in capability assessment and leadership development, where I work closely with senior managers to assess their behavioral competence and leadership effectiveness, and to coach them towards becoming the inspirational leaders of tomorrow. I was voted "Consultant of the Year" in 2009, and am now managing HayGroup's client relationships in Lebanon. I owe much to my alma mater NDU for all the academic knowledge it has provided me, which significantly contributed to my professional growth and career success... And I owe it equally as much for introducing me to my classroom sweetheart and current fiancée Pia Zeinoun!"

Sabine Nazih Dagher (BS '08) writes,

"What can one say about NDU when it belongs to the big family of "Iouaiziyeen"? Raised as an NDL student, I found NDU the best choice to major in Nutrition and Dietetics in which I graduated from in the summer of 2008(Main Campus). I only wish to recall the good times I spent with my colleagues working on creative projects; the thousands of hours I enjoyed reading in the library and the greatest support and motivation of all by Dr. Antoine Farhat and Ms. Maya Abou Jaoude. I carried with me to the 7 months internship at St. Joseph Hospital the family concept of NDU. As they say a big happy family with friends and colleagues from three major universities and thank God we all passed the oral Colloquium exam in 2009 and got our Lebanese License to practice in the field.



Job hunting seemed the toughest of all especially in Lebanon. Fortunately, my best friend and I were offered a temporary job by Mrs. Carla Yardamian, dietitian. I enjoyed those few months of community nutrition work at schools but felt bitter inside for all those children that suffered from food insecurity in various Lebanese areas. And here we go again, the endless job hunting...there were times when I felt down but I kept the faith and grasped the first opportunity. After all it was worth every struggle. I applied for the job opening at the Ministry of Economy and Trade, Consumer Protection Department, and after meeting all the requirements I sat for the written exam and was among the only 5 that passed (5 out of 22). I was left with a greater challenge, the oral exam. I walked into that room with God knows how many doctors and professors and I made it! I came fifth and I am proud that 3 out of 5 are NDU graduates, among them my best friend.

Meanwhile, I still consider myself part of NDU family under the title "A proud member of NDU Choir since 1993". We traveled with Fr. Khalil Rahme and the NDU choir all over the world and I am proud to say I was part of the success in Canada 2007 where we won the choir national award, Mondial Chorale Loto-Quebec (first prize of jury and audience). Once again Lebanon and NDU became famous among the New Yorkers in May 2010 as we sang at Carnegie Hall as part of "Ambassadors of Harmony". I recall with humor that the police officer at the airport asked me to sing and quoted "If you came to Carnegie Hall then you made it!"

To all the NDU alumni and the new students I say: "If you came to NDU then you made it!" God bless you all and let's praise Mother Mary because we are all a part of NDU.

Thank you NDU for everything and most of all for giving me the chance to meet the love of my life at your gym. Best regards to all the alumni staff for your ongoing efforts to stay in touch with us."

Manal Georges Aoun (BS '08) writes,

"These words I am writing to NDU Alumni E-newsletter on this special day and these warm thankful words I am addressing to NDU and its Alumni Affairs Office are so meaningful to me after 2 years of graduation! How to start?? A lot to say, but many will remain remarkably traced in my heart and yours, my dear colleagues, fellows, alumni, professors and the graduates to come! NDU has prepared me and gave me the most valuable weapon that helped me wrestle in the confrontations of life.



Maybe I am still young, but have reached a valuable level of achievements because of NDU, my professors, my family, my friends and myself as well. My journey at NDU started in 2005 and ended in 2008 where I graduated with a BS in Science, Nutrition and Dietetics, with High Distinction. My academic excellence as well as the support of NDU and my professors, enabled me to continue my 11 months internship at St George hospital in Achrafieh, where I gained a lot of experience and was able to combine the theoretical knowledge of NDU to the practical level of my work there. In 2010, I enrolled at the American University of Beirut (AUB) where I am currently doing my masters in Food Technology. I have also worked in the restaurant industry for few months where I was in charge of the food hygiene and quality control.

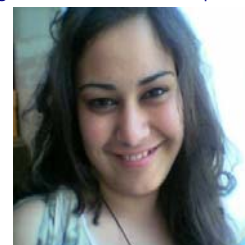
Going back to the most important issue, I want to thank NDU, my professors especially Dr. Antoine Farhat, the current Dean of the Faculty of Nursing and Health Sciences, Ms Maya Abou Jaoude, my

professor and friend, for having had a great role in preparing me academically to the position I am holding now. I want to thank my family as well as my uncles Georges and Joseph Mghames for being next to me especially that they are members of the big family of NDU too. I am going to start very soon my new job as an inspector in the Consumer Protection Department in the Ministry of Economy and Trade. Being the first to be accepted there after holding four written exams and a final oral exam, is something NDU and I should be proud of.

Last but not least, I must admit that I miss my days at NDU, though some were good and happy to be remembered and others were a bit sad filled with stress and anxiety. Being a part of NDU family and the Alumni family is something I am proud of and should express gratitude to."

Suzanne Antoun Kabrite (BS '08)

writes, "I have never imagined how time can pass by that quickly. I guess this is applicable when you enjoy what you are doing and you feel relaxed among your surroundings, you simply lose track of time. That is my case being at NDU for 4 years. I graduated in 2008 with a BS in Nutrition & Dietetics. I completed my internship for 7 months at St Joseph hospital – Dora. Thanks to NDU's curriculum and professionalism, I was among the first who succeeded in the colloquium session. I worked as a research assistant conducting a study about "Evaluating Food Choices of Children and Food Availability at Home in relation to Children's Growth in Lebanon" under the supervision of the dietitian, Mrs. Carla Yardemian El-Hage in collaboration with the American University of Beirut (AUB). I applied for a job at the Ministry of Economy as an inspector in the nutrition field and luckily after doing the written exams and the oral interview, I scored the 3rd out of 5 finalists among 22 graduates of nutrition from all universities in Lebanon. I am very grateful that I have contributed, in addition to all efforts done by the faculty members, in making NDU proud of us. What I am now is because of NDU's orientation and education. I still feel attached to this institution and parts of me are still between the library books, at the computer center, at the Faculty, on the green benches, in the warm-hearted classrooms with friendly students and instructors, in the cafeteria, at chilling exam halls, at SAO, in the Admissions office, at the Registrar, in every corner and every event. Thank you NDU for these wonderful moments, thank you for offering the best education in a friendly and warm environment, thank you for caring about us and giving us the opportunity to



meet good friends, best instructors, and great administrators. I wish to continue my Masters degree in Nutrition at NDU when available, the place where my dream and success started in achieving the optimal learning for a bright future. Best regards and appreciation to all members of NDU for each one of them has added a good piece in me, especially Fr. Bechara Khoury, my Godfather, Dr. Antoine Farhat, my mentor, Miss Maya Abou Jaoude, my ideal, Dr. Colette Kabrita, my reliance, Mrs. Theresa Hajjar, my supporter, Mrs. Viviane Nakhle, my leader, Dr. Edward Alam, my spiritual guide, Dr. Joseph Yaccoub, my inspiration, Mr. Sam Lahoud, my intellectual director, Miss Jeanette Elias, my dear friend, all Humanities and Sciences instructors, and a special praise to Mr. Simon Abou Jaoude, my protective brother, for the efforts he has been doing to the Alumni Affairs Office for bringing us back together and keeping us in touch with our NDU."

Claude Antonios Fachkha (BE '08) writes,

"Challenges are what make life interesting; overcoming them is what makes life meaningful." Dreams and challenges were always a major part of my life. A different age is a different moment and a different dream every day. When I was four years old, I dreamt of seeing Santa and today my dream is to become a professor, why not at NDU. After successfully completing my BAC II, I began dreaming of getting accepted at NDU and especially in the Computer and Communication Engineering program. I was really happy to become a student at NDU in fall 2003. During the five years that I spent in this academic institution, I got acquainted with a nice family. I believe that this experience is a major contributor to my success now. It begins the moment we set foot on campus, and it continues to shape who we are today as Alumni. A few months ago, I graduated with a Master in Engineering in Information Systems at Concordia University in Canada. I had no problem to conquer all the challenges outside my country and I was glad to be an "A" student abroad. Thanks to NDU which made me a "professional student" as my professors would say. During my master studies, I held two jobs on campus. The first was at the Academic Information Technology Services, where I worked as IT support for Concordia staff and students in the Engineering and Computer Science (ENCS). The second was an invigilator during the examination period. Moreover, my theoretical knowledge and practical projects made it easy for me apply for a PhD Program. I got a full scholarship for the Doctorate in Electrical and



Computer Engineering program. My research of interest will be in the wireless, network security and cybercrime fields. I will start my doctorate studies in September 2010. I miss NDU, my undergraduate academic family. I will make sure I visit the campus during my vacation this summer and I will be more than glad to meet students, staff and of course my professors. I want to thank them all and especially the Alumni Affairs Office which keeps me connected to NDU.

Jessica Antoine Younes (BA'09) writes,

"As they say: *"The tragedy of life is not that it ends so soon, but that we wait so long to begin it"* and my life journey really started when I became 18, at NDU in fall 2005. My admission letter had the most exciting



announcement that I was accepted in the major of Radio TV and Film. From the very first moment, I found myself not only surrounded by colleagues, but a big family, which everyone knows as the Studio. During my four years of residency, I worked - under the supervision of Mr. Sam Lahoud and many others from within Notre Dame University - on two theatrical plays, that ended up to be very successful. Moreover, I had the chance to work as a freelancer for Video Clips and TV Commercials. As part of my major requirement, I wrote and directed a short movie called "Lyes"- It is the possibility of having a dream come true that makes life interesting. I was honored during NDU 3rd student Film Festival to be recognized as the Young Talented Female Director for the Year 2009. "Lyes" was sent by the university to compete in the Monaco Film Festival 2010 which takes place every year in the month of May. With much pride, I was granted the Special Jury Award, and I was honored to be the first Lebanese to receive such a prestigious award. I graduated in spring 2009 however the NDU spirit didn't leave me nor was my place taken inside this lovely family. In spring 2010, I decided to pursue a new major so I applied to enter into the Clinical Psychology program, a field I find interesting and intriguing. I believe that psychology could be a foil for my Radio TV and Film degree. And even in Psychology, and after only a semester, I already feel that I belong there with all the help and wisdom of the professors of my new major. The broad contours of my life as I know it were shaped directly by many people I have met in life journey. I would like to thank everyone that contributed to this success; the people who wished me luck, the persons who prayed for me, stood by me, especially my mother and father, and to all the members of the NDU Studio Unit. The learning that occurred while studying, engaging, debating and collaborating with NDU Studio staff,

faculty and my classmates stands out as both the most enjoyable and important elements of my time at NDU. What I learned about and was exposed to at NDU I continue to draw upon today in both my work and life. I am working as a Freelance Assistant Producer in a production company "In Media Plus" on TV Programs. Currently, I am on the verge of starting to write a new script for a new feature film directed by myself, and that will soon be produced."

Chadia Michael Ayoub (BS '09) writes,

"After graduating with distinction from NDU with a BS in Biology in fall 09, I had a future plan for continuing my masters' degree. Throughout my BS years at NDU, I had an academic as well as social bond which tied me to the extent that I was not able to leave to another university. That's why I remained to pursue my Master in Business Administration – concentration in Human Resources. Four years ago, I started working as a Front Office Agent during summer, weekends and holidays at Terrebrune Hotel, Faqra. Currently, I got promoted to Front Office Assistant Manager and put all my efforts to keep clients satisfied. NDU's high level standards are not only in its academic field but also in its accommodation and campus. Being a dorm resident gave me the opportunity to get to know NDU from another perspective such as sharing a lodge which eventually became a home, sharing ups and downs with my unit mates as well as my classmates who now became a family. As for my major, the educational system available at NDU is of high standards yet friendly since the professors provide a sense of care which emotionally attaches the student to his major. This does not allow me to differentiate between my professors whom I respect and cherish for their hard work. However, I cannot forget the energetic environment Dr. Pauline Aad used to create inside and outside NDU's premises. In conclusion, I encourage everyone out there who seeks an outstanding education and an adequate student life to visit NDU and assess for themselves. Thank You NDU!"



Julnar Jihad Doueik (BA '10) writes, "As I'm graduating this semester I'm hearing my mother, NDU, whispering in my ear saying: "Daughter, we only part to meet again." When I wrote these words for "faces 2010 for the 20th commencement," I was sure by then that I will use them over and over again. You were right mother NDU, we meet again. Here, I am today back to your classes as a graduate student pursuing a MA in media studies. Meanwhile, I'm also a journalist at a youth alternative media

outlet "Hibr" and the coordinator of project entitled "Information and Media Literacy". My unforgettable experiences in the three years majoring in Journalism urge me to say: Thank you NDU for the precious people that surrounded me, for the countless opportunities you offered me (I was the hostess of the Graduation Dinner 2010), for the significant knowledge that nourished me, and above all for showing me the path of excellence. The continuous guidance and encouraging words of all my professors and the valuable empowerment of my colleagues will constantly lend a hand for a stronger and brighter future. I will keep on learning along the golden road to success. A word for my advisor the chairperson of the Mass Communication Department, Dr. Joe Ajami: your presence marked my way. I cannot put out of my mind that moment when your hug full of pride congratulated me for being the valedictorian of the Faculty of Humanities. Finally, I'm self-satisfied because I've been greatly touched by all NDU people."



Ramzi Talal Bassil (BE '10) writes, "If the

only prayer you ever say in your entire life is 'thank you', it will be enough. " *Eckhart*. "Notre Dame University! Throughout the very short four years I spent in this institution, I was given much more than premium education. Majoring in Computer and Communication Engineering, I was exposed to quality professors who helped me develop critical thinking and scientific curiosity. I got acquainted to a unique group of students who taught me numerous lessons and helped me become the person I am. Thankfully, I interacted with an administration that understands its students and is never reluctant to grant their needs. I would like to express my gratitude to Dr. Ziad Fahed who was always there for me since my first semester at NDU. With all I have gained from NDU, I know I can succeed in whatever I do, starting with my plan of pursuing a Master's degree at AUB, and continuing with my future career, and personal life. NDU has become an integral part of what I am and for that I am very appreciative. Currently I am pursuing my master's in Networking and Communication at AUB and working as graduate assistant, hopefully to graduate next year."



ALUMNI AWARDS 2010 – “CROWNING ACHIEVEMENTS”

The real measure of NDU's education is the accomplishments of its alumni—not only professional successes, but creativity and satisfaction in other facets of life. Each year, we call on Alumni members and the NDU community to nominate graduates from NDU who distinguish themselves. The preliminary list usually includes more than 30 names. The three step-selection process eventually leads to a smaller list of them, with the goal of representing schools and colleges across the university. The result was an inspiring, interesting mix of people, professions and achievements portrayed in an annual Alumni event which started three years ago. Graziella Daghfal stepped in her office early morning checking as usual her e-mails. "I was speechless. Memories of 26 years at NDU flooded in my mind. I never thought that such moment would ever come. However, at NDU, everything is possible." When the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Architecture and Design, Mr. Habib Melki was informed that Graziella was among this year's award recipients, he smiled, "Her capacity for hard work and ability to interact in a positive and encouraging way with colleagues and students come together to make her a great person and inspiring professor." The Alumni Affairs Office organized the **third Alumni Award event** on Friday, December 10, 2010 in the cordial presence of the First Lady of Lebanon, Mrs. Wafa'a Michel Sleiman. 350 alumni and their friends and the NDU academic and administrative community with the NDU new Board of Trustees welcomed her in a standing ovation and greeted her like a rock star. This is her first visit to NDU, as Mr. Suheil Matar, Vice President for Cultural Affairs and Public Relations, pointed out. Glided on the podium in a chic dress and heels and with her signature warm smile, Mrs. Sleiman said, "What an honor it is for me to be here with you today at NDU upon the invitation of the Alumni Affairs Office. I am grateful indeed that you have decided to grant me the NDU Alumni Distinguished Award. I receive it with deep gratitude and great humility and responsibility. I want to give you the particular thanks and my wishes that this award be bestowed on the chest of our nation to preserve the real essence its human mission. Congratulations to all Award recipients 20102010."



In his welcoming address, Mr. Simon Abou Jaoude, Director of Alumni Affairs Office, stated that he is always eager to see how the education and life experiences gained by students, while at NDU, has assisted them in their endeavors since they graduated. The event debuted with a special mark of respect to Mrs. Lea J. Eid, 28 years as NDU Registrar - in the capacity as head of the most important co-academic unit at NDU. She has been at NDU since 1982 in the same capacity from the time it was BUC-LCHE to the inception of NDU as a university in 1987 till present. Her signature authenticizes any NDU Diploma. This year NDU celebrates its 20th Class of graduation and Mrs. Eid was there from the first moment of graduation. In her acceptance speech, she alleged, "Thank you NDU Alumni for honoring me with the award that everyone working at NDU deserves just as equally. In any other place I would give a formal speech, but here before you whom I know and trust I will tell about my 28 years at NDU. My brother and his family are here today, my children Rodney and Joe who are graduates of NDU. I shall always treasure NDU for being there for me and my family particularly when my husband died 24 years ago. And the event continued. Each documentary outlined the success story of the Alumni Award recipient. It is not easy to step on the main stage and receive the figurine specially designed for the event and its corresponding certificate. Ask Wilson Issa, one of this year's award recipients, who was carried by the emotion of the moment. The following NDU graduates compiled the list of 2010 Alumni Awards recipients:

Paul Emile Rustom - Paul Rustom graduated from NDU in 2006 with a BS in Business Computing. Paul is a professional football player and was keyplayer in NDU's winning of the Boghazici

Universaide Cup in 2002. Paul was awarded the Most Valuable Player and Top Scorer of the tournament awards. In 2009,



Paul helped the Lebanese football team win the super cup against Ahed FC Team. He played for the Lebanese national professional teams throughout his career. He joined the teams of the 17, 19 and 21 year olds. He also played on the Olympic National Team and has represented Lebanon in over 50 international games and various friendly tournaments between 1998 and 2009. He is considered one of the most reputable **football players** in Lebanon.

Award Presenter: Mr. Georges Nader, Head of Athletic Office, SAO at NDU.

Elie Khalil Al-Hindy (PSPA&D) - Elie

graduated from NDU with a BBA in International Affairs and Diplomacy in 1998 and pursued another BA in



Political and Administrative Sciences at the Lebanese University. In 2001 he received his MBA in International Affairs and Diplomacy from NDU. He got accepted in one of Australia's most competitive university in the field of International Relations. In 2009, Elie completed his PhD in Government and International Relations at the University of Sydney in Australia. He then returned to NDU where he has been a fulltime faculty member in the FPSPAD since the fall semester of 2009. Dr. Al Hindy has been a human rights activist for over 15 years in the civil societies of Lebanon and Australia He is a founding member and currently the vice-president of the Board of ALEF Act for Human Rights – the first PHD graduate from the Faculty of International Affairs and Diplomacy.

Award Presenter: Fr. Sami Hatem, Head of Pastoral Work, Freres Schools of Dedeh and Kfaryashit.

Jehane Assad Dagher Hayek (Media Studies) - She

received her MA degree in Media Studies from NDU in 2009. Jihane is the Marketing and Advertising Manager of the



car brands (Peugeot, Citroen, Mitsubishi, Kia, Seat, Saab, Sangyong) under the Sofidal Holding, the number one group in Lebanon's car industry. She is known in the Industry for her innovative approach to advertise car brands, In 2010, Jihane wrote and published a book entitled "L'Ange de la 4eme E". The biography details the life of a friend who was fighting cancer; all proceeds from the book's sale went to Oumnia, an association which helps sick children and their families.

Award Presenter: Mrs. Marie Zakhour, Board Member, Oumnia Association

Wilson Milad Issa (Advertising & Marketing)

He graduated in 1999 with a BA in advertising and marketing started his career in 2000 as a media executive in Euro RSCG in Beirut before moving to Starcom MediaVest Beirut in 2003. With a commitment to stay in Lebanon, Wilson started

climbing the ladder with Starcom MediaVest group reaching the GM position of the Levant area in 2007

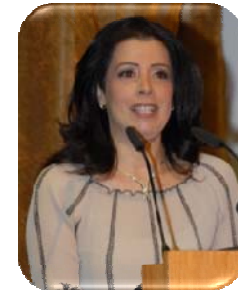


at the young age of 30. Being in a 100% public multinational organization, Wilson delivered a proven record in establishing and growing Starcom MediaVest business within the Levant servicing different blue-chip clients like P&G, Kraft, Mars, Bank Audi, Diageo, GSK, Gen .Motors as well as a diversified portfolio of local and regional clients, and positioned it as the number one media agency within that region. Wilson's contribution went beyond operations to be part of the TV research committee in Lebanon, looking into having a trustworthy people meter system to measure local TV audience. Recently Wilson was promoted to GM of VivaKi - Levant which is the Nerve center of Vivaki's different media agencies Starcom, MediaVest, and Zenith Media." In a short span of time, Wilson Issa has reached pinnacle of success by his hardwork, vision, and entrepreneurial spirit.

Award Presenter: Mr. Kamal Darouni, Assistant Professor, Advertising and Marketing, at NDU.

Graziella Daghfal (Choughari) (Diploma In Furniture Design) -

Graziella Daghfal has been a member of the NDU community since 1984. While handling administrative work at the university, Graziella was also pursuing a Diploma in Advanced Furniture Design. Graziella graduated in 1996 with distinction. In 2002, she received



her MA in Design from Middlesex University in London. Graziella's teaching career with NDU started in 1996 and lately she was promoted to Assistant Professor in 2009. Alongside her work at NDU, Graziella has worked as an Art Director, storyboard artist, painter and interior designer for a number of television series and movies. Graziella has also participated in various international conferences and exhibitions as speaker, workshop instructor, coordinator and exhibitor.

Award Presenter: Mr. Robert Haddad, Associate Professor, Interior Design, at NDU since 28 years.

Chadi Nabil Haddad (Business Marketing)

Chadi graduated with High Distinction from NDU with a BBA in Marketing. He received a full scholarship for his graduate studies in



Business Administration at the American University of Beirut, from which he graduated in 2002. Throughout his studies, he has been a rank holder. Chadi was awarded the Cross of the Knights "Pro Merito Melitensi" by his Highness Prince and Grand Master of the Sovereign Order of Malta, Fra 'Matthew Festing for the special contribution in the humanitarian activities of the Order in Lebanon. He has been an active member of the Sovereign Order of Malta since the early 1990s. Chadi was the key player in launching the Fattal subsidiary in Jordan and currently is the General Manager for Interbrands – Khalil Fattal & Fils affiliate in Jordan since November 2008. In 2004, he started up the NGO the Haddad Foundation, which supports 1,763 Elders in the Jezzine District. Chadi has been a part time faculty member at Notre Dame University (NDU) since 2004. For his entrepreneurial skills and achievements Chadi is awarded the Alumni Recognition Awards 2010. He was nominated by a number of NDU Alumni working in the marketing industry.

Award Presenter: Gerard Zovighian, Head of BDO and Board Member of Ordre of Malte.

Bassel Tony Baaklini (Mechanical Engineering)

Bassel graduated from NDU in February 1998 with Bachelor of Engineering in



Mechanical Engineering with honors. He was awarded the Monbusho (Japanese Ministry of Higher Education) scholarship for post graduate studies in Japan where he received his MS in Tribology in the year 2000. Bassel held several prestigious positions upon his graduation. He was the youngest faculty member of Saint Joseph University and worked alongside Carlos Ghosn, CEO of Renault-Nissan, as his Global Marketing Assistant Manager at Nissan Motors in Tokyo Japan. Bassel is also the founder of Contra International, a multimillion dollar contracting and trading company

with offices in Lebanon, Qatar and UAE. He developed and launched a complete range of GREEN products targeting environmental projects. In 2009, Bassel received the prestigious The "Best Trade Name Trophy" award among 8000 members selected from 95 countries. For his great job, he has received many accolades. He has been called upon to deliver speech in a number of public forums, particularly in the Alternative Energy Symposium.

Award Presenter: Dr. Elias Nassar, Dean of Faculty of Engineering.

Carine Antoine Korkomaz (Biology)

– writes, "I graduated from NDU in 2004 with a BS in Biology. A career in medicine was not the obvious choice for me at that time. There was so much art, literature and philosophy in the world worth exploring alongside science. So I did one year of architecture in 2004-2005 in UL. Even though I enjoyed it greatly I still felt an unquench



ed interest in Medicine, so I applied to Balamand University. The interview day came, I went into a room with 2 men, one of these men was Doctor Bahous. Question after question, without my knowing, the conversation drifted away from my interest in medicine and was becoming about my interest in architecture. The other man in the room was not very convinced of my determination and devotion to medicine, he was more preoccupied with my global hesitation and the fact that I lost an academic year doing something unrelated to medicine, it was clear to me that he was reluctant to accepting me in Med School. Dr Bahous however was smiling the whole time and nodding, a smile that he still does when he wants to reassure an intern or a patient, a smile that says "everything is gonna be OK". The phone call came a month later to my disbelief: I was accepted. That was the start of a fascinating journey in the world of medicine. 4 years later, I'm an M.D. and there's no doubt in my mind as to what I was born to do: Surgery. So I applied to General Surgery, a rare specialty for a female doctor, and got accepted and am currently at my second year of residency - the first medical doctor from NDU.

Award Presenter: Dr. Joudy Bahous, Assistant Dean of Medical Students Affairs at Balamand University, Pulmonologist at St. Georges Hospital (El-Roum).

Wissam Nadim Constantin (Med. Lab. Tech)

- What distinguishes Wissam is the fact that he is deaf. His disability only strengthens his

determination to succeed at all he does. He graduated from NDU in 2009 with a BS in Medical Laboratory Technology with distinction.

Wissam was the first deaf

student to graduate with a BS in Lebanon and the entire Middle East. At the ceremony he received the Academic and Humanities distinction Awards. He also received the Said Akl Creativity Award. Wissam was honored by President Michel Suleiman and received the Lebanon Forces Students' Association Award. He was also honored by the Minister of Health, Mohammed Jawad Khalifeh, for being the first deaf person to pass the Lebanese Official Baccalaureate Exams and to score top 1 in the Colloquium exam in Medical Laboratory. Wissam is currently pursuing his MS degree in Microbiology and Immunology at the American University of Beirut. He is a professional basketball player with the Louaize team. In fact he is the third deaf player in the entire world and the first in Lebanon and the Middle East. Wissam intends to pursue his PhD and start a family.

Award Presenter: Mr. Claude Hayek, his maternal uncle on behalf of his grandmother, his mentor.



Simon Abou Diwan (Business Management)

- He graduated from NDU in 1991 with a bachelor degree in Business Management. He entered the Lebanese Army in 1992. Simon

notched up one rank after another with perseverance and courage. Simon is a major in the Lebanese Army soon to move up to the next military rank. He was stationed in different regions in Lebanon, currently is the first brigade located in Sidon, South Lebanon occupying the position of Company Commander.

Award Presenter: Mr. Suheil Matar, Vice President, Cultural Affairs and Public Relations at NDU.



Alumni-By-Choice: They could be friends, business associates, beloved siblings or spouses. They didn't go to NDU. They even share the spirit of NDU. They believe in the university and what it stands for. 2011 Alumni-for-Choice went to **Mr. Fawzi Baroud** is currently the Director of Computing

Services and eLearning Center and the Director of Division of Continuing Education (DCE). Mr. Baroud has led information technology at Notre Dame University since 1989 to the present. He has attended a number of international, regional and local conferences on technology and eLearning and took part in the design of the Informatics national curriculum for schools in Lebanon. Moreover, he conducted a number of studies on ICT use in education and offered his expertise to a number of organizations including the European Training Foundation (ETF). His research interests are in the use, integration and evaluation of Information and Communication Technologies and e-learning implementation in higher educational institutions. His PhD dissertation draws on the role of a university in Lebanon in adopting e-learning as blended technological and pedagogical tool that potentially meets learning needs.

Award Presenter: Reverend Fr. Boutros Tarabay, Past President of NDU.



2010 EDITION – TOP 50 ALUMNI LIST

NDU is the alma mater for more than ten thousand graduates. NDU has witnessed how a number of its graduates progress made a great impact in the workplace. Who better than NDU Alumni would determine the "Top 50 notable Alumnus (male) of the year 2010" and the "Top 50 Alumnae (female) of the year 2010"? The list of nominees was compiled on the basis of NDU Alumni nominations, posted on facebook every evening for transparency and sustainability. The names were revealed in random order up till the name who made it to the Top1 in each category during the Alumni Awards 2010:

Zeina Khalil El-Khoury graduated with a BA in Banking & Finance in 2007. She credits Dr. Vivian Naimy for convincing her to pursue a degree in the banking field. Being a professional basketball player (Champville, Riyadi, Sagesse, Antranik, Jamhour and the



Lebanese National team) she played as part of the NDU team and won several national and

international championship. While studying at NDU, she touched base with several part-time jobs (acting, modeling, radio and TV presenter at Rotana). After graduation, she moved directly to Dubai where she is currently working in an Australian company called Emirates Sunland. She was lately promoted to the position as "Head of Client Relations". Her company is behind the development of the most exclusive property in the world – Palazzo Versace. In 2009, she co-hosted the "Gladiators" TV show with Naser Abou Lafi on LBC where 36 participants from all over the Arabic world competed against 14 professional athletes in the three million dollar costing production.

Award Presenter: Hady Hajjar, (BA, IBM, 2002), Director of Marketing, Rotana.

Karla Michel Sfeir, a familiar face at NDU, is currently the Coordinator of Student Activities at the SAO. Most of NDU graduates who voted for Karla were graduates of the past four years. They would write Karla Sfeir and



beside the name, they would add "We love you Karla." She graduated from NDU in 1993 with a degree in Business Administration. She held several administrative and teaching positions at NDU such as Administrative Assistant at the Division of Continuing Education (DCE), technical assistant at the Center of Digitization and Preservation of Old Manuscripts Office, taught at DCE since 1998 and is currently also teaching English 105. Moreover, Karla is working on her thesis to complete the requirements of Masters' in Educational Technology. Award Presenter: Hady Hajjar, (BA, IBM, 2002), Director of Marketing, Rotana.

The runner-ups for the Top 50 Alumna List 2010 were: Cynthia Filian, Carol Assaf, and Stephanie Faysal.

Souhad Abou Chabke, who does not know this young man, graduated from NDU with a BE in Mechanical Engineering. His decision to pursue higher studies at NDU had been a positive experience. During this time, he worked for a year with Middle East Airlines (MEA) as Assistant Maintenance Manager. In September 2006 and once he fulfilled



his Master's degree (MBA-MIB), Souhad joined the Indevco group as Production Manager at Unipaknile, Egypt mainly organize converting production process in order to optimize productivity by means of adequate people repartition, good leadership, smart work station settings, accurate reporting, quick problem solving, and effective assistance when needed. During his stay in Egypt, Souhad joined the program Lean SIX SIGMA Black Belt Certified by Quality America Inc. and American University in Cairo. In parallel to his active professional life, he was always grateful to what NDU has offered him: the greatest academic and also personal challenges of his life. Souhad says, "I could not have asked for a better undergraduate experience than what I received at NDU. I know that my education has been the foundation of how I run my work. I personally define a good university not in terms of teaching but rather in ways it arouses the desire for new learning. The nice thing about my university was that we were with all the same group for five years so we were all very close." Lately he was profiled during the Alumni Awards 2010 as Top 1 Alumni list of 2010. "It is not easy putting into words how much appreciative I am. NDU is truly a special place with special people. I was fortunate to be influenced by them," that's what Souhad pronounced during his acceptance speech."

The runner-ups for the Top 50 Alumnus List 2010 were: Joseph Nehme, Ramzi Hage, and Issam Chemaly.

Thanks to the sponsorship from Byblos Bank, our partner in presenting the NDU Alumni / Byblos Bank Visa Affinity Gold Credit Card for every award recipient and the special contribution of BMB Networking and Telecom, the 3rd Annual Alumni Awards Ceremony was a pillar of success and a one of kind event for the NDU community.

THE LURE OF A LADY!

"I can say that the First Lady has captured the attention at the Alumni event with her pleasant presence. She is eloquent, educated and also emotional," said Betty Hindi (BA '08, MA, 07), "What I respect the most is her efforts to better do her part in her current position "Not my power, but the power of the position, a power which could be used to help." **Mrs. Wafa'a Michel Sleiman, the First Lady of Lebanon since 2008**, has been trying to take the role of the first lady beyond the official photo on official visits. Mrs. Sleiman is a holder of a Bachelor of Science in Teaching and Education from the Teachers Training College, followed by a Bachelor of Arts in philosophy from the Lebanese

University in 1973. In 1971, and upon her graduation from university, the First lady pursued a career in the education field teaching in public schools, and then held major responsibilities in the Ministry of Education from 1989 to 1998. Having experienced the pertinence of education for the development and progress of communities, the First lady has channeled her energies behind national associations and initiatives focused on women empowerment and children education across the country. Therefore, she has sponsored and supervised many researches and programs that support women and children rights and strive to cater for their needs. As the First Lady of Lebanon, Mrs. Sleiman heads the National Commission of Lebanese Women (NCLW), a commission that aims to improve the educational and living standards of both women and children. Supporting and assisting families of the Lebanese Army martyrs are at the heart of the First Lady's concerns. As a matter of fact, having been the wife of the Army Commander, Mrs. Sleiman fully understands the bewildering feelings of pride and pain and has deep sympathy towards the martyrs' families who have suffered the loss of a relative while fulfilling his national duties. Therefore, the First Lady organizes special events and celebrations for the Lebanese Army Martyrs' children on national and religious festivities. Born in a region rich with outstanding Lebanese heritage treasures, Mrs. Sleiman highly appreciates natural and cultural heritage sites. Her great appreciation for the heritage incited her to become an active member of the Amchit Heritage Association, which spreads awareness about preserving the country's heritage. In addition to all that, Mrs. Sleiman pursues her hobbies which include music, reading, sports especially jogging and swimming. In a recent interview, Mrs. Sleiman did not hesitate to say proudly that the most important role in her life is being a mother. She is the mother of three children: Rita, a dentist, married with three children; Lara, an architect married and has one child; Charbel, a medical student at Balamand Medical School. (<http://www.presidency.gov.lb/FirstLady/Pages/Biography.aspx>)



Jacqueline Kennedy once said, "The children have been a wonderful gift to me, and I'm thankful to have once again seen our world through their eyes.

They restore my faith in the family's future." Mrs. Wafa'a Sleiman received the Distinguished Alumni Award, the highest Alumni honor bestowed by NDU Alumni, from the President of NDU, Reverend Fr. Walid Moussa during the Alumni Awards 2010.

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