

ALUMNI E-NEWS

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NDU ALUMNI AFFAIRS OFFICE

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From the President of NDU

Dear Alumni,

By the time this issue is on line, NDU would have proudly granted degrees to more than 800 students and at the same time it would be preparing to welcome new students for the new academic year. I am delighted to be at their crossroad.



At different gatherings, someone would address me, "I hear NDU is doing great, what is your biggest challenge?" My answer usually would be: "so far so good, we are making great progress on all fronts."

Various indicators suggest that there is always much room for improvement. Over the past three years, enrollment has drastically increased by 22%. We have added new programs and updated already existing ones. Career-related internships have become a requirement in many disciplines. Our net faculty has enlarged and NDU staff members became engaged in development training programs relevant to their jobs. One of the most striking changes on campus has been the finalization of a number of residence buildings for students, with new interiors, facilities and additions. We are trying to lay groundwork for vibrant initiatives that address the learning needs of the new generation. We manage prudently while paying attention to quality. I do not reveal a secret when I worry about the national economy and its effect on university-going.

On the other hand, I always wonder how we will ever meet all our alumni; there is much to be done but Mr. Simon Abou Jaoude has only seven days and each day has only 24 hours.

I invite you to my goal. You have walked into the room and one day you will leave the room. As Betty Gibson, an exemplary educator, says, leave the room in a better state than it was.

Fr. Walid Moussa, MMO

From the Director of Alumni Affairs Office

I recently got a short e-mail from one of new graduates of Class 2008 appreciating the great effort put in making the Graduation Dinner a memorable event. The e-mail said: "As I sit in front of my PC, I look back at the time when I came with my father to NDU. Four years have already passed since then. I had an awesome time. I made some good friends, teachers and staff that I still talk to. I had some wonderful memories of life."



I was touched by this e-mail message. When we meet students for the first time, they are at a crossroad in their lives, wishing to learn something to achieve a goal. The fact that the past four years of this graduate have passed so quickly; this means that he has been involved in something that captured his interest. This makes student life at NDU different – embracing several activities and many opportunities.

This e-mail made me realize that many of NDU graduates want to stay in touch with their alma mater. The many e-mails we receive at the Alumni Affairs Office inquiring how they can become part of the Alumni are very heartening. This is their way of linking the past with the present and it is our duty to strengthen this bond with the future.

Enjoy!

Simon A. Abou Jaoude

NDU UPDATES

New Appointments

The Maronite Order of the Holy Virgin Mary, the Sponsoring Society of NDU, announced the following appointments to different positions at NDU: Fr. Walid Moussa was reappointed for a new three-year mandate as President of NDU. Fr. Roger Chikri will continue as the Director of Administration. Fr. Bechara Khoury was named Director of Finance. Previously he served at NDU as Director of Student Affairs Office for three years. Fr. Samir Ghsoub was appointed as the Director of NDU/NLC. Previously he served NDU as Director of Finance for nine years. Fr. Salim Rajji will join NDU administration as the Director of Student Affairs Office. Prior to assuming his responsibilities at NDU, Fr. Rajji concluded a distinguished service at different monasteries. He is also the General Assistant of the Maronite Order of the Holy Virgin Mary. Fr. Jean Abou Chrouh was appointed as the Director of Division of Continuing Education. Previously he served NDU as Director of NDU/NLC.

NDU goes International

2008 marks the 60th Anniversary of the first gathering of University representatives that was held in Utrecht in 1948 which led to the creation of IAU (International Association of Universities) in 1950. It is the UNESCO-based worldwide association of higher education institutions. It brings together institutions and organizations from some 150 countries to reflect and act on common concerns in higher education. Fr. Walid Moussa, President of NDU, received a letter of approval from the IAU to host its 2009 annual conference at NDU in November 2009 under the theme *"The Role of Higher Education in Promoting Intercultural Dialogue and Understanding."* Fr. Moussa has participated in the 13th general conference at Utrecht University, Netherlands last July 2008. In his opening remark to the University Council, he said, "This year's conference attracted record numbers of participants from the largest number of countries gathered by the Association." He continued that being the President of NDU, he has been elected a member of the IAU Administration Board for 2008-2012. The University soon will be receiving from the Secretary General of IAU, Mrs. Eva Egron-Polak the guidelines that will lead in the preparation of the IAU Annual Conference 2009 at NDU.

Navigate Further

The Faculty of Humanities has a reason to celebrate. In collaboration with the College of Education and Public Service at Saint Louis University (SLU), St. Louis, Missouri, U.S.A, the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities at NDU, Dr. Carol Kfoury is proud to announce the degree program for the Doctor of Education (Ed.D.). This degree will be offered as of fall 2008 as part of a collaborative effort between the two Universities. The degree consists of 38 credits, a doctoral project and 6 credits of pre-requisite courses in Research Methodology; there are three summers spent overseas, one summer at the SLU off-campus program in Limassol, Cyprus and 2 intensive summer sessions spent in Saint Louis. The degree targets mature students interested in becoming school principals, government education policy makers as well as university instructors in the field. Courses begin on October 29th at NDU Main Campus. Applications received until October 15th at NDU Admissions Office, Main Campus. The diploma for this doctorate program will be delivered by Saint Louis University. The Faculty has prepared a website for further information which can be accessed by entering the NDU website and clicking on the Faculty of Humanities. Saint Louis University, founded in 1818, is a Jesuit, Catholic university ranked among the top research institutions in the United States. The University has more than 12,300 students and over 90,000 Alumni.

Four Events, One Target

NDU Alumni Faculty and Staff Reunion 2008 - 'Two Sides of the Coin'

was an in-house gathering for a group of special alumni, NDU Alumni Faculty and Staff. The last countdown of NDU Alumni working at NDU has reached 146 members. The attraction of the event was the documentary *"Individually We are One Drop, Together We are An Ocean"* displaying the testimonies of six Alumni faculty or staff sharing the meaning of being an NDU Alumni and employee at the same time.



The reunion took place on Monday, May 19, 2008 at 12:00 noon at the NDU main campus in Zouk Mosbeh. The keynote Alumni speakers were Mrs. Nadine Jabbour Fares and Mr. Nadim Matta. Mrs. Lea Eid who was present in the event noted, *"One of my great pleasures is hearing NDU Alumni say that their time here changed their lives. I am no different."*

Celebrating Your Next Step was held on Wednesday, May 28, 2008 at Pierre Abou Khater Auditorium at the NDU main campus in Zouk Mosbeh, where 100 tentative spring graduates enjoyed the opportunity to have a private audience with the President of NDU. Fr. Walid Moussa addressed the students on how to benefit from their NDU education to venture out into the future and be proud of their alma mater. The tentative graduates left the event with a big smile and a gift, a pen through which they will be writing the beginning of their success stories. In his address, President Moussa said, *"I feel so fortunate to be President of NDU at this exciting time of change and evolution. The very heart of NDU lies in its people: amazing students, devoted faculty and staff member and involved and active alumni"*



Lost Alumni Campaign – The Alumni Affairs Office created a new advertising campaign to encourage back alumni who have lost touch with the University. "We know there are a lot of people who aren't connected," said Fr. Moussa, "They are people who have lost touch with the University. We are hoping to try to find them in many ways." Why now? First and foremost, because we care about them and don't want to lose touch with them. To launch the "Lost Alumni Campaign", a gathering took place on Friday, June 13, 2008 at 6.30pm, with a welcome coffee, followed by a Mass celebrated by Fr. Khalil Rahme, in the space in front of the Alumni – Admissions Offices, NDU Main Campus. The

church celebrates on June 13 of every year the feast of St Anthony of Padua. He is renowned for his intercession in finding lost people and things. Those who feel very familiar with him may pray, "Tony, Tony, turn around. Something's lost and must be found." Roland Khoury who attended the event with his family said, *"I'm so blessed to have shared such moments with my family. I found this peaceful rest inside me away from the hassles of work life."*



The "Pinning Ceremony", an initiative celebration organized, planned and coordinated by the Alumni Affairs Office took place on Thursday, July 10, 2008 at 7:30pm during the second rehearsal of the Commencement Ceremony, in the presence of Fr. Walid Moussa, President of NDU. The pinning ceremony is a symbolic welcoming of newly graduates into the Alumni Community. Pinning provides each graduating student with the opportunity to walk across the stage and be "pinned" by an Alumnus/Alumna of their respective faculty. Mr. Simon Abou Jaoude addressed Class 2008, *"Look around tonight, at your classmates. Tomorrow is a day you will always remember. After the ceremony, look into the eyes of your professors, parents, or whoever helped you here this day. Thank them. Tell them you love them. I know this is not a goodbye to the University but see-you-later. Stay in touch with the University through the Alumni."*



Alumni Upcoming Events

This e-mail was sent out to all NDU Alumni and NDU community at large:

"It is with great pleasure that the Alumni Affairs Office invites you to join in on a night full of excitement and fun as we embark hand in hand, on "Invading the NDU Old Campus: **Celebrate the Good Times, Come On!** on Friday October 3, 2008 starting at 8:00PM at the NDU Old Campus, currently housing the Division of Continuing Education. The old campus is a landmark that witnessed NDU seeing the first light and growing up to become this monumental edifice that is today our second home and our source of knowledge and educational development. Come on in, both NDU Alumni and students, and encourage your friends to join us to make this event unforgettable. Offstage, various booths will line the Old Campus road, each featuring its own food menu attraction. The event will be welcoming celebrities throughout the evening."

COVER STORY – THE THREE SISTERS

One afternoon as I was driving home my colleague, Dr. Joe Yaacoub, I mentioned to him that I am preparing a cover story for the upcoming Alumni E-newsletter about the three sisters of El-Sayed family that are graduating this year. He told me about the Russian writer Anton Chekhov play "The Three Sisters". As I was browsing the Internet searching for the theme of the play, I came across another interesting story of "The Three Sisters". This time, it was a naturalistic play coming from the land down under. "The Three Sisters" is a famous sight of the Blue Mountains of New South Wales, Australia. The modern tourism industry has created a legend that says that the three sisters fell in love with three men from the neighboring tribe but marriage was forbidden by tribal law. Battle arose,



and the three sisters were turned into stone by the witchdoctor so they wouldn't be harmed,

but he was killed and no one else could turn them back.

There are many remarkable students graduating every semester, and we've profiled a few in the past issues. This issue will shed the light on three sisters of the Al-Sayed family of Class 2008 who will tell how their experience at NDU has changed their life.



Tell us about yourself and include any interesting information you would like to share with us?

Layla: My name is Layla El-Sayed, 25 years old, born in Belize, a small country in Central America. I came back to Lebanon with my family 5 years ago, and NDU practically was my home in these 5 years. I graduated with a BS in Medical Laboratory technology (MLT), and a Teaching Diploma (TD) in Science. I chose MLT as my major because I love science and I am a technical person. In addition, I pursued a teaching diploma since I may have the chance to share my knowledge with other students if the opportunity arises.

Aisha: My name is Aisha El-Sayed. I am the middle of the El-Sayed sisters! I lived in Belize most of my life before coming to Lebanon. It was and still is challenging to adapt to the culture and the winter, but I am loving every minute of it. I am 22 years old and graduated from NDU with a BA in special education focusing on learning disabilities and a TD in English. I love my major and am lucky enough to work in a job that entails me to use what I have acquired from NDU. I enjoy spending time with family and close friends. I love learning and enjoy researching new topics and ideas. I don't have "I can't" in my vocabulary. I believe an individual can get anything he/she strives for!

Reema: I am Reema El-Sayed. Although now I have adapted to the Lebanese culture, it was not an easy transition. My mother is Belizean and my father is Lebanese. The combinations of these diverse cultures have facilitated me into blooming from a once closed bud. After four years of hard work, I graduated from NDU with a Psychology degree. When people ask me why I made such a choice, I simply reply by saying that with

psychology an individual has the power to make a wounded heart heal and having that ability makes life worthwhile.

How did you learn about NDU and why did you choose NDU?

Layla: When I came to Lebanon, I was searching for a university and NDU happened to be one of them. I gave NDU the number one choice because when I walked into its campus, I felt it was my home and that it would be a great place for me to enhance my education.

Aisha: I have my father to thank for. He kept convincing me that Lebanon is known for giving great education. I must admit I was hesitant at first, but after visiting so many universities I was changing my mind slowly. I liked all the universities but I didn't find one that got my attention of wanting to become a part of it. As I entered NDU I had a feeling of comfort. I saw how close students were with their professors. I knew that this is where I wanted to be, in a place that treats you as an individual not as someone less than they are but are of the same level.

Reema: Luckily I have been blessed with my older sisters, so their footsteps have been the footprints that I continue to learn from. When they first entered NDU, they called me the same day and told me how warm the teachers and students made them feel. They felt that this was the university that would make them successful. I decided that I too would become a part of this University. My dad was also impressed by the care and warmth of the teachers. The first day he entered NDU gates he met one of its special teachers, Dr. Joseph Yacoub, and with just one hand shake he said that he was confident about leaving us to complete our degree at NDU.

What was your biggest challenge at NDU?

Layla: My biggest challenge at NDU was basically adapting to Arabic speakers. My courses were challenging but that was what made it fun. I wondered many times if I should change my major or not because they are so little students doing MLT, but I am glad I didn't because it's something I love.

Aisha: My biggest challenge at NDU was battling 18 credits my last semester. It was hectic and frustrating but I managed to complete the requirements with honors. Because of the support from all my professors, my advisor and the chairperson I was relieved and assured that I was going to do exceptional. This support encouraged me to take on a full time job and start on my Teaching Diploma and like I expected I had support from everyone.

Reema: My biggest challenge at NDU was adjusting to the Lebanese culture because I spent seventeen years of my life in Belize, and Lebanon is truly the total opposite. I have all my exceptional psychology teachers to thank for that. I can remember the first day I met each of them and from the first day they filled my hearts with warmth. Their warm character and wise words shaped the thoughts I express until this day and forever.

Do you think your education at NDU prepared you for life after graduation? How?

Layla: Yes in some ways it did; on a social level, how to deal with people. It prepared me in the way that if you want to succeed you must have patience, because without patience it is easy to quit.

Aisha: Yes, NDU has prepared me for life after graduation. I had to be independent in my courses and choices. My advisor would only advise me but the decision was mine to make so I learnt how to organize my time and courses. One thing I am grateful for at NDU is when I had so many deadlines to meet especially when I was taking extra courses it helped me to organize and complete task by task. Now this characteristic I obtained from NDU is an excellent aid at the workplace.

Reema: All the knowledge I gained from my professors will always help me to get ahead because like a caterpillar that transforms into a butterfly, great things evolve from a single step. Hard work and devotion is what turns the caterpillar into a butterfly. People may look down at the caterpillar because of the outside appearance but the beauty it carries deep inside surpasses anything in this world. The education at NDU taught me to look at the caterpillar for what it will become and not for what it appears to be.

You were chosen among the top 100 graduating students who were invited to the Alumni event "Celebrating Your Next Step", what was your impression of your first time meeting the President of NDU?

Layla: Well, I didn't get the chance to meet the President of NDU, because there was a mix-up and I didn't attend. But I am person who believes in first impressions. On graduation, I heard his speech and the way he heartedly gave his congratulations to each graduate. Through this I can tell he is one who cares about the students at the university. He wants to make a change for the better.

Aisha: It was an honor to meet President Moussa and hear his advice and ideas. It felt as if he was giving advice to his own children. My impression of the President is how passionate he is about NDU; I thought to myself, this is why NDU has a feeling of family and peace because if the President has such passion for NDU and the students then professors will show such passion for the well-being of their students.

Reema: My impression of Father Walid Moussa is that of admiration because from his thoughtful words I could see the care and love his heart pours out to NDU. He plans ahead and is always improving anything that seems to be a downfall. I felt privileged to thank him for making Notre Dame University what it has become and what it will become in the many years that follow.

You handed the postman one letter of appreciation, what would be its destination?

Layla: If the postman could take it anywhere, I would say to heaven to my father, and one to my mom here in Lebanon. My dad didn't have the chance to finish his education and his dream was for us to graduate from university. He worked his entire life to let us have that opportunity. He used to say that even if he has one dollar in his pocket he would want it to go to making sure his children get the best education possible. My mother, a lady of perseverance, and yet she still has the energy and time to say to us, 'make sure you put your best in your education, for the only thing that no one can ever take away from you is your education.'

Aisha: I would thank God for giving me exceptional parents; who without them none of this would be a reality. I would thank God for my family, friends, and professors.

Reema: If I handed the postman one letter of appreciation, its destination would be God because he breathed life into me and the truth is he knew exactly which university I would graduate from because only God knows what will happen now, tomorrow and forever. I know that if I hand God the letter of appreciation, everyone that helped me along the way would receive the same letter because truly God works in mysterious ways.

What would you like to say to high school students applying to NDU?

Layla: Your university life at NDU will be one you will cherish for a lifetime. You will have your ups and downs as with anything, but the ups outweigh the downs. You will form life long friendships not only with your colleagues but with professors who make you want to excel. NDU will be more than a

university to you, but your second home. By even applying to NDU, you have made a great choice.

Aisha: If you are chosen to be a member of the NDU family, consider yourself very lucky. You must appreciate the education you will be receiving and the family you will be part of. You must walk with your head up and be very proud to be apart of such an exceptional well-rounded university that teaches an individual not only academics but about "life".

Reema: I would tell high school students applying to NDU that education is the key to life and if they chose NDU they will truly be educated not only through books, but through the heart of every teacher and such special knowledge is treasured forever.

What are your future plans after NDU?

Layla: I don't like planning; I am a spur of the moment person. So far I am thinking of doing a master's degree in genetics, but for now I will put to use my teaching certificate and teach in a primary school starting one of my goals to share my education with others. In addition, I am presently planning to share my life with that special someone and together can achieve great things.

Aisha: NDU has given so much to me that I am deeply grateful for. At the moment I am holding a full-time job at Adma International School. Hopefully, I am going to pursue my education; by starting my masters in fall 2010. As for my other plans I just want to spend time with my family and friends having a great time.

Reema: My future plans are to pursue higher degree in psychology until I receive my doctorate. But, firstly I will pursue my Master degree in child or family therapy. And of course along the way I will build a family because the future is created in family. I found my soul mate and once you find that special person the world becomes filled with treasures because you know that at the end of the day when life throws troubles your way, you will come home to someone that loves you from the heart and who will support you all through.

INTERVIEWING NDU FACULTY OR STAFF MEMBERS

Two truths in particular worth remembering when you decide to meet Mr. Jean Pierre Asmar, Senior Lecturer, FAAD: One is that you are in front star-like

personality with an accomplished professional career. The other, is you are interviewing a man truly devoted to his family.

When did you start teaching at NDU?

I started teaching at NDU in 1994. I was back from Italy in 1993, and worked in different firms, before applying to NDU. I was offered the opportunity to start the new architecture program within the Faculty of Engineering at that time.



How would you like your students to remember you?

I would like students to remember me as an understanding and transparent person: a person who always did his best to convey to them values and principles of ethics, faith, and respect. I also would like to be remembered as one who is always willing to give all that he knows.

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

I am always in touch with most of my students. They come to visit me at NDU from time to time. We always invite them to the events of the Faculty. In particular Charbel Tannous used to host me in London during my study trips for the PhD; Joseph Chartouni participated in co-teaching a course in the department in fall 2007; Wissam Melhem and Rania Abboud are my friends.

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

It was my first "Founder's Day" (1994). I was advisor of the Architecture Club. My students and I worked very hard for more than one month to prepare the club's stand. It consisted of an exhibition in the background and an access to the exhibition composed by six arches (real scale) of thick polystyrene panels. Everything was in place at 2.00 a.m. and I remember the sky clear and full of stars. Then during the night sudden wind and rain destroyed the entire stand! In the morning we managed somehow to repair the damages and participate to the event.

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

I have witnessed considerable growth in NDU at all levels: students, faculty, staff, and premises. The Department of Architecture (DA) did not exist before 1994. At that time, developing the DA was a huge and challenging task. The DA was housed in one office shared by three full time faculty members working towards building what is today the DA.

What's a day in the life of an NDU professor?

No day is like the other and this is the factor I like most. It is very dynamic and each day of teaching is a day of learning.

What one question you most dislike being asked?

It is when a student inquires about the grade of a work. This is for me an indicator of insecurity.

You are asked to send two letters, a letter of appreciation and a letter of disappointment, to whom would you send these two letters and why?

I would send a letter of appreciation to a weak student who struggled to improve one percent and a letter of disappointment to a good student who nonchalantly declined one percent.

The indicators of success are in his place: professional, charismatic, leader, decision-maker, and people-oriented.

Farid Haykal, Assistant Director of Admissions, has mastered the game. Whatever the particulars of his career to come, he is a shining example of an NDU alumnus.

You are an NDU alumnus, When did you start at NDU?

I transferred to NDU from BUC, now LAU, in 1994 majoring in Business Administration. My first impression was a very positive one, where I found that the student is not an ID number, rather he is treated like a member of a growing family and our cases were dealt with on a very



professional and personal level. I spent three unforgettable years where I managed to benefit from my university experience to the extreme. When I graduated, I worked as an Executive TV producer at City Films Production and I used to be the manager of the company. I am the producer of more than 200 TV commercials, 8 documentaries and 14 Video Clips. In 2002, I joined NDU as Assistant Director of Admissions in the Shouf Campus and in fall 2006 I moved in the same capacity to the Main Campus.

The Alumni Affairs Office is preparing an event at the Old Campus, What can you tell us about those good old days?

I have assisted Mr. Simon Abou Jaoude closely in organizing several Alumni Events. At every event, we see new old faces. The Alumni is growing fast and we feel the sense of belonging in the eyes of each Alumnus. Each event has its own charm. When I knew about the "Invading the Old Campus" event, I was touched. I am eager to help in this activity and waiting to share all the good moments with my friends. This event, with respect to me as a student who graduated from the old campus, is going to be the peak of events, organized by the Alumni Affairs Office in 2008.

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

My family life saw its first inception at NDU where I met my wife Roula Ghanem, who is also a graduate of NDU. We got married in 1999 and now we have two daughters Yara and Maria who definitely are potential NDU students because their mother and I are proud to be NDU graduates.

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

NDU has grown very fast from the geographical and human facets, large campus and an increase in faculty and staff members to the number of students. NDU in 21 years is competing with universities 100 and 150 years old. When I first visited the Main Campus, I felt as a stranger compared to the old campus. Believe me it's an educational city. However, what is stable at NDU is the personal relation between the Administration, faculty, staff and students.

What would you most like to see happen to NDU?

I would like to see NDU getting the accreditation from NEASC. Although the accreditation is recognition from the US, but I strongly believe

that the credibility of our degrees comes from the success stories of NDU Alumni.

Job opportunities are always coming your way, what make you stay at NDU?

Many opportunities come in my way very often. Some of them had competitive salaries and better positions. With pride I dumped all the offers as NDU became a big part of my life and being at NDU is a way of living. I feel the same enthusiasm in working at NDU as when I was a student. Most of the old faces are still here, but now we became colleagues. To work with them is even a more fun and rewarding experience.

You are very active with the Alumni Affairs Office, what advice do you have for graduates to become more involved as NDU Alumni?

Dearest Alumni, I urge you to be active with the Alumni Affairs Office as the people in charge of the Office are putting huge labors for one main reason: connecting us all with our alma mater. NDU is reaching out to its graduates. Let us all come back and put our efforts together in whatever deem appropriate for the advancement of NDU.

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.**

1990-1995

Johnny Ibrahim (BBA '91, MA '94) writes, "I graduated from NDU with a BA in Business Administration, in February 1991 and a Master in Business Administration; International Affairs and Diplomacy, in February 1994. In 1995, I passed the entrance exams of the Attachés for Emigration Affairs at the Ministry of Emigrants. I passed as well the entrance exams of the Diplomatic Service

at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1998. 1998 was a special 'vintage' for me, besides joining the Diplomatic Corps I graduated from the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies – Malta as Master in Diplomacy and got married to my wife Maya with whom I have three children Yara, Anthony and Mona Lisa. In 2000, I graduated from the prestigious French Ecole Nationale d'Administration (ENA). A few weeks later I joined office at the Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations in Geneva. In 2004, I was assigned to the Embassy of Lebanon to the Netherlands. Besides my daily work in Hague, I joined an advanced LLM program in Public International Law at Leiden University from which I graduated in 2006, with International Criminal Law Specialization. Back to Lebanon since February 2008, I have been working at the Legal Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Since my early days at NDU I felt the warmth of an exceptional Alma Mater. I was involved in the establishment of the Environment Club with Dr. Sfeir, the Red Cross First Aiders Club with Dr. Shafica Assaad and the International Relations Club with Dr. Georges Labaky. With a few other graduates we founded the NDU Alumni Association guided by Dr. Sarru` who contributed to the drafting of the Alumni Constitution and By-laws; at later stages Dr. Salim Daher and Mr. Suheil Mattar assisted simultaneously in reviving the association. I feel thankful to people who molded the way I think and act. I name mainly in chronological order, Dr. Boulos Sarru`, Ms. Loulwa Assaker, Mr. Hrair Hovivian, Dr. Raymond Mallat and Dr. Naim Salem, to whom I express my heartfelt gratitude. Notre Dame University, thank you."



Carole Baroudy (BBA '93) who graduated from NDU with a Bachelor degree in Marketing, writes, "A special hello to NDU professors, staff and to my colleagues the Class of 1993. I started my career working in different fields but unfortunately I didn't find myself in anyone of these jobs. I was waiting for an opportunity to stand out and it came my way in 1997 at Fattal Holding CO. I started as Marketing Coordinator in Aurora Department (Braun, Vileda, etc.). Then I moved to Romance



Department at Fattal, a department that handles cosmetics, skin care and hair care. The experience I am getting in the direct Marketing Department "Le Club Des Createurs De Beaute" made my work very motivating and challenging. I consider myself successful for two reasons; one, because I'm a hard worker and second, because my background in the field of marketing comes from NDU. I am proud to be an NDU graduate and I have been involved in the Alumni Association. I invite all the graduating students to be part of the Alumni community in order to stay in touch with their alma mater."

Roula El-Hakim (BBA '93) graduated from NDU with a degree in Business Administration. Her first job was at SNAM as Accountant; "I was unsettled and unhappy because my heart was somewhere else, Roula said, "I was certainly somebody who found the university experience as very special." Nevertheless Roula kept close contact with NDU which lead to a job offer at NDU by the Vice President of Administration at the time as Admissions Officer. She stayed in her job for five years at the Admissions Office. Then she was asked to join the Registrar's Office in the year 2000 as Academic Records Officer. In 2007 she was promoted to the position Assistant to Registrar. Roula starred in the documentary of the Alumni Faculty & staff Reunion and said, "It's been over 12 years at NDU. I love what I do and the people I work with. I hope to continue enjoying my work ten years from now."



Shawky Shidiac (BA '93) graduated from the NDU Old Campus in Interior Design. During his last semester at NDU he started working in an Architecture firm. Upon graduation he started taking projects on his own work for three years. Then he participated in a project for the Maronite Archdiocese of Jounieh in Kfour and taught at CIT-Daoura for three years. Then he was offered a position in "AITaj", an architectural design firm. Currently he working in his own firm "C.A.C", specialized in different design practice groups. His work is rapidly expanding nationally and in the global market place. Shawky who showed a high enthusiasm about the Alumni Upcoming event: Invading the Old Campus early October said, "We were like a family. Bloc D was almost our home. I remember we used to spend hours on campus. I will attend the event with my family. I

am excited to go back and meet old friends and share stories of the old good times."

1996-2001

Grace Baroud (BA '98, MA'06) graduated from NDU with a BA degree in Advertising & Marketing and MA in Media studies, emphasis Journalism. Grace started her career at NDU when she was offered a job at the Public Relations Office as Placement Officer. She initiated several activities at the Office such as the Job Fair, Business Seminars, etc. In 2007 Grace was asked to handle the website of the University in the capacity as Website Coordinator.

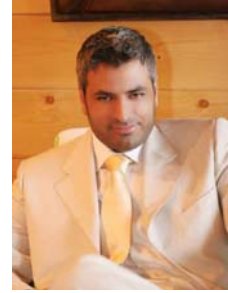


In collaboration with a creative team at the Division of Computing Services, she is working on uplifting the NDU website. She is also part of the team working on the NDU Alumni website. Moreover, she is an active participant in the organizing team of most Alumni Affairs Office activities. Grace is happily married and has two little angels, Antoine and Anna Maria. Grace always says "NDU is part of me."

Elie Sayegh (BS '99) writes, "I have received the three e-newsletters and the Special Issue, they are great. I enjoyed them a lot. They brought back to my mind the great moments at NDU. NDU was and still is my second family, an integral part of my personal identity. Thank you once again and I wish you all the luck because all the success stories of NDU Alumni are an added value for all of us." Elie continues, "I started my career in 1999 directly after I graduated from NDU with a BS degree in Computer Science. I got the opportunity to work in Paris ... and today I am working as Integration and SOA Architect in Bea Systems, a world leader in enterprise infrastructure software. I would like to convey a message, a brotherly advice to the undergraduate students; regardless of their personal circumstances ... to believe in themselves and to trust they can start from nothing ... opportunity will come but they should be prepared."



Elie Jurascovitch (BS '99-MS 02) known by his friends as Jurasco", graduated with a BS and an MS in Computer Science. He is the founder of the street ball competitions at the Founder's Day that got the club award of 'Best Activity of the Year 1998'. He was also very active in the Sports' life at NDU: played on its basketball team 97-99. Upon graduation, Elie started his career as a developer at MATeam Company. He decided to travel to USA to improve his talents in the domain of development. In 2004, he returned to Lebanon where he opened his own company, Inet Global Vision, for website development and advertising. Currently the company is expanding to Dubai. Jurasco writes, "It is no wonder why I am passionate about NDU. It was more than a university to me. It was life in itself, particularly the Old Campus. NDU memories are a big part of my history. I am proud to have NDU as my alma mater."



Ghada Fadel (BBA '99) writes, "I graduated with honors in Banking & Finance class '99. Couple of days after graduation, I started working as a Bookshop Manager at Brummana High School while studying for my CMA. As soon as I finished my CMA, I moved to BLOM BANK where I've been working for 8 years. Currently, I work in the Retail Marketing Department as a Branches' Coordinator, Head of Team and Trainer. During these years, I pursued graduate studies and received my MBA and several specialized certificates in the Banking sector. I met my husband Walid at the Bank and we've been married for 4 years and have one adorable son (Fred) and the second is on the way! I surely miss the old days at NDU, but I know that one day not far away will reunite with my previous classmates and instructors... Awaiting the Alumni upcoming event."

Tracy Damien (BA '00) graduated with a degree in Radio/TV writes, "Since I graduated from NDU, a long time... Now, when I review my first days at the University, I was afraid from the new beginning, everyone is eventually! We come from the dependent atmosphere of the school and there you are suddenly independent. But on the contrary, it



turned up to be one of the best experiences I have ever had. All of people I met at NDU were helpful and close, I felt family vibes. Indeed NDU was my second home, and my beloved family. Memories that never end floating my mind, habits of friendship, activities and adventures, sports office, student cabinet... all are pressed in my mind through time, just like wine...Oh yes, I miss my classes, friends, teachers.... My NDU." Tracy is currently working as Sales Coordinator at Paolo Bonjia and has two children, Alessandro and Adriana.

Sandra Younes (BA '01, MMS '08) writes,

"From the moment I enter the main gate of NDU heading towards the campus, I feel I am in paradise! By observing and gazing at a breathtaking motion painting of colorful skies with NDU campus rising and dominating a clear



image, I simply become speechless! I graduated with a BA in Advertising & Marketing, however while I was still at NDU, my professional experience began at Bates Levant Advertising Agency. After my graduation I worked at Grand Hills Village Hotel as Marketing, PR, and Graphic Design Coordinator. In 2003, I joined Publico Advertising Agency with a position of Creative Director handling major clients such as Mouawad Jewellery, Sleep Comfort, RIM water...etc. In 2005, I was offered a job in an international advertising agency Mac M&C Saatchi as Senior Art Director, where I occupy this position to this present day. Along with my advertising field, I have a passion towards drawing and painting as well as teaching art in my own workshop. Last but not least, I will never forget all the qualified, experienced, and helpful teachers throughout my educational experience at NDU as well as the friends I met. Moreover, I will always be grateful and thankful to my family who always motivated me and inspired me to live passionately in the advertising and marketing world."

Rami Khoury (BS '01) writes, "I joined NDU in 1998 as a computer science student; I graduated in August 2001 with a BS in computer science. I joined Soft Management in Beirut as an analyst programmer after my graduation. Then I registered in the Master of CIS program and I took two courses, however a great opportunity came along to join Consolidated Contractors Int'l (CCIC) in Athens. I left Lebanon in July 2003 to my new position in Athens as an IT support

Engineer. When the company had a project in Equatorial Guinea, West Africa, I was approached to be the IT coordinator for this project. I accepted it as a new challenge and I worked there from February 2004 – December 2004. In January 2005, C.C.I.C.



offered me another opportunity to move to "Dubai Mall Project", the largest mall in the world. Currently, I am back in Lebanon with the same company, in the position of Regional Automation Engineer."

Charbel Tannous (BBA '01, MBA '06)

graduated with a BA in International Business Management and directly pursued his MBA degree. His first job training was at BarterCard Int'l for six months before moving to his current position at BEMO Bank. He has been very active in the Sports' Office as he is known to be a tennis trainer and very in touch with the tennis competitions nationally and internationally. Charbel writes, "I am so happy that I chose NDU to be my alma mater. Two years after graduating, I'm even more convinced that NDU business courses are critical to professional success. The faculty members were invaluable in not only being generous with their knowledge but also in helping create the best skill to get there. Moreover, what you acquire outside the classroom at NDU is as important. The social networking precisely makes you be very prepared for life in the work place. "



2002- 2007

Tarek Karam (BA '02) graduated with a BA degree in International Business Management (IBM). He worked in sports media, during his university days, in ART Sports Jeddah, MTV, Radio Delta, Sound of Music, AnNahar, and Al-Balad as a commentator and editor.



Upon graduation, Tarek worked in BarterCard International as trade coordinator and consultant from 2002 till 2005. Then he joined AMC

Advertising In-house Agency for Habtoor Group as account manager in 2005. Tarek decided to move to Future TV as an executive producer for La Youmal and Abu Riad Programs. In 2006, he founded "Rooftop Production House" that started to film and sell comedy programs, ads, documentaries to Future TV. The production house and Tarek being the producer filmed the hit movie of 2007 "Abu Riad Min Addo", one of the highest budgets ever in local cinema. Currently Tarek leads the success of "La Youmal Show" standup comedy in Lebanon, Jordan, KSA, Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait, Europe, Canada and USA. Beside all of this, Tarek has separate business in Abu Dhabi and Amman. Tarek remembers NDU and writes, "NDU? The best days ever of my life, how can I forget the many hours we spent, especially at the Sports Office? Lately, someone asked why I am proud of myself, I answered him enthusiastically. "I simply walk nowadays proudly because I'm an NDU graduate, academically strong and socially stronger."

Carla Matta (BA '03) graduated with a BA in Advertising and Marketing. After she graduated, Carla directly began working in the pest management field. She is still in the same company; however, today she holds the position of Senior Account Executive. She also worked as a radio animator for couple of years and had her own live radio program. The radio activity went in parallel with her professional career. As for the love life, Carla is preparing for her wedding by the end of the summer 2008. Carla writes, "I miss NDU a lot and will soon look forward to the master degree. I spent four years at NDU and I can easily tell how this university is not like any other. Years spent at NDU were such a special experience through which people are not only taught and but also their personalities are formed. NDU is a great life lesson."



Nathalie Baghajian (BA '04) writes, "I graduated from NDU holding a BA degree in education-school counseling. From April till November 2004, I worked at Hyundai Company (sent by the American Lebanese Language Center) teaching English language to the functional members of the company. In 2005, I got my Teaching



Diploma in English from NDU too. During the academic year 2005-2006, I worked as a special educator with a child with autism at Sagesse High School. During the academic year 2006-2007, I worked at CIS (City International School)-Downtown, as a special educator in the ISD (Integration and Support Department), working with elementary students with PDD (Pervasive Developmental Disorder). Meanwhile, I'm pursuing my MA in Special Education at NDU. Along the side, I also worked as a private tutor teaching different subject matters at different levels to school children. Nathalie continues, "I'm happy to work with students with special needs. They definitely need to get education and be part of our society. Like them, students with special needs need special people to value them and devote special hours to make them learn like any other student. I want to address a word of appreciation to my university professors, especially Mr. Simon Abou Jaoude for all the valuable information he gave me about psychology and special education."

Nadine Chelala (BA '06) visits NDU frequently to meet with her professors who she considers as the best in their field of study. She graduated from NDU in Industrial Psychology and waiting desperately to pursue her Masters at NDU. Nadine's first job after graduation was Account Manager at Barid.com. Currently, she is working at Nestle as Administrative Executive. Nadine writes, "NDU has been like a second home to me. It is not a place that you leave behind. The things you learn and the friends you make will always remain with you. NDU shaped my life in many immeasurable ways."



Samer Naoum (BE '07) who does not know him? Ask an administrator, a professor, a staff member or a student, they will definitely tell you, "Samer Naoum is a person for others." He graduated from NDU with a BE degree in Computer & Communication Engineering. While studying at NDU, he was working as the head of the technical department at CompuLeb. Then he established his own work before merging with Data Softener. Directly after



graduation, he was offered a competitive job in IT at the General Secretariat of Catholic Schools, coordinating between 365 schools. Currently he is considering many good offers. Samer sums up his experience saying, "I think NDU is truly the best university in Lebanon. I have had the best times of my life and will always cherish the relationships that I have made. NDU is more than just a university; it is the beginning of a new chapter in my life that I will always refer back in times of challenge and in times of opportunities." Samer holds a national and international reputation as a Basketball entrepreneur and is very active in this field particularly in Lebanon and Jordan.

Rony Issa Khoury (BA '07) graduated in

Radio/TV writes, "I was just reading the Alumni E-newsletter and thought of informing you about my whereabouts, but before that, I read that the Alumni Affairs Office are still working on the NDU Alumni website. I



think that this is a very big step to gather a lot more people which have NDU as their Alma mater. Currently I am living in Los Angeles, California. I am working on an independent contract with Time Warner as Assistant Director, Assistant Producer or Producer depending on the project. It is pretty challenging. The next best step I am hoping for is starting my masters in fine arts degree in film making in the New York film Academy in Los Angeles at Universal Studios this September. Rony continues, "I hope that NDU Alumni will grow even bigger and that everybody remains safe at this unstable time in Lebanon."

Stephanie Faysal (BBA '07) writes, "Usually

I love to write. My only problem at school or with the ENL courses was that when I was asked to write a two-page essay, I could never even limit myself to three. A couple of weeks ago I received a phone call; the voice on the other side



of the phone asked me to write something about myself for the NDU Alumni Newsletter, and because that voice belonged to someone none of us can ever say no to, I immediately accepted and put out a white paper in front of me. This paper stayed white for two weeks. Believe me, it is not an easy task. Where do I start? Well, I majored in Banking & Finance; and I have to admit it was a

three years and a half battle. From BAF 201 I knew that it wasn't the path for me. However I decided that I did not want to lose a year, and therefore I carried on, gave the teachers a hard time, and graduated in February 07. I gave Dubai a try, as most of us did, but two months later I realized that it wasn't really worth it, I didn't need to live there and most importantly, life in Lebanon is way better. Today, I am presenting a TV program on OTV called "Eish Beirut". The program is about the life and nightlife in all of Lebanon. Our objective is to promote the bright and wonderful life of Lebanon and of the Lebanese people. It is not political, it is not social, and it is not economical. We are just showing the world what a wonderful life the Lebanese people lead, and hopefully we'll attract even more tourists. I've wanted to go into television for quite some time now and I am very happy with my current position. My job is tiring, but it's a lot more fun as I get to rediscover Lebanon, from Batroun, Jbeil, to Zahle and the South even, of course a lot of partying is involved!

When I was asked to write in the newsletter, I immediately took the trip down memory lane. Three years and a half; boy did they go by fast! First year was nice; a whole new environment, new people, new challenges; a completely different lifestyle. Second year was the best! You already know everyone, you are no longer looked at as the new student in town, and in my time the elections was pretty alive. And from there, third and fourth year went by with the blink of an eye. So many memories are coming back to me right now; one the best was Founders' Day 2004 – who can forget when the Social Club danced Dabke on stage? 20 of us rehearsed for just one week to the song "Dabkit Loubnan" and performed with no mistakes! We had a blast! And then the day of the elections in 2005; now that is a scene I will never forget! The campus was split into two: the orange team and the red team. Candidates were running around, pulling people over to the voting booths, students minding their own business, others cutting class...

If I wanted to note down all the special days I spent at NDU I would need more than a column in the newsletter...In my opinion, I do not agree when people say: "when you start work, you will wish you were back at university!" As much as I enjoyed my days at NDU, made many friends, and learnt a lot... it is time to move forward! We take what we learn and we apply. The time hasn't come yet for us faculty members to gather around and recall all the wonderful memories. All I can today is to thank Dr Shaffu for bearing with me for two years; I know I gave you a hard time. Dr Tony Khalil, I very much enjoyed my classes with you – Cash is King! I will always remember that!

And Alumni Affairs Office, thank you for giving me this opportunity; it was a blast recalling all those wonderful days!

IN MEMORIAM / *Elias Akiki*

July 2, 2008 is a day I will always remember. It's funny the ways these things hit you.

Just few hours before the accident, I saw Elias waving his hand on his way out from NDU. I wasn't struck by what happened until I arrived to the hospital. I heard Elias' mother saying, "We expect to precede our children in death, then it will be their turn. I never expected that I will be the one to arrange my son's funeral." At the door of the Intensive Care Unit, the security man did not want to let me in. I was able to cut through his authority when I told that I am Elias' professor at the university. Most probably he was touched by my words, so he allowed me in. As I stood near Elias' bed, I whispered fervently, "Don't let it end like this, please say something."

I went back again that same night with Neshan, TV Personality. His brother Shady looked terribly pale and exhausted. It is apparent that he has been without sleep for some time. I was intensely searching for one answer that Elias is going to get better.

I spent the night on the living room couch waiting for any news to come. I was not able to believe it, and I thought this is like some movie. My mind began to wander back over the past few years when I met Elias as a student. I wondered if I will ever see again the color of his eyes and hear the tone of his voice. The next morning I got the unfortunate news; Elias has passed away on July 5, 2008.

His death is a great loss to his family, friends and teachers. He will be missed but not forgotten. Elias is survived by his mother, his brother Shadi and his sister Marianne.



A wise man once said: "We heal but we will remember, and living with the memory is part of healing."

LAST WORD – What are trying to say with these photos?

One of the challenges of photographing the same piece of ground on a daily basis is trying to capture that scene through a new lens. The constant change of a season's light and weather also present us with opportunities to see it differently. The idea occurred to me as I was watching the university photographers taking snapshots during the Commencement. When I asked Abdo Bejjani, one of our known photographers, what is the best moment of photography, he said, "when you are able to freeze memories in time? I can't explain how it works, but I do believe that there are photos that store memories for the rest of our lives." I hope the pictures that you see communicate the real experience of you being there in one whole day. Open your mind, eyes, and soul to what's around you. This is the perspective to life's changes!



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