

ALUMNI E-NEWS

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NDU ALUMNI AFFAIRS OFFICE

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FROM THE PRESIDENT OF NDU

This is another dimension of life at NDU worth celebrating. This issue follows up on an important happening that took place at NDU last December. We are proud of the Alumni we honored at the Alumni Awards 2008 event. The future looks very bright, thanks in no small part to the success stories of our alumni. Speaking at the event, Minister of the Interior Mr. Ziad Baroud addressed the audience, congratulating award recipients, commenting that "there are many who love NDU" and urging NDU Alumni to be catalysts of change.



Since my early days as President of NDU, I have spoken on several occasions and with great pride about how NDU Alumni are making an impact across the country and their breath of influence spans multiple industries, and in all areas of society. What many Alumni are doing moves me to think about our work at NDU. It never fails to astound me that, no matter how different NDU Alumni may be, there is a common line that runs through all their conversations. There is always the talk about how well NDU and its faculty have equipped them for professional pursuits.

Now, more than ever, NDU Alumni can point to their connection with NDU with pride. I hope we can count you among them. We have secured our footing.

Fr. Walid Moussa, MMO

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI AFFAIRS OFFICE

I am happy to report that the Alumni Awards 2008 event was a tremendous success in every sense of the word.

I breathed a sigh of relief when NDU President Fr. Walid Moussa informed me that every one present was extremely pleased with how the event was organized, with the heart-warming stories of award recipients, with the choice of award presenters, with all the NDU community and particularly alumni with whom they interacted. The news media have told us that they too were contented with the organization and the audio-visual facilities and how helpful they found everyone to be at NDU.

In this Alumni E-news issue, you will read the profiles of the awards recipients 2008. Their stories illustrate how NDU has played an important part in their personal and professional lives.

It was not easy to choose among many "very outstanding Alumni in the pool". There are countless Alumni stories like these, stories of great success, which is why we call on each and every alumnus to nominate alumni they consider worthy of an Alumni Recognition Award.

I end my address with this closing thought, inspired by Danny Boyle, the director of the Oscar-winning film "Slumdog Millionaire" when he says, "With every event you make, you have what I call 'the mirror moment' when you look at yourself and you think, "OK, this is the one. What's next?" Hope is a very important part of making any achievement.

Enjoy!

Simon Abou Jaoude

The People of the Event

Below find the profile of the people who communicated an act of love to NDU Alumni in their words, deeds, and actions while preparing and organizing the Alumni Awards 2008 event.

Joelle Rahme (BA '04) graduated with a degree in Radio/TV. Getting an early debut in the spotlight as a professional model and the



title holder of Miss Personality in Miss Lebanon 1998, Joelle started her career as reporter and producer in Orbit TV. She toured with events among which were LUX Fashion World and Best International Airport. In 2005, ANB TV broadcast a series of episodes about Tourism in Lebanon. She was called forth by Rotana TV to present the television music talent show – the X-Factor 2006 and 2007. Currently she hosts a weekly show “Paparazzi” on Abu Dhabi TV and is working as a producer for a soon to-be-aired program. **This year, Joelle might be remembered by many NDU Alumni as the hostess of the “NDU Alumni Awards 2008.”** Most people who attended the Alumni Awards event quickly commented that Joelle Rahme was remarkable. They are right. She is smart, charming and undeniably talented. You’d expect someone with such beauty and success to have an overinflated ego, but by all accounts, she is still the same pleasant girl she was when she left NDU a few years ago.



Elie El-Sema’an (BA ’07) was the director of all the documentaries of the Alumni Awards 2008. A graduate from NDU 2007 with a BA in Radio/TV writes, “Although I graduated from high school with high grades as a science student and everyone around me was expecting me to study engineering, I always saw myself as a director and/or actor! This started when I was back in Canada throughout my elementary school years. I would bring together a group of my friends from school, would come up with a sketch and I would train them and we would act it in all the classes at school. Upon returning to Lebanon I got the opportunity to act in Marwan Najjar’s Min Ahla Byout Ras Beirut while I was still in school. From then I started acting in several local series, among which were: Familia, Ibnat il Moalim, Nidal... In the mean time I was continuing my education at NDU completing a BA in Radio/TV. I was given an offer to direct Zoughaib Jewelry Design’s TV Ad Spiga during my last year at NDU. It was a challenge to me and from then I directed their two other Ads SPIRALE and most recently TEARS! I was fortunate that my projects (Short Films) at NDU got sent to many film festivals in Lebanon and abroad and were successful at many of them. My senior film ‘Ghanile ta Ihlam’ (Sing me to Dream) went to



Monaco Film Festival. I am very happy with the opportunities I got after my graduation and I have enjoyed every project I directed. Currently I am preparing for a few projects which will be executed some time soon! I am very fortunate to be surrounded by many encouraging people who support me in all that I do: Parents, friends and NDU!

Farid Haykal (BA’97) transferred from BUC, now LAU in 1994. He started his professional life as an executive producer at City Films Production. His portfolio includes 200 TV commercials, 8 documentaries and 14 video clips. When asked why he joined NDU as Assistant Director of Admissions in Shouf Campus, he said, “My experience as a student at NDU was invaluable. Faculty members were second-to-none. I look back on my times at NDU as some of the best times I had, both educationally and personally.” Farid’s family life began at NDU where he met his wife Roula Ghanem who is also an NDU graduate. They got married in 1999 and had two kids Yara and Maria. Why stay at NDU when job opportunities are coming his way, Farid smiles, “Seven years sounds nothing in a career but I would like to be part of the success story of this great institution.” Farid is currently the Assistant Director of Admissions at the NDU Main Campus.



Karla Sfeir (BBA ’93) graduated from NDU in 1993 with a degree in Business Administration. She pursued Italian Language studies for four years at the Universita di Sienna. Karla was offered a job at NDU as Administrative Assistant of the Division of Continuing Education (DCE) in December 1993. Her interest in computers encouraged her to complete a diploma from the DCE in Computer Office Applications. In 1998, She started teaching at DCE, English language in all levels - Spoken English, Conversation, Business English, EET/TOEFL Preparation, in addition to training school teachers. To become better prepared to engage in a career in academia, Karla took a Teaching Diploma from NDU in 1998. Moreover, she is working on her thesis to



complete the requirements of Master's in Educational Technology. She started teaching English 105 in fall 2008. Before joining the SAO as Coordinator of Student Activities in 2006, she took up the position of Technical Assistant at the Center of Digitization and Preservation of Old Manuscripts, Office of Research and Development from 2003-2006. Besides her myriad of professional activities, Karla enjoys reading, doing research and clubbing.

Grace Khalil (BA'98, MA'06) graduated

from NDU with a BA degree in Advertising & Marketing and MA in Media Studies, emphasis Journalism. Her career path at NDU started at the Public Relations Office as Placement Officer. In this capacity at the time, she initiated several activities mainly the Job Fair. Pursuing a Master's degree was a wise choice, as in 2007, upon her completion of her Master's degree, she was asked to become the coordinator of the NDU website. In collaboration with a creative team at the Division of Computing Services, Grace revamped the NDU website and was instrumental in developing the Alumni website. Grace comments about her work at NDU, "There are no words to describe how much I feel. NDU impacted my life in a positive way."



Rita Azar (BA '01) smiles directly, "I came to

NDU with a vague vision of what I wanted to do and where I wanted to be. Here I am, proud to be a graduate and at the same time an employee of this place." Rita graduated from NDU with a degree in Hotel Management. She started working while studying at Acropolis Hotel as Reservation Agent. Then she was offered a job at Portemilio as Reservation and Marketing Officer. In 2002, Rita got a phone call for an interview at NDU. Her first job was secretary at the Office of International Relations. Her second job was secretary in the President's Office. Currently Rita holds the position of Administrative Assistant at the Center for Digitization and Preservation.



Nisrine Merhej started working at NDU in 2000 as Secretary at the Registrar's Office. In 2008 she was promoted to the position of

Academic Records Officer.

In addition, Nisrine is pursuing a degree in Advertising & Marketing at NDU. Nisrine says she loves her job. Even after nine years, she can't wait "to get to work everyday." She attributes her enthusiasm to the great ambiance at the Registrar's Office. Prior to coming to NDU, Nisrine worked as accountant at Germani Jewellery and for three years at the Office of the late Deputy Antoine Ghanem.



Here's What You've Missed!!!!

The NDU Alumni Affairs Office organized the Alumni Awards 2008: *The First Time* on Friday December 26, 2008 at 7:00PM at Issam Fares Conference Hall – NDU Main Campus.

The event was attended by Minister of Interior and Municipalities, Mr. Ziad Baroud, in the presence of Fr. Walid Moussa, President of NDU. Dr. Assaad Eid, Vice President for Research and Development; Mr. Suheil Matar, Director of Public Relations; Fr. Bechara Khoury, Director of Finance; Fr. Boutros Tarabay, Fr. Khalil Rahme, NDU Deans, administrators, faculty and staff members. 350 alumni and friends showed up at the event, and they had an astoundingly inspiring good time.



The evening debuted with the magical performance of Amine Hachem (BA '07), tenor studying to become a professional Opera Singer. Amine sang two Neapolitan songs: "O sole mio" and "Funiculi Funicula".



The hostess of the event, Miss Joelle Rahme (BA'04) asserted that only successful people graduate from NDU. This testimonial was seconded in the welcoming address of the Director of Alumni Affairs Office, Mr. Simon

Abou Jaoude, when he said, "NDU is proud to pay tribute to its notable alumni. NDU graduates wear their achievement proudly. This inaugural is going to become an annual event during which the Alumni Affairs Office recognizes NDU Alumni who have distinguished themselves through personal and professional achievements. They are many."

Fourteen graduates were awarded a specially designed figurine, in addition to a certificate. The award recipients included personalities from outside realm of the University. **Minister Ziad Baroud** was among those honored. He delivered one of the impassioned acceptance speeches of the evening, "I am so honored to receive this award from a University which is providing such a positive contribution to our society, as was clearly seen tonight. I am pleased with the event and the allure with which I was received and handled by the people organizing the event. A perfect evening in every sense," he said. He ended his speech with a quote by Abraham Lincoln, "The difference between a man of politics and a man of nation is that the former thinks about the forthcoming election, while the latter reflects on the future generation."

Another award recipient who neatly captured the spirit of the evening was **Mr. Tony Baroud, TV Personality**. He brought a smile to the audience when he said that most people think he is an NDU graduate, because of his spiritual affiliation to the sponsoring society of NDU, the Maronite Order of the Holy Virgin Mary. The fact is that he is a graduate of the Notre Dame Louaize School rather than of the University."

"It's a great time to be an alumnus," said **Fr. Walid Moussa**, President of NDU, in his address, "I'm keen, as I know all of you are, to see where the Alumni will head in the coming years — not only for our current students, but for our university programs, and our University. I am sincerely glad about the decision I took to appoint Mr. Simon Abou Jaoude to the directorship of the Office."



NDU ALUMNI AWARDS RECIPIENTS 2008

The NDU Alumni Award ceremony marked a highly special event in the NDU's Alumni history. For the first time, NDU graduates who distinguished themselves through personal and professional achievements were honored. The personal stories of award recipients beautifully portrayed in short documentaries, were a source of inspiration for the audience and their friends. They were also a source of much pride for NDU's academic family and staff.



If you were one of the more than 350 alumni who attended on campus the NDU Alumni Awards 2008, then you probably have a story or two to tell about reconnecting with friends you hadn't seen for years at the welcome drink, and being moved near to tears by the Alumni Award Recipients acceptance speeches and award presenters through the evening. Award recipients spanned the generations beginning from the first graduating class of 1990-1991 down to the present.



Alumni Awards Recipients 2008 with the respective Award presenters

The event began with the honoring of the NDU Alumni Association's former presidents; Dr. Roch Antoine Mehanna, Mr. Michel Murr and Dr. Najji Sfeir.

Dr. Roch-Antoine T. Mehanna

BBA – Business Marketing (NDU) 1991
MBA – Finance (University of New Orleans)
PHD – Business Strategy (University of Louisiana)

Currently the Director of Graduate Studies, Faculty of Business Administration at NDU

Early on as a student, Dr. Mehanna worked hard to excel in his university studies. He knew that much of life's delights can be best enjoyed when one is well-established. Upon the completion of his higher education, he joined the realm of academia. The Alumni Recognition Award was given to him for his contributions during his mandate as the first President of the Alumni Association.



"Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever." Ghandi

Michel Georges El-Murr

BS – Computer Science (NDU 1992)

Works in the Family Business, owner of one of the well-known libraries in the Kesrwan Region.

Michel was a major contributor to the advancement of the NDU Alumni Association. Despite his many accomplishments as one of the fellow founders and the second President of the Alumni Association, Michel is known for his modesty and recognition of those who have helped him succeed in his mandate. In all his dialogues, he always acknowledges the invaluable role of the close-knit team who worked alongside with him in his mandate, including Elie Boustany, Mona Honein, Elie Nasr, Fadia El-Hajj, Cesar Rechdan, Carole Assaf, Karla Sfeir, Imad Hashem, to name only some.

"Nothing in the world is achieved alone. It is always with others helping us along the way." Lee J. Colan

Naji Joseph Sfeir

BBA – Business Marketing (NDU 1992)
MBA – Business Administration (NDU 1994)



DEA – Marketing (Université Libre de Bruxelles)
PHD – Tourism & Hospitality Management (Université de Perpignan)

Currently teaches at the University of Balamand and manages the family business – Al Medina, a Hotel & Beach Resort.

Naji is one of those individuals with a clear vision in life. He has extraordinarily thoughtful approach. All of his work stems from what one colleague said about him, "his compassion and devotion to anything he does in life." The Alumni Recognition Award was given to him for his contributions during his mandate as the third President of the Alumni Association.

"The roots of achievement lie in the will to become the best that you can become." Harold Taylor

The award presenter was Fr. Boutros Tarabay, MMO, Past President of NDU 1987-1993 and 1999-2005. The NDU Alumni Association was an initiative of his first mandate as President of NDU in 1991-1992. Fr. Tarabay served two terms in office.

For him Alumni events are an ever happier experience, though he cannot remember names.

Robert Mario Ohanessian

BS Computer Science (NDU 1995)

Robert has been living in the UAE since 1997. In 2003, he joined Data Processing Systems (DPS); an aviation company



specialized in airports system integration, which enhances airport safety navigation.

Being a fellow founder of the Alumni group in Dubai, and currently heading the NDU Alumni Group - United Arab Emirates (UAE), Robert received the first Recognition Alumni Award for the UAE group for his hard work in revitalizing the UAE group. He has been actively involved in the NDU Alumni community, UAE since 2000. In all his conversation, he always acknowledges the invaluable role of the team which initiated the Alumni group in Dubai and Abu Dhabi.

The award presenter was Mrs. Mona Kana'an, General Secretary of the NDU Board of Trustees, Chairperson of the

Development Committee of the Board of Trustees. Mrs. Kana'an is known for her expertise in the circle of Alumni particularly affiliated with the AUB Alumni Association.

Nicole Edmond Tohme

BA – Journalism (NDU 2002)
MA – Media Studies /Journalism (NDU 2004)



Nicole is currently working as a journalist in Al-Nahar Newspaper. She practices the gathering and dissemination of information about current events, trends, issues, and people through a special programme "Absar" designed for visually impaired individuals.

What distinguishes Nicole is that she is visually impaired from birth. Her determination and the support she got from her parents, from NDU and from the late deputy Mr. Gebran Tueini show that disability need not be the end of the world but is the start of a new one.

The award presenter was Mr. Ghassan Hajjar, Chief Editor, NAHAR ASH SHABAB and An Nahar Youth and Education Pages editor. Mr. Hajjar mentioned how Nicole was admitted to Annahar by the late Gibran Tueini, for her determination to succeed, her quality work and contributions to the Newspaper.

"And now here is my secret, a very simple secret; it is only with the heart that one can see rightly, what is essential is invisible to the eye." Antoine de Saint-Exupery

Cynthia Jabbour Sfeir

BA – Business Economics (LAU '91)

MBA –(NDU '97)
Cynthia started working in the Business Office at NDU in



1991. Currently she assumes the capacity of

Head Accountant. Though Cynthia has been keeping a low profile, she has leveraged her career to the advantage of the University. Cynthia also volunteers her time, energy, and knowledge in assisting the Alumni Affairs Office in financial matters.

The award presenter was Fr. Bechara Khoury, MMO, NDU Director of Finance. Having been the Director of Student Affairs, Fr. Khoury understands students' needs and works on helping them with their difficulties in his current capacity of Director of Finance.

"The face is the mirror of the mind, and eyes without speaking confess the secrets of the heart." St. Jerome

Annette Maalouf Rami

BBA – Business Marketing (NDU 1991)

Annette belongs to the first graduating class of NDU. She started her career as marketing manager in a computer company working for six years. She, then, moved on to establishing along with her brother the well known Casper & Gambini. With her husband, she put together Water Lemon, Café Blanc and Living Colors. Annette's innovative concept of café-restaurant earned her an international reputation, for she was chosen one of the fifty top business women in the Middle East. When asked about the measure of success, Annette said, "Everyone measures it differently. For me, it combines a wonderful family and a good career." Family is the basis of her life, and she raises her children to always stand together, just like her family.



The award presenter was Dr. Roy Khoueiry, Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Business Administration & Economics. Dr. Khoueiry knew Annette well during her residency as a student at NDU. She was a financial aid student assistant in his office when he was the Dean of the Faculty.

Avoiding the phrase "I don't have time..." will soon help you to realize that you do have the time needed for just about anything you choose to accomplish in life.

Ziad Jean Akl

MA – International Law (NDU 2004)
MA – Public Administration (NDU 2005)

Head of YASA Group

With a group of friends, Ziad started an awareness project aiming at safety promotion and injury prevention soon after the tragic death of Tarek Assi in 1994, a 19 year-old university student. This project was registered as the Youth Association for Social Awareness (YASA) – a non-profit non-Governmental Organization (NGO) – in Lebanon in 1996. In 2001, YASA International started its work through participating and organizing events and programs aiming towards safety awareness in various Arab countries. Over the recent years, YASA International has also played an active role in the preparation of many laws and regulations related to public safety in various Arab countries. Ziad spoke of how his thesis topics in both of his Master's degrees were instrumental in bringing life to many of the concepts adopted by YASA.



The award presenter was Mrs. Nelly Alam, a mother of two NDU students who passed away in a car accident on their way back home on the Batroun Highway.

They were dead on the scene. She urged the audience, mostly Alumni, to drive safely. "You're not supposed to live longer than your son, let alone two of them. It's not supposed to be like this," she said.

"The world desperately needs men and women of competence and conscience who generously give of themselves." Fr. Deignan, SJ

Mark Rafik Kozah

Bachelor in Engineering – Mechanical Engineering (NDU 1999)

Mark has had a remarkable career as a professional basketball player. His playing skills propelled him to be on the Basketball National team. Everyone comments on his serious attitude



during the game. However, being tough is one thing, but when playing solid doesn't come at the price of consistency and longevity, that is something to take note of.

Mark's remarkable basketball skills did not prevent him from establishing himself as an engineer. In fact, he is currently the Head of the Mechanical Engineering at SEG-Lebanon.

Mark is emotionally tough, physically tough, and spiritually tough.

The award presenter was Mr. Tony Baroud, former member of the Lebanese national basketball team. He is now a sports commentator and a TV entertainer with the Lebanese Broadcasting Corporation (LBC). In his presentation, Tony remarked, "What I like about sports is the sense of community and the shared emotions they can create."

"Most people have the will to win; few have the will to prepare to win." Bobby Knight

Hilda Georges Khalife

BA – Advertising / Marketing (NDU 1997)

Hilda is one of Lebanon's most famous TV personalities. Her career is riding high. Her professional and



witty presentation of the Star Academy Program has undoubtedly brought her more fame. Hilda has an outgoing personality and a lively smile that lights her attractive face which is charmingly framed by dark hair. Stretching all the way back to her university years, Hilda won the title of Miss NDU in 1994, before making her debut in the world of television on LBCI. Hilda is a woman of satin and steel!

The award presenter was Mr. Simon Abou Jaoude, Director of Alumni Affairs Office. He has known Hilda in the different capacities he has assumed at NDU; He remembers her as a student in one of his psychology classes, the moment she was crowned Miss NDU, her debut on LBCI, and her acquired notoriety in presenting several TV shows.

"For every beauty there is an eye somewhere to see it. For every truth there is an ear somewhere to hear it. For every love there is a heart somewhere to receive it."

Johnny Antoine Ibrahim

BBA – Business Management (NDU '91)
MBA & MIAD (NDU '94)
MA– Diplomacy (Mediterranean Academy for Diplomatic Studies)
MA- Public Administration (Ecole Nationale D'Administration -France)
LLM – International Criminal Law, Leiden University, Netherlands)



You can clearly perceive Johnny's love for his alma mater in his words; you can also see it in his actions. With a CV like his, Johnny Ibrahim's accomplishments have been a result of hard work and diligence. Still with a full-load at work, Johnny has plenty to keep him occupied at home. There, his biggest fans are his wife Maya and his two children. Face of Character was the title of his documentary in the event, during which you should have heard what he said, "Two truths are worth remembering; Lebanon is our country and I want my children to stay here."

"The more I learn, the more I realize how ignorant I am" Albert Einstein

Ara Boghos Khatchadourian

BBA – Economics (NDU 1996)
MA – International Relations (LAU)

Currently pursuing Executive MBA at Ecole Superieure des Affairs.

Ara's gracious persona has clearly played a substantial role in his career, as he always prides himself on being an NDU graduate. His future looks bright, to say the least.

"Sometimes a slow gradual approach does more good than a large gesture."

Craig Newmark

Fadi Joseph Ziadeh

BBA – Business Marketing (NDU) 1996
MBA – International Relations

Fadi is a public persona par excellence. He knows how to steal the spotlight. If you've seen him in action, you will understand how his university days were spent. He was littered with questionable choices. No matter where he has worked as a consul, Fadi has gained a great reputation in the different destinations.



"Whatever you are by nature, keep to it; never desert your line of talent. Be what nature intended you for and you will succeed." Sydney Smith

The award presenter was Mr. Suheil Matar, Director General for Public Relations. Mr. Matar has been a major contributor to the NDU family and its academic establishment. He never wasted an opportunity to bring NDU into the spotlight and work towards its growth and prosperity. He has helped bring together the NDU Alumni abroad. Mr. Matar manages to prompt us to action on every special occasion with his moving speeches, as he did when he presented the three consuls at the Alumni Awards Ceremony.

Youssef Sami Haddad

BBA – Business Management (NDU 1991)
MBA – Business Administration (NDU 1994)

Probably one of the most

appealing things about Joe Haddad is the fact that he appears to be at peace with his position in life. We knew he had talent, but becoming the youngest major in the history of the Lebanese Army speaks volumes about his maturity and leadership at such a young age. Joe Haddad is moving onward and upward quickly.



The award presenter was Mrs. Lea Eid, Registrar, one of the pillars of NDU. She joined the university early on to shoulder one of the most difficult tasks. Mrs. Eid brought into being the Registrar's Office as we know it today. Her diligent work and her commitment to excellence

have kept NDU at the forefront of the universities in Lebanon and abroad. In her award presentation speech, Mrs. Eid assured Alumni that she evaluates her performance through the Alumni success stories.

"People grow through experience if they meet life honestly and courageously. This is how character is built." Eleanor Roosevelt



ALUMNI By CHOICE

In one of her addresses, Mrs. Lea Eid, NDU Registrar, said, (I quote): "Today as I was looking out of my office window. I saw students moving across the campus and I wondered, 'What do they find here?' Unless you were a student or graduate of NDU, you would have spend long wrestling with that question." Mrs. Eid is right. NDU has become a university of choice. Responsive student support system has contributed in building up in every graduate a sense of belonging to his/her alma mater.

One week after the Alumni Awards Ceremony, a spate of instant articles appeared in various magazines. Most repeated the same clichés about the event. What a huge surprise it had been and the award titled as "Alumni by Choice" attracted much attention. The award was for those who did not study in NDU. It could be a friend, a business associate, even a beloved sibling or spouse. They are special to the Alumnus/Alumna. They even share the spirit of NDU. They believe in the university and what it stands for. Even so, at times, they still feel like outsiders looking in, with no official ties to the

university. An initiative of the NDU Alumni Awards decided to change all that.

Names of Alumnus-to-be were sent by e-mail: alumni.affairs@ndu.edu.lb to the Alumni Affairs Office, explaining why the nominees deserve the award. The following two nominees were awarded **"alumnus-by-choice"** and **"alumna-by-choice"**.

The award presenter was Mrs. Nicole Bardawil Abi Younes (MBA '08), Miss Lebanon '93.

Mr. Tony Baroud,

former member of the Lebanese national basketball team. He is now a sports commentator and a



TV entertainer with the Lebanese Broadcasting Corporation (LBC). In his acceptance speech, Tony brought a smile to the audience when he said that most people thinks he is an NDU graduate, because of his spiritual affiliation to the sponsoring society of NDU, the Maronite Mariamite Order. In fact he is a graduate of the Notre Dame Louaize School rather than of the University."

Mrs. Nancy Zakharia Ohanessian

was nominated by her husband Robert Ohanessian. In his letter, Robert said that the reason behind her nomination is Nancy's commitment and enthusiasm to assist in



any NDU Alumni event as if she were a part of NDU. She always encouraged him in whatever gathering, activity or meeting with the alumni.

In her acceptance speech, Nancy who was totally taken by surprise, mentioned that she met her husband Robert for the first time at an NDU gathering. Though she is an LAU graduate and an active member in the LAU chapter in the UAE, she feels taken by the spirit of NDU.

2008 EDITION - TOP 50 ALUMNI LIST

Notre Dame University (NDU) is the Alma Mater for around nine thousand students. NDU has seen a number of its graduates progress to make a great impact in the workplace... We can't recognize all the nine thousand of past

students who have contributed so greatly to the reputation NDU now enjoys. However, we hope that their love and belongingness to NDU may continue and develop.

With the American Presidential Election behind us and the Lebanese Parliamentary Election in front of us, it's time for the biggest nomination of the year 2008: that one which will determine the "Top 50 most notable Alumnus (Male) of the year 2008" and the "Top 50 most notable Alumnae (female) of the year 2008". The list of nominees was compiled on the basis of NDU Alumni nominations. Alumni were asked to look beyond their personal preferences to pick Alumni who have the characteristics that portray NDU Alumni's core values and NDU's mission. Every alumni member was able to nominate one Alumnus and one Alumna – definitely not himself/herself - and comment on why this person should be on the list. Alumni submitted their nominations by e-mail to alumni.affairs@ndu.edu.lb containing the name of the alumnus and the alumna along with the reasons why they deem him and her so.

The names were revealed in random order, except for the Top three names, during the NDU Alumni Awards 2008 which was held on Friday December 26, 2008 at 7:00PM in Issam Fares Conference Hall, NDU Main Campus.

TOP 50 ALUMNAE LIST in random order

Mariana Angelini, Joyce Bou Sader, Karla Sfeir, Pamela Girgi, Nathalie Kallassy, Carole Assaf, Berthe Barakat, Joyce Jammal, Betty Hindi, Yvonne El-Hachem, Mona Zgheib, Danielle Khalil, Sherine Keyrouz, Lina Rahme, Christy Mady, Grace Ayanian, Pauline Sawaya, Stephanie Faysal, Tracy Damien, Sarya Rahme, Ghada Chidiac, Liliane Boustany, Nicole Bardawil, Valerie Aoun, Zeina Khoury, Jennifer Matta, Aline Helou, Angy Akly, Joana Nakhil, Fadia El-Hajj, Sandra Khoury, Nelly Derghazarian, Sandra Haddad, Cynthia Filian, Rania Sabeh, Stephanie Faysal, Amy Aoun, Pia Zeinoun, Jennifer Matta, Corine Farhat, Juliana Hawi

- Top 1 - Myrna Khayat
- Top 2 – Ward El-Khal
- Top 3 – Celine Zeinoun



*The runner-ups are:
Nicole Bardawil, Karla Sfeir and Betty Hindi*

TOP 50 ALUMNI LIST in random order

Dany Chakhtoura, Fady Elie Kana'an, Cesar Reshdan, Roland Khoury, Maher Khawkhaji, Jad Bechara, Elie Nasr, , Waleed Nassif, Ramzi Hage, Ghassan Beyrouthy, Marwan Keyrouz, Jihad Karam, Emile Moukarzel, Eddy Boueiz, Souhad Bou Chabke, Elie Hanna, Antoine Zarifeh, Rabih Farhat, Elie Daou, Nohra Beaini, Halim Masrouha, Farid Haykal, Joe Baroud,, Bassem Ghaoui, Tarek Karam, Jean Pierre Keyrouz, Abdo Ghaoui, Wissam Sfeir, Rock Hakim, Alain Rahi, Joe Saliba, Roger Jabaly, Rabih Dib, Sam Lahoud, Lucien Bou Rjeily, Yves Sfeir, Roy Malkoun, Sam Lahoud, Georges Abou Ghosh, Marc Mouawad, Elie Jurascovitch, Elie Sayegh, Ziad Zoghbi, Habib Rahal, Elie Matar, Nehman Hachem, Ziad Matar.

- Top 1 & 2- two nominees with equal voting: Hady Hajjar & Youssef El-Khal
- Top 3 – Peter Tawk



*The runner-ups are:
Dany Chakhtoura, Roger Jabaly and Nohra Beaini*



MARK YOUR DIARY!

Alumni Gathering in Qatar

Following the successful gatherings in Dubai and Abu Dhabi, the Alumni Affairs Office has decided to increase its regional visits and this time heading out to Qatar around April/May. The exact date and venue of the event will be announced soon. Hopefully it is going to be as fruitful and as successful as that of the UAE.



In order to help out in making it an event with a broad turnout, we require everyone's help in building up a database, of the NDU Alumni residing and working in Qatar. If you are one of the Alumni in Qatar, please help us identify your fellow NDU Alumni working in the GCC state with you; and if you have a friend who works in Qatar, kindly provide us with his name and contacts.

Your contribution will aid us in informing the greatest number of **NDU Alumni in Qatar** about the gathering, which will give them a glimpse into their beautiful, and sometimes bitter, memories at NDU and of Lebanon. Thank you in advance for your time and cooperation.

Alumni Sports Teams

NDU graduates have great potential and we would like to explore this in all ways possible, not merely at the academic and career levels. Get ready to break your daily home routines and have your bodies become fit in doing some fun exercising the NDU Alumni way! For all those who were part of the NDU Basketball Team and NDU Football Team while studying at NDU, your sporting days are not over now that life has opened its arms for you and you are done with your student lives. The NDU Alumni can be part of the excitement of the sports events by joining the NDU Alumni basketball or football teams.

Targeting further promotions of the NDU Alumni, the Alumni Affairs Office have decided to launch the NDU Alumni Basketball Team and NDU Alumni Football Team, which will be competing against other Alumni teams from well-renowned universities such as AUB, LAU, USEK and others. We invite each and every one of you to join in and make our Alumni an active entity among other Alumni bodies in the country, while reliving happy memories and creating new ones in a high-paced lifestyle that fast forwards our lives without our realization.



All those interested in helping us out, please contact the NDU Alumni Affairs Office or the NDU Sports Office, (Mr. Georges Nader and/or Mr. Elias Boutros) to sign in their names and be among the very first members who make up the very first NDU Alumni basketball team or football team. We keenly await your enthusiastic responses and participation.

Alumni Affinity Card

The NDU Alumni Affairs Office in partnership with Byblos Bank s.a.l. created the **NDU Alumni / Byblos Bank Affinity Credit Card**. It is a product offered exclusively to NDU graduates. For every new card that is taken and every purchase made with the Affinity Credit Card, NDU Alumni will be investing in funds to help in future projects and many potentially successful programs for the advancement of NDU Alumni.

The signing event was held on Tuesday, February 17, 2009 in the President Office. The launching ceremony will take place in the coming three months.

The characteristics, facilities, benefits and services of the Affinity card will soon be posted on the NDU Alumni website which can be accessed through the NDU website.

A part of the fees generated by this card will be donated for the development of the Alumni



"Carry the Affinity Card wherever you go and show with pride the world where you've been."

The NDU Alumni Affairs Office would like to take this opportunity to thank Fr. Bechara Khoury for support, Mrs. Cynthia Sfeir for her invaluable effort and Mrs. Rose Mady for her dedication. We raise our hat to the professionalism of Mr. Georges Fares, Miss Rima El Kalai and Mr. Marc Salameh From Byblos Bank.

A Play at NDU

The **Reign of Karakouch** is a modern interactive theater piece that explores the many topics involving the Lebanese society. The play is written by Dr. Mansour Eid, directed by Sam Lahoud and produced by Notre Dame University (NDU) with the participation of a distinguished group of NDU Radio/TV students.

The play stars by: Mr. Mounir Kesserwani, Salim Haber, Yara Younes, Shady Richa, Tony Akiki, and Rania Khoury.

The opening night will be on Friday February 27, 2009 and the play will be played every Friday and Saturday at 8:30 and Sunday at 5:30 at Issam Fares Hall - NDU Main Campus. All alumni are invited to attend any of the performing nights; those interested are kindly asked to contact the NDU Alumni Affairs Office (09-218950 - ext: 2303) or the NDU Audio Visual Facilities (09-218950- ext: 2389 / 2387)



NDU at the International Year of Astronomy 2009

The International Year of Astronomy 2009 is a global attempt initiated by the International Astronomical Union (IAU) and UNESCO to "help the citizens of the world rediscover their place in the Universe through the day- and night-time sky, and thereby engage a personal sense of wonder and discovery.



On the 20th of February, at 7:00 pm, the Opening Ceremony of the International Year of Astronomy (IYA) 2009 in Lebanon started with the Lebanese National Anthem, under the patronage of H.E. Mrs. Bahia Hariri, Minister of Education and Higher Education. 2009 was declared the IYA by the UN General Assembly upon the recommendation of the International Astronomical Union and UNESCO to commemorate the first time a man pointed a telescope to the sky. That was Galileo Galilei in 1609. The IYA means also to celebrate 400 years of astronomical discoveries brought by the telescope, and the contributions of Astronomy to Human Culture. Lebanon astronomy community did not want to stay aside. It gathered and formed a committee with the support of the Lebanese National Council for Scientific Research. This organizing committee for the IYA 2009 includes two NDU members, Dr. Bassem Sabra and Dr. Roger Hajjar, who is also the coordinator of the National Committee and the Single Point of Contact for Lebanon vis-à-vis the International Secretariat for the year. NDU confirms once again, in this way, its pioneering role in the development of astronomy in Lebanon.

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