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president's message

Father WALID MOUSSA
President, NDU

NDU in North America!

While much has been written about the growing value in preparing students for living and working in an international social and cultural context, Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) has actively engaged in adapting its programs and the composition of its faculty and students toward internationalizing its campus. Various plans and actions have been implemented. New faculty members from different backgrounds have been recruited; cross-border initiatives targeted at building an international platform have been launched. These include: cooperation and development projects, institutional agreements and networks, mobility of faculty through exchange (field work, sabbaticals, and consulting work), recruitment of international students (student exchange programs and semester abroad), twinning partnerships, and joint research.

To ensure that students from all backgrounds have the opportunity to attend NDU, we established two foundations in North America: one in the United States (AFNDU) and another in Canada (CFNDU). Both foundations help develop partnerships between NDU and North American universities, corporations, community groups, friends, and alumni to assist the University in its mission for diversity and world-class education.

In our *Strategic Plan 2015-2020*, growth is a major driver, particularly in the areas of the core curriculum, advancement, and infrastructure. The Liberal Art Curriculum (LAC) program has been revised not only to help students understand the international core issues, challenges, and potentials but also to develop intercultural skills and critical thinking necessary for life-long learning competencies. Also, new buildings and impressively equipped housing facilities have been added only to ensure that international students enjoy an environment conducive to learning.

This issue of the *Chronicle* is released just as the University takes a new leap ahead in its outreach plan. On March 1, 2017, NDU appointed the Director of Development in North America Mr. Fady Garabet, a friend of NDU, who shall perform his duties with the

promptness and diligence expected of an experienced and committed administrator. The outreach efforts to date reveal a snapshot of what has been achieved in fostering the international community at NDU. The successes that have taken place, amid rapid changes, will serve as the foundation for more endeavors. As President of NDU, I look forward to 2018 with great optimism. I am equally certain that the continuing momentum of NDU's outreach plans in North America will yield results in the coming years that are even more significant.

outreach

Director of Development in North America

On April 12, 2017, the President appointed **Mr. Fady Garabet** as Director of Development in North America. Announcing the appointment, the President wrote:

" Dear NDU Community,

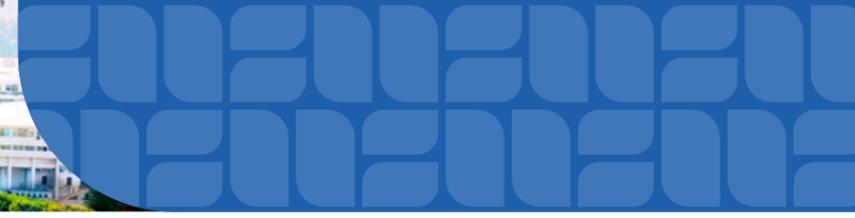
Recognizing the need to launch and lead the development plans and activities in both the United States of America and Canada, I am pleased to announce the appointment of **Mr. Fady Garabet** as **Director of Development in North America**. In this capacity, Mr. Garabet will plan, develop, coordinate, and implement short- and long-term development plans, pertaining to grants and scholarship programs, student exchange, cooperative relationships, and planned giving campaigns. These tasks cannot be done without the full support and involvement of the NDU leadership and the community at large. It is worth noting that our *Strategic Plan 2015-2020* calls for the establishment of the Office of Development in North America, and I am confident that this Office will serve the mission of our University.

Please join me in congratulating **Mr. F. Garabet** on his appointment, and in welcoming him to the NDU community."

Mr. Garabet's Biography

Holds an MBA in Economics and Finance; currently pursuing a PhD in Finance.

As a seasoned executive with over 30 years of experience, Mr. Garabet held various management positions across different industries including manufacturing, software development and marketing in the United States and Lebanon. His extensive record



of achievements in negotiations, public relations, planning, and implementation got him involved in creating and launching many business plans across the U.S., Canada, Australia, Germany, and Lebanon. His managerial and computer skills in Business and IT, along with his excellent communication skills enabled him to develop, resolve, and manage business and technical problems.

Mr. Garabet is the author of several research papers in technology, manufacturing, marketing and retail management. He is also the winner of the Silver Massabki Brothers Medallion – 2009, a board member of the National Apostolate of the Maronites (NAM), and the chair of the Joseph F. Garabet Charitable Foundation.



Mr. Fady Garabet

International Students' Testimonies

As part of its expanding outreach programs, Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) continues to encourage and celebrate diversity on campus. The University gathers international students from different cultural, religious, geographic, and socio-economic backgrounds, and provides them with the opportunity to develop a greater understanding of the world outside their immediate environment. Below are what some of more students had to say about NDU.

Ahmed Abou Taleb, Egyptian Mechanical Engineering, NDU

It is a certainty that university-level education represents a qualitative change in every student's life due to the big differences between school and university. I can attest to this fact, following my more than one-half years' experience with professors and fellow students. Although I was born and raised in Lebanon, I never felt like a stranger even though I am from another country (Egypt). The remarkable life on campus is due to the efforts of the University administration, which has our welfare in mind and seeks to bring out and develop our hidden talents. The University has given me a lot; it gives me confidence in myself and enriches my mind to help me build a better future. I have only love and gratitude for NDU.



Ahmed Abou Taleb

Gabriella Koussa, American Special Student, NDU

My semester at NDU has been nothing short of an amazing experience thus far. The transition from the United States to Lebanon as a whole was a lot less stressful than I thought, simply because of how welcoming the people are here. I am a Biology major with a pre-dental concentration at Denison University, home of an exceptional biology department, and the Biology courses here have exceeded my expectations in rigor as well as lab experience. Studying abroad was not an easy choice, and I had many different countries to choose from, but I am sure I made the right choice by coming to NDU. It has been a blessing to be able to be in a learning environment while connecting with my heritage. The people I have met and the places I have visited are only a part of what the next three months has to offer, and I am very excited for what is next to come!



Gabriella Koussa

Hanan Slivo, Syrian English Language, NDU

This is my third year at NDU as an English Literature student. I will be graduating next spring. I am honored to be an NDU student. NDU is a prominent university with regard to the high-quality education and the academic facilities that it provides. The University also contains an impressive and abundant library staffed by helpful employees. Also, the Antoine bookshop is also well stocked with important books. The professors



Hanan Slivo

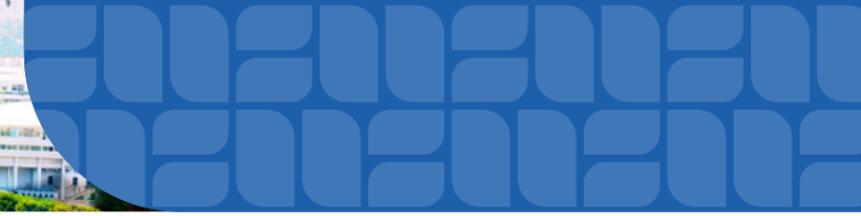
lecturing in my field of major and in the GERs are exceedingly professional and highly-respected individuals. The NDU Cafeteria is well equipped and serves decent meals; however, some food prices are a bit high. I feel that the University still needs to provide a green area with a substantial number of benches as a stimulus for students to study. Nevertheless, NDU will remain a paramount university where many students dream of continuing their academic pursuits.

Philippe Stephan, Chilean International Business Management, NDU

Time has gone by very fast. I can't imagine that I will be graduating from NDU a year from today. Studying at NDU has been a great experience!



Philippe Stephan



The way in which you mature and find out who you really are is something you can't accomplish without going to a university. I have learned and experienced so many new things in such a short period of time. I am still discovering all the opportunities that NDU offers me. I have made many new friends from different backgrounds. NDU has offered me the opportunity for global exposure. I thank my instructors and my advisor who are always try looking out for my best interest and are so supportive that I find myself gaining more interest in my major with each passing day. Students, moreover, are treated equally and discrimination or judgment is not tolerated. NDU taught me that we are all human beings despite our religious and cultural differences, and that we have to accept one another. Life at NDU is a great experience, and I plan to get the most out of my remaining year.

Zeina Sabbah, Jordanian Interior Design, NDU

Starting a new life away from home seemed to be the most challenging task there is. Leaving my family and friends was not easy, but NDU was what got me through it. Spending the past two years here, NDU became my home away from home. Aside from the excellent academics, which pushed me to expand in knowledge and attachment to my major, my journey at NDU was accompanied by meeting new people who made me feel at ease. I can proudly say that NDU was the right choice for me and made living abroad a great experience!



Zeina Sabbah

**WASHINGTON D.C., Office Report
By Haley Kalil, Coordinator
February 2017**

The focus of my time for the past several weeks has been to utilize LinkedIn to connect with Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) alumni living in the United States of America. In doing a little research, I discovered that on LinkedIn, I could search for and isolate people who self-select NDU alumni as well as pinpoint their geographic location. Using this group of about 350 individuals, I have been working my way through the list and have individually messaged about 150 people so far, telling them about our mission to unite alumni living in the U.S. to encourage networking, reconnecting, and promoting NDU as well as asking them to join the newly-created NDU Alumni in the USA group. So far, I have had tremendous success and there has been much interest despite the manual process of setting up the group and contacting all these people individually.

I am excited to share that thus far, I have around 40 members in a private LinkedIn group for NDU alumni living in the U.S. Also, I have many people who have expressed their support and willingness to help in any way. I would like to share with you a sampling of some of the correspondence I have received.

Additionally, now that we have a decent-sized group going, I have started to float around the idea of a meet and greet happy hour in D.C., and also in other geographic locations in the U.S. where group members want to assemble and host their own happy hours. With such a great response and many alumni who are excited to reconnect here in the USA, I am hoping these kinds of events will start taking place across the country.

Kindly see below some of the messages I have received in response to the creation of the group and the reconnection of NDU alumni in the USA. Needless to say, I am excited to continue building this group over the coming weeks and getting dialogues and events going for this group.

- Hi Haley! Wow that would be great! Keep up the good work.

- Haley,
Thanks for reaching out. Lovely to see the initiative. I myself am heading the alumni for my master school (tuhh) and find it so hard for people to respond.

- Looking forward to future communication.

- This is great! I am very excited to be part of the alumni network!

- Oh, that is so great. Thanks for the invitation. Let me know if I can help in any way.

- Yes sure. Please let me know if I can help with anything!

- That's awesome! Thank you - I am willing to help... would love to know more.

- Nice to hear from you. Looking forward to the invitation.

- Hi Haley!
Thank you for connecting. I'll be happy to join the NDU alumni, and let me know if I can do anything to help. Thanks.

- Hi Haley,
Thank you for reaching out. This is excellent; please let me know if I can help.

- I am available to help for anything needed for the NDU USA Alumni group.

- Hello Haley!
I would love to join.

- Hi Haley,
I will be glad to join the NDU alumni group. Thank you for the invitation.

- Hello Haley,
Thank you for you message, it very important for me as well to build connections related to my own University here in the U.S.

- I am seeking employment at the moment and I'm pretty sure you will be a great help.

- Hello,
Hope this message finds you well. Yes for sure! Just let me know what I have to do, NDU has all my support.

NDU Alumni Association Committee

Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) President Fr. Walid Moussa received in his office on Tuesday, December 20, 2016, at 11:00 a.m., the newly-elected nine-member team that makes up the NDU Alumni Association committee. Fr. Moussa warmly congratulated the new association members and wished them every success in their future endeavors.



NDU Alumni Association Committee

The committee comprises of: Cesar Rechdan; Tony Cid; Nicole Bardawil; Elie Nasr; Dani Azzi; Ali Darwish; Mario Bou Ghosn; Peter Tawk; and Jad Ghanem.

The Alumni Association at NDU, which was created to foster a spirit of loyalty and to promote the general welfare of the University, continues to grow (membership currently stands at 17,381) and is spread in Lebanon, the Middle East, the Americas, and around the world. Former graduates, who are enjoying successes due to their talents and the high-quality education they received at NDU, are always in the minds and hearts of University officials and faculty members.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) alumni were pioneers in establishing an NDU Alumni Chapter outside Lebanon. Work has begun to establish other chapters in different countries, namely, Afghanistan; Australia; Bahrain; Canada; Egypt; France; Fujairah; Jordan; Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; Kuwait; Oman; Qatar; Switzerland; Syria; UAE (Abu Dhabi and Dubai); United Kingdom; and the United States of America. Also, the Washington, D.C., Office continues to promote NDU's distinctive educational values and goals in the USA.



Campus Activities

10th NDU International Film Festival

The "10th Notre Dame University–Louaize International Film Festival (NDUIFF)" was held on November 6, 2016, in the Bechara el-Rai Theater at the NDU main campus.



The NDUIFF rolled out its red carpet in honor of internationally acclaimed Lebanese director, screenwriter, and actor Nadine Labaki. In attendance were more than 600 guests, including actors, directors, producers, major players in the film industry, and NDU students.



In celebration of its 10th anniversary, the NDUIFF introduced the 'Golden Olive Award,' which not only reflects the physical environment at NDU but also reflects a great part of the Lebanese-Mediterranean culture given that the olive tree symbolizes all that is evergreen, generous, wise, and mature.

NDU in the Global Business News

Lebanon's Business Community Can Act as a Catalyst for Peace in the Middle East, Concludes Beirut Forum

Lebanon is on the front line of some of the world's most intractable conflicts. Syria lies to the north and east, and Israel, which Lebanese euphemistically call "our southern neighbor," is to the south. Yet this small republic of 4.5 million people is today a relative oasis of peace, despite a civil war that lasted from 1975 to 1990 and claimed 120,000 lives. Muslims, Maronite Christians and Shi'ite Hezbollah paramilitary forces (the occasional target of Israeli rocket attacks) live side by side. At the same time, one in five people in Lebanon is a Syrian or Palestinian refugee.

Lebanon is sometimes known as the Switzerland of the Middle East, and could be a catalyst for peace in the whole region. The business community plays a crucial role in providing the conditions for peace, through job creation and economic security. The coastal capital, Beirut, acts as a focus for the nation's tourism, banking, commerce and agricultural sectors. Can it also be a center for "a moral capitalism?" Is a thriving, moral capitalism possible at a time when the Lebanese economy is stalled? This was the question posed by a two-day conference hosted by Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) between March 8 and 9, 2017.

The aim was to promote best practices among business leaders and entrepreneurs, and to encourage Lebanon's participation in the UN Global Compact. It also aimed to revive the Swiss-based Caux Round Table (CRT) group of business executives in Lebanon, represented at the conference by Minnesota-based businessman Robert MacGregor. Some 80 business students and a similar

number of media students took part at the conference alongside the business men and women, bankers, journalists, and broadcasters.



Dean of the Faculty of Humanities at NDU Dr. Kamal Abochedid and Chairholder of the Benedict XVI Endowed Chair of Religious, Cultural and Philosophical Studies at NDU Dr. Edward Alam welcomed the international participants. The NDU Faculty of Business Administration and Economics (FBAE), in collaboration with MA'AM (the Islamic-Christian Forum for Businessmen), and Initiatives of Change (IoC) co-hosted the event. Dr. Alam, FBAE Dean Yussef Zgheib, NDU Business Administration and Economics lecturer Omar Sakr, and NDU Associate Professor of Political Science Eugene Sensenig organized and facilitated the entire conference.

Antoine Frem, chairman of Indevco Management Resources, part of an international industrial conglomerate, said in his opening remarks, "Business needs a moral compass ... It is better for you to fail with honor than to succeed with fraud." Corruption, rife in political and business circles, needed to be eliminated, he urged. "We need a Davos of values," he said, referring to the World Economic Forum that meets in Davos, Switzerland, each year. NDU Faculty of Engineering (FE) Assistant Professor Sofia Ghanimeh saw climate change as "the most pressing issue the world faces," while Area General Manager of Phoenix, a member company of the Indevco group, Rabih Osta emphasized the progress that Lebanon was making toward renewable energy resources by 2020. The company had acquired solar water heaters from The

Netherlands and Lebanon aimed to reduce landfill to below 10 percent of waste through recycling. He said the need was for a "servant leadership."

Head of Business Programs at IoC in the U.K. Michael Smith spoke about the 10 years of annual conferences on "Trust and Integrity in the Global Economy (TIGE)" held at the IoC center in Caux, Switzerland. In answer to the question, "Is moral capitalism possible?" posed by the Beirut conference, he said, "Yes, provided we are true to our conscience and our consciousness about what needs to change in the world." Unexpected political outcomes, such as the vote for Brexit in the U.K. and the election of Donald Trump as the U.S. President, had been due to the reaction of alienated populations against venal economic and political elites. Smith cites Adam Smith's moral philosophy, which urged a sense of conscience and mutual interest, and not just the "invisible hand of the market" for which the Scottish economist is most remembered.



A panel of women entrepreneurs, moderated by TV presenter and renowned business specialist Dr. Hasan Younes, marked International Women's Day on March 8. They included Founder and Managing Partner at Netways Roula Moussa, listed in 2014 by Forbes magazine among "the 200 most powerful women in the Arab world." Tania Moussallem of BLC bank, who is also Chair of the Global Banking Alliance for Women, developing strategies for women's economic empowerment across the world, joined her.



A media panel, hosted by NDU Media Studies lecturer Rouba el-Helou, stressed the need for ethical conduct in the media, at a time of low circulations due to competition from online and social media. They included Publisher and Editor-in-chief of the business monthly magazine *Executive* Yasser Akkaoui and Chair and Managing Partner at publishers Planet News Business Hala Bejjani. MacGregor explained that his Minnesota Principles for business, written when he was President of the Center for Ethical Business Cultures affiliated to the University of St. Thomas School of Business, had been the basis for the CRT's Principles for Business. This work had been published in the 1990s by European, American, and Japanese business leaders. Chair of the Contemporary Middle East Studies at the University of Southern Denmark Professor Martin Beck suggested that the CRT's Principles might today acknowledge the world's refugees who are too often paid minimum wages.

A discussion group, led by Frem, decided to relaunch the CRT in Lebanon, in partnership with Indevco and NDU. This endeavor will contribute toward Lebanon becoming a catalyst for peace in the whole region.



First Prize in National Public Speaking Contest

The Department of English and Translation at the Faculty of Humanities (FH), Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU), is proud to announce that NDU student Sawsan Wehbe won the first prize in the "National Public Speaking Competition," which took place on Saturday, January 14, 2017.

Addressing the theme, "Peace is Not the Absence of War," Wehbe, a Biology major at the Faculty of Natural and Applied Sciences (FNAS), NDU Shouf Campus (SC), distinguished herself to earn first place from among 17 contestants, representing leading universities in Lebanon.

The event, hosted by the Lebanese-American University (LAU) under the slogan, "Global Understanding Through English," is an initiative of the Lebanon branch of the English-Speaking Union (ESU).

As the winner, Wehbe will travel to London to explore the city's rich cultural and architectural heritage.

Sawsan Wehbe, you've made NDU proud!

Robotics Competition at NDU

The Faculty of Engineering (FE) at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) organized on Friday and Saturday, March 10 and 11, 2017, the "4th Vex Robotics Competition (VRC) Lebanon 2017."

Competing in the various categories were middle and high school students, university students, and Syrian students (refugees).

Chairperson of the Department of Mechanical Engineering Dr. Najib Metni delivered the welcome note in which he thanked all those who helped and contributed toward making the event a success.

For his part, FE Dean Dr. Michel Hayek highlighted the significance of the event in general and noted its significance for the Faculty in particular. He said that this year's VRC had taken on a new dimension with the inclusion of a category for Syrian refugee students. VRC President Omar Hussein stressed the main objective of the competition, which is to train students on how to better plan and create.



The representative of Media Association for Peace (MAP), an association set up for Syrian refugees, Fadi Halabi noted importance of this event, especially with the addition of the "ROBOGEE" category for Syrian refugee students.

Winners received an amount of US\$3,000 in addition to the much sought-after qualification to participate in the international competition, which will take place in the United States of America.



The winners were:

1. Middle and High Schools Category: New Century School (middle school); Student Technology Club (high school).
2. Universities Category (VEXU): Holy Spirit University of Kaslik (USEK).
3. Syrian Refugees Category (ROBOGEE): Baraem el-Sham.
4. NDU One-year Scholarship: Awarded to Rayan Haddad (Ain Najem School); Karim Abdo (Besancon School); and Carlos Bou Dagher (Dhour el- Choueir, public school).





Unveiling of Statue to Commemorate Habib Salame

Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) unveiled on Thursday, April 20, 2017, a life-size statue sculpted by renowned Lebanese artist Pierre Karam at its main campus to commemorate Habib Salame, the architect who designed NDU.



A ceremony, held in Issam Fares Hall, preceded the unveiling of the statue. Director of the Office of Public Affairs and Events at NDU Dr. Nada Saad Saber in her welcome address greeted the guests, who included Bishop François Eid, representing Patriarch Cardinal Mar Bechara Boutros al-Rahi, Apostolic Nuncio to Lebanon Archbishop Gabrielle Cassia, and religious, political, social, and military figures.

In his speech, NDU President Fr. Walid Moussa said, "Death is unjust and cruel is the absence, but his art shall not die; though the body is absent, his creations live on. Habib Salame was an artist; many are engineers and architects, but few are artists."

For his part, Bishop Eid discussed Salame's wonderful engineering exploits and the gifts of creativity that God had given him to build astounding churches, Church institutions, and a host of other institutions that serve society.



Salame's son, Fadi, was the final speaker. Fadi thanked everyone who had contributed to the success of the commemoration, and added, "If you really want to appreciate Habib Salame's work, it's enough to be here at NDU where you can see first-hand how his vision became a reality."

A documentary produced by Rudy Hachache was screened during the ceremony, and Salame's daughter, Samar, a soprano, performed a beautiful version of *Ave Maria*.

Shortly thereafter, the statue was unveiled.

NDU Honors 'ACT' Winning Students

Following the first-place win achieved by Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) Journalism students in the international Peer to Peer (P2P): Challenging Extremism competition sponsored by Facebook and the U.S. State Department, which took place in Washington, D.C., the Faculty of Humanities (FH) at NDU organized on Wednesday, April 5, 2017, in Pierre Abou Khater Hall, a ceremony to honor them.

In attendance were: Abed el-Mawla Chehab el-Dine, representing the Director General of the Lebanese Ministry of Education and Higher Education; U.S. Embassy representatives; NDU Vice-President for



Dana el-Bizri



Eva Oueiss

Public Affairs and Communications Suheil Matar; FH Dean Dr. Kamal Abou Chedid; Media Studies Chairperson Dr. Maria Bou Zeid; and the winning students (Eva Oueiss; Nour Salameh; Jessica Khat; Christina Assi; Ribal Abou Zeki; Miled el-Hayeck; and Dana el- Bizri) and their parents.

NDU student Tonia Eid delivered the welcome note, and then gave the floor to Dr. Abou Chedid, who said, "The nature of the distinguished student project that led them to win first place in this international competition is the reflection of the civil role of the University, which is implemented through its academic and research programs as well as through its community service programs and according to the University's overall message."



For his part, Chehab el-Dine said, “NDU is the place to build the future and to build human beings.” He concluded by congratulating the University on its exceptional achievement.

The next speaker, Dr. Bou Zeid, said, “We sent five students and they came back as five leaders, and now they shoulder a big responsibility (...) their success is considered a significant achievement at the higher education level.”



Nour Salameh



Jessica Khlaf



Ribal Abou Zeki



Miled El-Hayek

Finally, honors were distributed to the U.S. embassy representatives and ‘Certificates of Achievement’ were distributed to the winning students.



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