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"Somebody else" is to blame. We always blame "somebody else" for all our troubles, and, washing his hands, he in turn finds another "somebody else" to blame. That "somebody else" denies and denies yet again all responsibility, saying it is none of his fault. God help us with that "somebody else" who is the cause of all our troubles. Has not the time come for us to shoulder our responsibilities in word and in deed, in everything personal and public, in what we want and what we do not want, benefiting us or harming us, under the guidance of our minds and hearts?

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- Tel: (09) 218950 - Ext.: 2477
- Fax: (09) 224803
- Email: nduspirit@ndu.edu.lb
- www.ndu.edu.lb/newsandevents/nduspirit

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- | Editor-in-Chief
Georges Mghames
- | English Editor
Kenneth Mortimer
- | Reporting
Ghada Mouawad
- | Arabic Typing
Lydia Zgheib
- | Photographer
Abdo Bejjani
- | Layout & design
Technopub
- | Print
Meouchy & Zakaria



The President's Message

Why are we Bothered with Expectations?

Edith Evans, the Golden Globe award-winning British actress once said: "I can't imagine going on when there are no more expectations." This quotation invites us to think: what is the significance of an expectation, as a human attitude, in one's life? Why do we keep expecting things to happen? Why do we expect the better, the superior, the healthier, the greater, the finer, the better quality, the more advanced, the improved results and outcomes of our commitments and products in life?

Charlotte Bronte, as if answering Evans, said about the same concern: "Life is so constructed that an event does not, cannot, [and] will not, match the expectation." This means that expectations are always beyond reality, they try to stretch reality to a better and higher level of performance. The human being is by nature a creature who lives on a series of expectations in all that he does and all that is taking place around him, at different levels.

The complexity of rational, emotional, and physical skills in a human being lead him to carry all kinds of expectations that become a real driving force in order to reach quality achievements and performances in his professional relations as well as in his spiritual, personal and social relations. The human being cannot plan, cannot perform, and cannot have a vision for the future without being "bugged" continuously with expectations. This is the main dynamic power that could conduct and lead any endeavor to which we are directly or indirectly committed.

Perhaps this explains why the Maltese writer and philosopher Edward de Bono defines unhappiness as "the difference between our talents and our expectations". We do not realize that, in most cases, we spend a large portion of our life trying to fill in the gap between our "talents" and our "expectations". Filling this gap is a life plan of action to develop oneself and to build up continuously as this on-going development takes place.

This is a major self-commitment no matter where we stand, and no matter what our role is to serve ourselves and our community. It is a major commitment especially when we deal with our students, our colleagues and our university community. This is more true when, and if, we carry a spiritual responsibility together with an intellectual one in serving our country and our new generation.

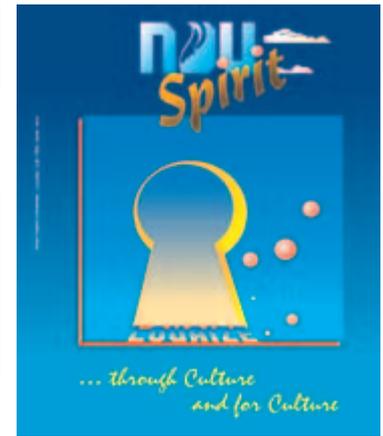
If we want quality and excellence in our performances and achievements let us keep our expectations high. Expectations might be quite demanding and costly but their absence might be in the long run easy going and much more expensive.

President
Fr. Walid Moussa

Forward to the Forties!

o | English Editor

Issue 0, July 1996 ►



Now that forty issues of NDU Spirit have appeared, I am tempted to cast an eye over the past and consider how we started in the English section.

I was supervising an English Lab. Session when Dr. Assaad Eid knocked at the door and asked me whether I would take over as English Editor of the new NDU magazine. I dropped everything and moved into my spacious new office premises, namely the top of a two-drawer filing cabinet to write on and a chair to sit on. If it had been the other way round, it would have been hardly less comfortable. Texts went backwards and forwards between the Old Campus and Daily Press until the capable Miss Karine Chidiac (now Mrs. Saadeh) with her computer took over the secretarial work.

The first two or three issues were, I admit, materially poor, but then Dr. Ameen Rihani, Dr. Assaad Eid and Mr. Georges Mghames, General and Arabic Editor, helped organize relations with the various faculties. Then there was the move to New Campus and more spacious quarters. I lost my secretary but gained my own computer. When I started school in 1931, they never taught me about computers, but at least since my military service I had always owned a typewriter. I learnt by trial and error and the charming young ladies in the neighbouring offices helped me when the mysteries of technology drove me to desperation.

Thanks to the insistent urging of Faculty members, at last we have

students presenting articles for publication, but strangely enough these contributors seem to be mostly in the technical rather than the more purely cultural departments. One might have thought that students of language and literature would have facile pens and be bubbling over with ideas and eagerness to see their names and work in print.

Something else puzzles me. Why do people with a deficient mastery of English write long, complicated, confused sentences instead of short, simple, clear ones? I rather suspect that textbooks have a bad influence. Nowadays, even in Britain and the United States one finds specialists learned in their particular domain whose primary and secondary education was deficient, largely because of the elimination of grammar from the programmes; as a consequence their writing is deplorable. One of our NDU professors with a doctorate in Economics from the USA and excellent linguist found an American book for first-year Business students very difficult even for him to understand, simply because it was so badly written.

To write good English one has to read good English, for hours every day, but this usually means finding texts that are at least fifty years old. Today we are so often urged to read for information, this being the Information Age, but in fact

when we read for pleasure it is because of powerful style, fluent, lucid and melodious, that brings the subject alive. Two comparatively recent novels that have this quality are *The Day of the Jackal* by Forsyth and *Nicholas and Alexandria* by Massie.

Generally speaking, young Lebanese are not in the habit of reading good books for pleasure, whether of literature or general culture. Their reading is largely limited to their books of study, often poor from the point of view of language. Classroom libraries in schools are often limited to childish stories. Parents are more apt to open their purses to buy clothes that adorn their children's bodies for a passing year than to buy books that adorn their children's minds for a lifetime.

One result is that young people have little general knowledge of history, geography, the animal kingdom, and such things as ships. This struck me when I came to Lebanon. Once I was teaching university students in an English Language School. We were

reading a simplified version of Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea*. To my amazement these university students did not know what a shark was. I drew one clearly on the blackboard and gave the French name and Arabic word, writing this clearly on the supposition that my pronunciation was at fault. But even the Arabic was meaningless to these supposedly educated young men and women. Any large marine creature, mammal or fish, shark, seal, sea lion, walrus or porpoise, was vaguely *kalb el-bahr*. I once found that senior seminarists did not know the parts of a ship, keel, bowsprit, bollards, scuppers, gunwale, splice, port and starboard in any language. Incidentally, books meant to improve students' vocabulary often serve little purpose here. Originally intended for American students, they tend to concentrate on long Latin-rooted words which are already familiar to those with a French education. It is often the simple words that our people lack, words such as *rim*, *edge*, *gut*. *Periphery* and *intestine*, although more intellectual, are more easily understood.

Readers of *NDU Spirit* may be puzzled by apparent inconsistencies in spelling. We feel that we can impose neither British-European-Commonwealth spelling nor North American spelling for articles. But with the exception of an occasional proper name, any one article should be consistent, one or the other. I was brought up on British spelling, so it would be inconsistent for me to try to use American spelling and

then say *He was taken to hospital* (no definite article) instead of *He was hospitalized* (rather a mouthful for me!)

All the letters I receive from British and American people of an older generation regret the disappearance of clear, enjoyable English. Twenty years ago no less a person than Edward Prince of Wales, heir to the throne, declared that even he could not find secretaries on whom he could rely to write a letter correctly, so that he had to read in person everything that left his office. The famous American broadcaster Alistair Cooke said that whenever he received a letter that was in good English, he knew that the writer, whether educated or uneducated, was at least fifty years old. I myself preserve letters written to me by working-class people who went to a village school for three or four years at the end of the nineteenth century that are a pleasure to read.

Nowadays in Britain and America it is the fashion to allow schoolchildren their "creative expression" and not bother them with grammar, spelling and punctuation. But one may well wonder what use there can be in their expressing themselves if nobody can understand them. Ever since the Roman Empire, children have gone to school to learn how to express themselves easily, clearly and elegantly in a language that is understood everywhere.

* * *

NDU is a Catholic Christian university. Catholic means universal. So it is that from being a Jewish sect Christianity became also the religion of the Gentiles, adapting Greek philosophy to the exposition of its doctrine. The process of seizing all that is of value in other systems of thought and belief had already begun – in fact even in the eighth century the East Syrian Church was already using Chinese cultural means of expression. Now when there is so much evil, cruelty and callousness

in the world, the time has come for the children of Abraham, who have received God's revelation, to work together. Christians, Muslims and Jews (in the *proper* meaning of the word) all believe in one God and in His moral law, and so must strive together for a better world. We are therefore glad to publish articles, not of sentimental, sugary piety but of solid religious and philosophical formation, so that the faith of each may be strengthened in the framework of his own belief. People who are true to their respective religions love and esteem each other, deepening their own spiritual life by the contact. Religion has never itself been the cause of enmity and war. Hatred is the result of human greed and ambition exploiting differences of class, race and faith. If all human beings had the same colour of eyes, hair and skin and spoke the same language and had one common nationality and religion, there would always be individuals looking for the means to use strife for power and money and prestige.

* * *

In *NDU Spirit* we aim to give news of activity on NDU Main Campus and on the North and Shouf campuses. For Opinion and Culture, we look for articles that anybody with a secondary education can enjoy. We leave more purely academic studies to *NDU's Palma*. But with all this we in the English section of *Spirit* have a concern for encouraging good English and good French, this language being also accepted. Arabic we leave in the very capable hands of General Editor Mr. Georges Mghames!



Obituary

It was with stupor and deep regret that the NDU community learned about the passing away of Dr. Jean Fares, Professor of Mathematics and former FNAS Dean. He succumbed to a sudden heart attack in the night of Sunday, August 19th, 2007. His funeral took place at his birthplace Ain Harsheh in Beqaa West.

Dr. Jean Fares was born on 19th November, 1954. He earned a Ph.D. in Mathematics from Wisconsin-Madison University in 1988 and joined NDU as Assistant Professor on 1st October, 1992, becoming Chair of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics 1st Oct., 1994 to 30th Sept., 2001 and FNAS Dean 8th Feb., 2001 to 30th Sept., 2006. He was promoted Associate Professor on 1st Oct. 1995 and Professor on 1st Oct., 2003, with tenure as from 1st Oct., 1997. His field of special interest was Fixed Point Theory. A more detailed account will be found in the Arabic section of *NDU Spirit*.

Professors Emeritus

A memorandum from the President's Office dated 24th September, 2007 announced that in view of their long and successful commitment to NDU, the following professors now reaching retirement would enjoy the title of *Professor Emeritus* as from October 1st, 2007:

- | Prof. Walid Assaf (FE)
- | Prof. Shehwan Khoury (FE)
- | Prof. Michel Kreidy (FNAS)
- | Prof. Ajaj Tarabay (FNAS)
- | Prof. Akl Kairouz (FPSPAD)

NDU PRESIDENT Fr. MOUSSA IN MALAYSIA FORUM

KUALA LUMPUR, NOVEMBER 6-7, 2007

*The highly successful conference of the first Global Higher Education Forum, Malaysia 2007 (GHEF 2007) brought together about 350 higher education leaders, scholars, policy makers, and administrators from over forty countries. The theme of the conference was **knowledge and relevant Human Resource Development with three sub-themes:***

- | Global Mobility, Access and Equity in Higher Education
- | Governance, Leadership and Quality of Higher Education
- | Transnational, Cross-border and Lifelong Learning

Organized jointly by the Ministry of Higher Education in Malaysia, the National Higher Education Research Institute (IPPTN) and the International Association of Universities (IAU), the conference offered many opportunities to network and hear some excellent presentations at the three plenary sessions and six parallel workshops.

The Plenary Sessions covered the following:

- 1 – Access, Equity and the role of ICT,
- 2 – Governance, Leadership and Quality of Higher Education,
- 3 – Global Higher Education Market: Academic Mobility, Transnational and Cross-Border Education.

NDU President Father Walid Moussa together with Mr. Edgar Merheb-Harb, Assistant Director of Public Relations and IAU Board member, attended the Forum and participated in its workshop sessions for two consecutive days.

An opening declaration by the Minister of Higher Education, His Excellency Dato' Mustapha bin Mohamad, that "individual potential must be realized at all times", set the stage and lively discussions ensued during the plenary sessions and the numerous workshops, but also over coffee and during the social activities.

The numerous workshops were well positioned, supplementing the preceding plenary sessions and offering an opportunity to debate the plenary issue in greater depth. The plenary and workshop sessions included presentations from UNESCO, a regional intergovernmental organization, and universities from Asia, Africa, Europe and North America.

The conference was so successful that the Ministry of Education in Malaysia hopes to make the Global Higher Education Forum into an annual event.

NDU at Rhodes Forum

The Fifth Annual Meeting of the World Public Forum/Dialogue of Civilizations was held in the Greek island of Rhodes between the 10th and the 14th of October, 2007. The conference was attended by well over seven hundred personalities from all over the world, belonging to various religions and cultures. Invited to the Conference from NDU were Fr. Walid Moussa, President, Dr. Abdo Kahi, Director of the Center of Societal Research, and Fr. Boulos Wehbe, Senior Lecturer in the Social and Behavioral Sciences Department of the Faculty of Humanities. The Lebanese delegation also included Rev.

Riyad Jarjour, Mr. Walid Sammak and Judge Abbas Halabi from the Lebanese and Arab Groups for Muslim-Christian Dialogue, Dr. George Dorlian, Director of the Public Relations Office at Balamand University, and Dr. Suheil Farah, Professor at the Lebanese University and also coordinator for the whole trip.

There were several parallel lines of work during the Conference, which brought the participants together in

the opening and closing plenary sessions with notably effective synchronization and organization. The study in which the Lebanese Delegation was involved centered on the Middle East, and benefited from presentations by Dr. Dorlian, Mr. Sammak and Fr. Wehbe. The Lebanese group was exemplary, exhibiting a beautiful spirit of togetherness and solidarity, and prompting one of the participants to wonder why other delegations could not do likewise.

► From left to right: Dr. Abdo Kahi, Fr. Walid Moussa, Iranian religious personality Sheikh Tasfiri and assistant, and Fr. Boulos Wehbe.



WEERC Project Closure

On Tuesday, November 6th, 2007, in the Conference Room of the Ministry of Energy and Water, the solemn closure took place of the project for Improved Cooperation in Irrigation Water Management through Awareness and Capacity Building. This event came within the context of the Technical Cooperation Programme for Lebanon (TCP-Lebanon 3003) and was held under the auspices of the Minister of Energy and Water, H.E. Mohammad Al Safadi, in coordination with the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organisation) and WEERC (the NDU Water, Energy and Environment Research Center).



The object of the meeting was to present the achievements of the project and to discuss different ideas that might lead to similar projects in the future. Speakers at the opening session were as follows: **Ms Randa Nemer**, National Coordinator, TCP Project; **Dr. Fadi Comair**, General Director of Hydraulic and Electric Resources at the Ministry of Energy and Water and Director of WEERC; **Dr. Assaad Eid**, Vice President for Sponsored Research and Development at Notre Dame University; **H.E. Dr. Ali Moumen**, FAO Representative in Lebanon; and **H.E. Mohammad Al Safadi**, Minister of Energy and Water.

At the first session, chaired by H.E. Dr. Adel Cortas, former Minister of Agriculture, speakers and their subjects were as follows:

□ | *Ms. Randa Nemer on Accomplishment of the TCP Project.*



□ | *Dr. Salim Sarraf, former Senior FAO Officer, on Water Policy Reform in Lebanon.*

□ | *Dr. Najat Yahia, Ph.D., King's College, London, on Irrigation Water Quality.*

□ | *Dr. Hyam Mallat on Cadre Institutionnel et Juridique du Secteur de l'Eau d'Irrigation.*

□ | *Ms. Katia Fakhry, Agricultural Engineer, WEERC, on Etude de la Qualité des Eaux des Fleuves de Nahr el Kalb, Ibrahim and El Jawz.*

At the second session, chaired by Dr. Fadi Comair there was discussion of future perspectives.





The Speech of welcome was delivered by Dr. Assaad Eid, Vice President for Sponsored Research and Development at NDU. The following is the text.

Your Excellency Mr. Mohammad Al-Safadi, Minister of Energy and Water, Your Excellency Dr. Ali Moumen, FAO Representative in Lebanon, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me pleasure to be here today on behalf of Fr. Walid Moussa, President of Notre Dame University, Louaize.

Ever since its inception, NDU has, in line with its mission, set down a long-term plan which would distinguish it as one of the leading research institutes in the region. For some time now, we have conducted some excellent scholarly research in several areas, through the three centers we have founded and through our faculty's research activities. Building on our existing strengths, we now have the opportunity to expand our research more significantly, and I look forward to leading this development.

The Water Energy and Environment Research Center is one of NDU's most active research units. In the past couple of years, the Center has been actively engaged in developing appropriate strategies and in providing training for the proper optimization and integrated management of water and energy use in Lebanon.

The Center's contribution, though considerable, remained short of adequacy and self-fulfillment. What seemed to be a necessity was a closer cooperative link with local and international entities. Along these lines, the Center has managed to develop effective liaisons with governmental and non-governmental bodies through a number of initiatives, one of which is the project whose closure we celebrate today; this project is a unique model of how universities should pursue new and innovative ways to partner with others in an attempt to fulfill their mission. Today, NDU, more than ever, is quite determined to become more integrated with industrial, commercial, social, and environmental issues in the development of new knowledge. We want our output from academic research to serve management

practitioners in their professions.

Our research strategies are meant to provide such valuable information; and through building more partnerships and raising the intensity levels of the existing ones, we render our research far more rewarding to both the University's development and the nation's welfare.

In closing, I wish to reiterate my conviction, and that of our President, that such projects and endeavors should always be met with support and encouragement.

Thank you.

o | **Dr. Assaad Eid,**
Vice President,
Sponsored Research &
Development,
Notre Dame University,
Lebanon,
November 6, 2007

Speech of Doctor Fadi Comair

كلمة الدكتور فادي قمير
بمناسبة انعقاد الجلسة الأخيرة لمشروع TCP/LEB/3003 حول
”تدريب وتنمية الأجهزة الفنيّة في المؤسسات العامّة للمياه
على إدارة مشاريع الريّ في لبنان“

الجمهورية اللبنانية
وزارة الطاقة والمياه
المديريّة العامّة للموارد المائيّة والكهربائيّة
المدير العام

تاريخ ٧ تشرين الثاني ٢٠٠٧

قريبة، فإنه سيؤمّن المياه إلى مناطق كسروان والتمن الشماليّ وبيروت. كما سيتحوّل إلى منطقة لمنتجات سياحيّة وبيئيّة تساعد في تطوير البلدات والقرى المجاورة.

كما أنّ الخطة العشريّة تشمل مشاريع لمياه الشفة والريّ ومشاريع للصرف الصحيّ وبناء محطات تكرير بالاضافة إلى مشاريع تقويم مجاري الأنهر. وكذلك إن مشاريع السدود الأخرى، الواردة في الخطة العشريّة، أصبح بعضها جاهزاً للبدء بتنفيذه في مناطق أخرى.

وتجدر الإشارة إلى أنّ مجلس الوزراء قد اعتمد ضمن الخطة العشريّة نظام الـ DBOT للمشاريع المائيّة الكبرى لاستقطاب القطاع الخاص لتمويل ودراسة واستثمار السدود والمحطات الكهرمائيّة وملحقاتها.

إنّنا نجتمع اليوم مع سعيّنا المتواصل لتحقيق إنجازات أكثر، بالاضافة إلى حلقات الدورات التدريبية حول تقوية ودعم الجهاز البشريّ والفنيّ التابع لمؤسسات المياه العامّة بمساعدة من منظمة الأغذية والزراعة العالميّة.

أيّها الحضور الكريم، إننا نشكّر تعاون جميع القطاعات الممثلة في هذه الندوة، ونؤكّد ترحيبنا بكم وسعادتنا بحضوركم ومشاركتكم.

لما قدّموه من دعم علميّ لاجتياح هذا البرنامج.

إنّ منظمة الفاو التي أخذت على عاتقها التصديّ لمشكلات المياه منذ خمسينات القرن المنصرم وقاربت بشجاعة كل الصعاب التي تعاني منها المجتمعات الفقيرة والمتخلّفة، وهي اليوم تتابع عملها من أجل قضايا المياه والبيئة والطاقة من خلال مشاريع قامت بها من حيث الدعم وتطوير الادارة بهدف خدمة الانسان وتأمين الامنين الغذائي والاجتماعي وتقليل آثار الفقر في مجتمعاتنا الشرق أوسطية.

إنّ قطاع المياه هو من أهم القطاعات في لبنان نظراً لأهمية انعكاساته على معظم المرافق الحيوية الأخرى مثل الاقتصاد وانماء البلاد والمحافظة على البيئة، على أن تخطط استعمالات هذه الثروة وتدار شؤونها بطريقة جيدة ومتكاملة آخذين بعين الاعتبار التوازن بين كمية ونوعية المياه الموزعة. إن من واجبنا اعطاء الانتباه الكبير لتخطيط المشاريع على المدى الطويل وادارتها بشكل متكامل على مختلف الصعد المدنية او الريفية بطريقة تؤمّن تنمية مُستدامة لهذا القطاع وتقديم الخدمات الملائمة للشعب اللبناني في هذا الشأن.

وقد تمكّنت إدارة الموارد المائيّة من تجسيد التوجّه المُستقبليّ للبنان من خلال صلاحيّاتها ومهامّها، وذلك بوضع خطة عشرية للمشاريع المائيّة بهدف تأمين موارد مائية اضافية من خلال مشاريع السدود والبحيرات الجبلية من خلال إنشاء ٢٨ سدّاً وبحيرة جبلية تهدف إلى تجميع حوالي ٨٠٠ مليون متر مكعب من مياه الامطار والسيلان السطحيّ لاستخدامها في فترات الشحاح. وبعد أن حقّقنا إنجاز سدّ شبروح، وقامت الوزارة بتدشينه منذ فترة

ممثلاً معالي وزير الطاقة والمياه الأستاذ محمّد الصفدي أيّها الحفل الكريم،

يسعدني في صبيحة هذا اليوم أن أرحب بكم باسم معالي وزير الطاقة والمياه الأستاذ محمّد الصفدي، وأن أحيي حضوركم ومُشارككم بهذه المناسبة العلمية، وأن أتقدّم بالشكر والتقدير للمبادرة التي أطلقتموها منظمة الفاو منذ حوالي السنتين ممثلة بسعادة السفير علي مؤمن والتي تهدف إلى دعم قطاع الري في وزارة الطاقة والمياه. إن هذه المبادرة قد جسّدت أعلى درجات التناغم بين منظمة الفاو ووزارة الطاقة والمياه ومركز الأبحاث للمياه والطاقة والبيئة في جامعة سيّدة اللويزة وبين مختلف القطاعات العاملة والفاعلة بغية رفع مستوى خدمات قطاع المياه.

كما أنّي أرحب أيضاً بـ :

■ معالي الوزير السابق د. عادل قرطاس الذي رعى هذا المشروع منذ بدايته.

■ مدراء مؤسسات المياه العامّة لتعاونهم مع المديرية العامة للموارد المائيّة والكهربائيّة وانتدابهم بعض موظفيهم للتدرّب وحضور الدورات التدريبية.

■ فريق منظمة الأغذية والزراعة العالميّة الذي تعاون بشكل وثيق جداً مع طاقم الوزارة ومركز الأبحاث لانجاح هذه الدورات التدريبية.

■ إدارة وأساتذة جامعة سيّدة اللويزة الممثلة بحضرة نائب الرئيس الدكتور أسعد عيد، وكذلك الاساتذة في الجامعة الأميركيّة - كلية الزراعة، والأساتذة من القطاع الخاصّ



LERC-NDU and Migrinter-Poitiers

12th July 2007: A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Notre Dame University, Lebanon (NDU) and University of Poitiers, France, following the initiation visit made to Poitiers by LERC Associate Director Ms. Guita Hourani from 27th to 30th March 2007.¹

The main purpose of this agreement is to promote scholarly exchange and cooperation between LERC and Migrinter. It will also provide for the exchange of professors and students as well as further cooperation in research.

The combined efforts will also cover

scholarly publications, the exchange of information, data and documents in the field of migration in general, and the gathering, dissemination and communication of information Lebanese and Middle Eastern migration in particular. This will allow for an exchange of photos, documents, digital material and the like obtained by either Center which are directly relevant to the study of migration from, to and through Lebanon.

The MoU will allow NDU and LERC the immense advantage of a partner within the European Union with access to higher education.

Cooperation between the two institutions has already begun, Migrinter has now a PhD candidate from LERC, Ms. Guita Hourani, who is conducting her doctoral research on citizenship and naturalization law, and LERC has received a PhD candidate from Migrinter, Ms. Suzanne Menhem, who is conducting her doctoral research on Third World immigrants to Lebanon. Other plans for cooperation are underway.

o | Elie Nabhan

LERC at Brain Drain Workshop

▼ *Left to right: Dr. Maral Tutelian, Director Central Administration of Statistics, Mr. Haitham Joumaa, Director of the Directorate of Migrants, Ms. Hourani, Mr. Wajdi Bou Ghanem, Chief of the Department of Media and Culture, Directorate of Migrants.*



Under the patronage of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants and the General Directorate of Emigrants, a workshop entitled Brain Drain Phenomenon and its Effect on the Economy and Development of Lebanon was held at the UNESCO Palace in Beirut on Thursday June 28, 2007. The aim of the workshop was to prepare for the Ministry's participation in the EuroMed Senior Officials Meeting on Migration scheduled to take place in Brussels on September 10, 2007.

Dr. Jihad al Akel opened the session by introducing the first speaker, the General Director of Emigrants

Mr. Haitham Jumaa, who explained the purpose of the workshop. Mr Jumaa stressed the negative impact of the brain drain on the local economies of the Middle Eastern and North African countries.

Experts taking part included the General Director of the Central Administration for Statistics **Maral Tutelian**; AUB professor and former Ambassador **Latif Abou El Hessen**; LERC Associate Director **Guita Hourani** with Associate Researcher

Dr. Dunia Taan-Fayad; the Public Relations Officer of Balamand University **Loulou Saybaa**; **Dr. Issam Nour Eddine**, **Dr. Michel Abs**, **Dr. Ali Faour**, **Dr. Abdallah Mallah**, **Dr. Boutros Labaki**, **Mr. Wajdi Abou Ghanem** of the Directorate of Emigrants and **Mr. Albert Samaha** of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs among others.

In her presentation, Associate Director Hourani concentrated on migration in general and the brain drain in particular as results of human insecurity in Lebanon. She stressed that the Lebanese government can not curb migration because Lebanese law allows the Lebanese freedom of mobility. However, the government, she said, could manage the surplus of the Lebanese human capital as a resource, in order to capitalize on it both on the national and personal levels. She said that according to research conducted in the receiving countries in 2005, 401,388 persons born in Lebanon worked in North American, Asia and Oceania and in Europe in the year 2000, an increase of more than 90,000 from the total number of 310,880 for the year 1990.

Taking the year 1990, she explained that out of those born in Lebanon and working abroad 113,493 were highly skilled and that by 2000 the number had increased by 34%, reaching 170,949. Ms. Hourani also suggested that since it was against the law in Lebanon to restrict people's movement, in order for the government to reduce the brain drain in Lebanon, it should first guarantee human security of the country in all categories, i.e. physical, political, societal, economic and environmental. The government, she believed, should also sign agreements and contracts with public and private agencies which are interested in employing highly skilled Lebanese in order to protect the internal market demand and to protect the rights of the Lebanese working abroad.

Dr. Dunia Fayad stressed that emigration from Lebanon was due to the political instability and to the bad economic and social situations. After first discussing the negative aspect of emigration, she then highlighted the importance of this migration especially in regard to the remittances transferred back to Lebanon annually. She also emphasized that the Lebanese abroad love Lebanon; many would return as soon as the country enjoyed stability. She further noted that in Lebanon today, mothers preferred knowing that their children were safe and sound living in a stable country abroad to constantly worrying about them here.

Joe Malkoun, Research Assistant from LERC, and media representatives attended to report on the workshop.

○ | Joe Malkoun



LERC at important Nigerian-Lebanese events

Celebratory dinner for new Ambassador

At Baabdat on 10th, August 2007: Mr. George Nabhan and family hosted a dinner for the new Ambassador of Nigeria, H. E. Hameed A. Opeloyeru, and his wife at the Colibri Hotel in Baabdat.

The evening opened with a speech from the host, who welcomed the Ambassador as a man of insight and vision who would work tirelessly to understand, to act and to promote a sense of goodwill between Nigeria and Lebanon. Mr. Nabhan stressed the importance of the role played by the Lebanese in Nigeria especially in industry, in business, in commerce and in society. He mentioned that that His Excellency was planning to establish a Lebanese-Nigerian Friendship Association that would further this historical and cordial relationship existing between Nigeria and Lebanon.

In his reply, His Excellency the Ambassador said that the gathering was a truly important occasion and

pledged that he would continue building up and strengthening the special relationship between both countries and peoples.

Amongst those present in honor of His Excellency were the Chief Justice (retired) of the Lebanese Republic **Mr. Nasri Lahoud**; **Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Karalambos** of the Counsel of the Republic of Cyprus; **Ms Guita Hourani**, Associate Director of LERC at NDU; **Mr. William Zard**, Honorary Consul of the UK; **Mr. Anthony Bosah**, Head of Chancery at the Embassy of Nigeria, other representatives of the diplomatic corps, Lebanese and Nigerian businessmen, and Lebanese friends of Nigeria.

Launching of LENIFRA

Beirut 20th-21st October 2007: The Lebanese-Nigerian Friendship Association was launched at an impressive gala held at the UNESCO Building in Beirut. Initiated by His Excellency the Ambassador of Nigeria Mr. Hameed A. Opeloyeru, the Association aims to promote Nigeria as a country at the governmental level and seek ways to create a full awareness about Nigeria among the Lebanese people, many of whom may only know of the country through a family member or a friend who resides there.



◀ *The Ambassador of Nigeria, His Excellency Hameed A. Opeloyeru, addressing the dinner guests.*

"We wish to use LENIFRA to promote greater social and cultural awareness in both Lebanon and Nigeria," said the Ambassador.

Over the weekend the event took the form of speeches, cultural dances and poetic renditions. The LENIFRA logo was unveiled by the Ambassador, the Chairman of the Board Mr. William Zard Abou Jaoude and other trustees. Members of LENIFRA were encouraged to display collections of paintings, artefacts and photos. A delicious buffet with Nigerian and Lebanese cuisine was served. The second day offered movies, a fashion show and a raffle draw.

It should be noted that the Lebanese Emigration Research Center itself has been officially asked to serve on the LENIFRA committee in the person of its Associate Director, Ms. Guita Hourani.

LERC rapporteur, Elie Nabhan, who recited a poem of his composition, represented the Center at the event.

○ | **Elie Nabhan**



▲ *Listening to H.E. the Ambassador's address, from left to right: Mr. George Nabhan, Ms. Karalambos, His Excellency Hameed Opeloyeru the Ambassador of Nigeria, Mrs. Amal Bouery, Mr. Nasri Lahoud and Ms. Guita Hourani, Associate Director of LERC.*

▼ *Back row: Associate Director of LERC Ms. Guita Hourani with Mr. Elie Nabhan; front row, left to right: Nigerian Embassy Staff - Mr. Adamu, Mr. Okere, Mr. Anthony Bosah, Head of Chancery at the Embassy, and Mrs. Okere.*





Khatlab represents LERC at Seminar in Brazil

The Academic Exchange Seminar Brazil-Lebanon was opened on Monday 27th and extended through Tuesday, 28th August, 2007 at the Rectory of the University of Brasília (UnB) in the Brazilian federal capital, in order to consolidate the flow of educational experience between Brazil and Lebanon.

The initiative was the result of the Executive Program of Educative Cooperation for the years 2006-2009, which was established on February 27th, 2006 in Beirut, during the visit to the Middle East of Brazil's Minister of Education, H.E. Fernando Haddad, who himself is of Lebanese origin.

The seminar was promoted by the Brazilian Ministry of Education (MEC), Coordination of Improvement of Personnel of Superior Level (Capes/MEC) and the Confederation of Lebanon-Brazilian Organizations (Confelibras).

The promoter was Prof. Paulo Jorge Sarkis, ex-Rector of Santa Maria Federal University (UFMS), Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, also of Lebanese origin, who said at the opening that the seminar represented the first occasion when teachers of universities of the two countries had ever met to consider the best ways to develop academic relationships of the two countries' higher education institutions.

The Lebanese Emigration Research Center of Notre Dame University was represented by Brazilian-born Mr. Roberto Khatlab, writer and researcher and LERC's Brazil Liaison Officer. Mr. Khatlab was invited by the Minister of Education in Brazil in recognition of his extensive contributions to strengthening Brazil-Lebanon relations. Mr. Khatlab is the author of several important works including *Mahjar, Lebanese Saga in Brazil* (Portuguese/Arabic); *Brazil-Lebanon: Friendship that Challenges the*

Distance (Portuguese/Arabic); *The Oriental Catholic and Orthodox Churches, Their Living Traditions* (Portuguese); *Lebanon: Tourist and Cultural Guide* (first complete guide on Lebanon in the Portuguese language); *Lula, The Worker who Became President of Brazil* (Arabic) and *Lebanese Migrants in Brazil: An Annotated Bibliography*, published by LERC- NDU in 2005.

Khatlab's lecture entitled, *Relationships Brazil-Lebanon, History, Culture, Emigration and Economy* was part of the seminar session on International Relations and discussed the historic, cultural, and economic relations between the two countries.

Other participants from Lebanon in this seminar included Reverend Professor Karam Rizk, *Université Saint-Esprit-Kaslik* (USEK); Professor Mounir Bashshur, American University of Beirut (AUB); Professor Melhem Chaoul, Lebanese University (UL); Professor Boutros Labaki, *Université Saint-Joseph* (USJ) and Professor Emile Maakaroun representing the Lebanese University.



► From left to right: Mr. Roberto Khatlab – LERC/NDU, H.E. Fernando Haddad – Minister of Education in Brazil, Dr. Emile Maakaroun – UL, and Reverend Dr. Karam Rizk – USEK.

LERC and IMISCOE

Associate Director of LERC Talks about Citizenship and Naturalization Laws in Lebanon at the 4th IMISCOE Conference at the University of Sussex, England, 6th-9th September 2007.

At the closing session, Counselor Alessandro Candeas, Director of International Consultation at the Ministry of Education of Brazil, said that the seminar was not an isolated action, but the beginning of a process of academic and intellectual approach that had began with the visit of Minister Haddad to Lebanon in 2006. He closed by saying that those gathered in the seminar would have to carry this initiative forward.

The 4th Annual International Migration, Integration and Social Cohesion (IMISCOE) Conference took place at the University of Sussex in cooperation with the Sussex Centre for Migration Research (SCMR) between 6th and 9th September 2007.

Guita Hourani, Associate Director of LERC and PhD Candidate at Migrant, Poitiers, France, delivered a paper at the B3 Cluster entitled: *Citizenship and Naturalization Laws: The Case of Lebanon, its Migrants and Stateless Immigrants*.

IMISCOE, which is funded by the European Commission within the Sixth Framework Programme, is a Network of Excellence. The Network has, since its launch in April 2004, according to Mr. Richard Black and Mr. Russell King, Co-Directors at Sussex, "grown considerably. From an original membership of around 300 researchers and 19 partner institutes, IMISCOE now includes more than 450 researchers and 23 research institutes."

IMISCOE's research programme is divided into nine research clusters, each focused on specific aspects of migration. Each of these clusters focuses on, and deals with, one theme as follows:

(A1): International migration and its regulation; (A2): Migration and development: causes and consequences; (B3): Migration and citizenship: legal status, mobilization and political participation; (B4): The economic dimension: work, entrepreneurship, economic integration; (B5): Social integration and mobility, education, housing and health; (B6): Linguistic, cultural and religious diversity and related policies; (C7): Interethnic relations, identity, representation and discrimination; (C8): Gender, age and generations; (C9): the multi-level governance of immigrant and immigration policies.

Ms. Hourani took part in the activities of Cluster B3 with a presentation in which she overviewed the major conjunctures of the citizenship and naturalization laws in Lebanon, starting with the Ottoman Citizenship Law and ending with the Naturalization Law of 1994 in Lebanon. She also emphasized the impact of the laws over time on Lebanese migrants and their descendants as well as on the stateless refugees in Lebanon, particularly the Palestinians.

Ms. Hourani's presentation forms part of her extensive doctoral research on the subject.

▼ From left to right: Prof. Paulo Jorge Sarkis, coordinator of the seminar, and Roberto Khatlab, Researcher at LERC/NDU and Brazil/LERC Liaison Officer.





LERC Associate Director in Tokyo

Tokyo, Japan

Ms. Guita Hourani represented LERC at the Research Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa in Tokyo and the Japan Center for Middle Eastern Studies in Beirut, both of the Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, delivering two papers on Lebanese migrants, their history and their current situation. The aim of the lectures was to expand knowledge of Lebanon among Japanese and to stimulate studies of migration in general in Japan. The invitation was supported by the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Science, Sports and Technology.

Ms. Hourani's first paper, *Diaspora Remittances: the Case of Lebanon*, was presented on 4th October, 2007 and was attended by the Ambassador of Lebanon, H.E. Mohammed El-Harake, Mrs. Madeleine Abdel Jalil Umewaka of the Lebanese Community in Japan, and professors of the Tokyo University of Foreign Studies. The paper was commented upon and discussed by Dr. Mio Yuko.

Ms. Hourani's second paper, *Insecurity and Migration: The Case of Lebanon following the Summer 2006 War*, was presented on 6th October, 2007 and discussed by Dr. Aida Kanafani-Zahar, visiting researcher from the *Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique*, Paris. As in the first workshop, the lecture was attended by professors and PhD students.

It is hoped that Ms. Hourani's visit will contribute to the ongoing efforts for establishing a firm foundation of academic exchange between Lebanon and Japan.

○ | Elie Nabhan



▲ Ms. Guita Hourani presenting her lecture on "Insecurity and Migration: The Case of Lebanon Following the Summer 2006" at workshop 2, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies.



▲ Ms. Guita Hourani flanked by the Ambassador of Lebanon to Japan His Excellency Mohamad El-Harake and other attendees at the Tokyo University of Foreign Studies.

LERC Paper at Conference in Egypt

An international conference took place at the University of Cairo on Migration and Refugee Movements in the Middle East and North Eastern Africa between the 23rd and 25th October 2007.

Dr. Philippe Fargues, Director of The Forced Migration and Refugee Studies Program, the Center that called for and organized the event, gave a broad overview on *Migrants and Refugees in the Middle East and North Africa*. Over two days discussions focused in particular on Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Egypt, the Gulf, Ethiopia and Eritrea, and Sudan and Somalia.

Although the Lebanese Emigration Research Center was slated for the afternoon session on the opening day dealing with Lebanon, Associate Director of LERC, Ms. Guita Hourani, being unable to attend personally, instead sent a paper entitled *Lebanese Diaspora and Homeland Relations*. In her paper, Ms. Hourani explained that though Lebanon has not actually specified or implemented a diaspora

policy, Lebanese emigrants have historically always been a vital part of Lebanon's life. She focused on selected aspects of the Lebanese diaspora and homeland relations and emphasized the important networks connecting the Lebanese diaspora with the home country. Her paper discussed today's avenues of communication and the role of the extended family as the main means of networking for social, economic and political survival of the individual and clan, and consequently of Lebanon. Considering the strong family ties and fervent patriotic feeling towards Lebanon, the paper stressed firstly the role of networking through remittances. "Remittances are the most visible and tangible form of financial capital transmitted by Lebanese expatriates, reaching an estimated US\$ 4.9 billion in 2005, and US\$ 5.6 billion in 2004. Lebanon itself is ranked seventh amongst the top ten countries recipient of workers remittances," said Ms. Hourani.

The paper further discussed the social and philanthropic contributions by which migrants invest part of their remittances in social and economic development projects in their home villages, referred to today as "Transnational Philanthropy". The paper also discussed political networking

in the form of long-distance nationalism or Homeland Politics. This is seen in the new Lebanese diasporic communities lobbying governments throughout the last thirty years of turmoil in Lebanon. Examples have been the approval of bills in the US Congress and the Canadian Parliament, the adoption of a resolution by the United Nations Security Council, and the declarations by Amnesty International in favor of the Lebanese people and the sovereignty of Lebanon. Networking also takes place through tourism and annual visits and through the establishment of schools and universities, since the Lebanese diaspora as individuals or communities have always strongly believed in education.

Ms. Hourani said that successive Lebanese governments have tried to link the diaspora and Lebanon, as seen in the "creation and expansion of

Lebanon's diplomatic and consular missions; the extension of the Turkish-Lebanese accord to allow emigrants to choose Lebanese citizenship; the founding of the World Lebanese Cultural Union (WLCU) permitting organizations and institutions related to migrant relations to be created on Lebanese soil; the targeting of diaspora interests for homeland investment; and presenting a bill for parliament to create a migrant identification card."

However, although governments in general have shown their concern towards the diaspora, there has never been a formal policy framework to govern relations between Lebanon and its expatriate communities, nor a clear socio-economic plan to seriously involve the diaspora in the development of their homeland.

o | **Elie Nabhan**

LERC Renews its Diaspora Literary Evenings

*To mark the 20th Anniversary of Notre Dame University, the Friends of the Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) at NDU, in an evening dedicated to diaspora literature, held a reading and book signing of **The Myrtle Tree** by **Jad El Hage** on Wednesday, November 14th, 2007 at the Auditorium, Pierre Abou Khater Hall, NDU, Zouk Mosbeh at 6:15 p.m.*



Among those attending the event were His Excellency, The Ambassador of Mexico **Jorge Alvares**; H.E The Ambassador of Uruguay, **Jorge Louis Jure**; Mrs. **Alessandra Testoni** representing the Italian Embassy; Mrs. **Maggy Teen** representing the American Embassy; **General Salah Younes** representing the Irish-Lebanese Cultural Foundation; **Dr. Nadeem Naimy**, Dean of the Faculty of



Health Sciences at Balamand University; **Dr. Nina Zeidan**, Director of the Faculty of Public Health at the Lebanese University; **Dr. Nabil Haddad**, CEO of Geita Grotto; **Dr. Assaad Eid**, Vice-President for Research and Development at NDU; **Mr. Souheil Matar**, Director of Public Relations at NDU; **Ms. Guita Hourani**, Associate Director of LERC and a gathering of teachers, students and staff of LERC.

This reading recalled the literary evening that LERC had the pleasure of hosting for Jad's previous novel, *The Last Migration* and another enchanting evening was spent this time amidst war and dreams, hopes and destruction. *The Last Migration* was a narrative of one person's dilemma of war, peace and migration. *The Myrtle Tree* is about war and peace and the forced migration of a whole community. Both novels, though by the same author, are different in temperament, in language and in structure. El-Hage located his novel in a Lebanese mountain village neither Christian nor Muslim.

Ms. Guita Hourani, Associate Director of LERC, opened the lecture series for the academic year 2007-2008 with a word of welcome. The event was moderated by **Dr. Naji Ouejjian**, Professor of English Literature and former Chairman of the Departments of English, Translation, and Education—Notre Dame University, who said that after reading the novel that he "felt how important man's humanity is, and how this shapes his/her unprejudiced perceptions of religions, sects and political parties."

Prof. Ahmad Shboul, of the University of Sydney, Australia said, in *The Aesthetics of Healing in Jad El Hage's The Myrtle Tree*, that the myrtle tree is "connected with the mysterious celebration of life, fertility, victory and death."

El Hage's said that his first novel *The Green and the Dry*, penned in Arabic, about "a remote Lebanese village ready to start its olive harvest and hoping that the Civil War would leave it alone," formed the background of and

was resurrected and rewritten as *The Myrtle Tree*.

Ms. Suraya Rahme, an MA holder and English Instructor at NDU and LAU, gave a serene reading from the novel.

Other highlights of the evening included a haunting short film, *Beirut from Stones and Memories*, by Mr. Philippe Aractanji, a Lebanese film maker who is a migrant returnee. Premiering in 1993, the film lamented the war and Beirut's destruction, with some of the poetry of Nadia Tueni and a haunting soundtrack by Peter Gabriel. Renowned composer and musician Mr. Charbel Rouhana, inspired by the mood of the evening, in a tribute to the spirit of Lebanon, performed his mesmerizing compositions on the mystical 'oud (lute) string instrument.

▼ *Composer and musician Charbel Rouhana delights the audience with his compositions, as H.E. the Ambassador of Uruguay (far left) looks on.*



▼ *Jad el Hage at the book signing of The Myrtle Tree.*





▲ Dunia Taan is to sign her new book *Lebanese in the Ivory Coast (1900-1996)* at BIEL Arab Book Exhibition, 14th of December 2007

Lebanese in Ivory Coast

Dunia Taan is to release her new book on *Lebanese in the Ivory Coast (1900-1986)* at Biel Arab Book Exhibition, 14th December 2007. Expanding on a PhD dissertation by the author, this novel will be an important historical source for studying Lebanese emigration in general and Lebanese emigration to Africa and the Ivory Coast in particular. It centers on this particular migration from the perspective of geographic belonging, living conditions, and economic, social and religious adaptation.

It emphasizes the challenges faced by the Lebanese in their new land and their ultimate success in the economic, social and political arenas. The book also addresses the impact of the Lebanese Civil War on the Lebanese community in the Ivory Coast.

Statistical tables provided in the book concern geographic and religious

attachment, the levels of education, the living conditions, and the Lebanese participation in the prosperity and development of the country.

Recommendations to support this emigrant community and to strengthen bilateral relations between Lebanon and the Ivory Coast are put forward at the end of the book.

Intensive database training for LERC team

The Lebanese Emigration Research Center has undertaken the indexing of its archives and database to facilitate the retrieval of material for research purposes. To this end LERC hired the expert services of Roudy Kazan, Head of the Archive Department, at the Multidata Services Incorporation (MSI).

The course itself was held over three months in the recent summer of 2007, when members of the LERC team including Elie El-Mir, Ghada Khoury, Liliane Haddad, Elie Nabhan, Maya Sukar, Joe Malkoun and two members of the library staff, Antoinette Kattoura and Christine Noujeim, were instructed in how to index documents, photos, articles, books, bibliographies and audio-visual material in order to create a database with information stored in a manner easily retrievable from a computer.

This is made possible through the indexing of all the material subdivided according to subject, type, date, source, author and key words. A system of Boolean Research will also be applied in LERC archives.

Concerning the use of key words, Kazan explained that LERC would resort to the authorized Thesaurus of the International Labor Organization (ILO) and expand it to suit its needs.

"We have a Thesaurus which is like a dictionary containing a set of key words and we are going to expand this to include some terms concerning migration, diaspora and matters touching Lebanon," he said. "For example, we can have a key word for migration called *Lebanese Migration 19th Century or The Lebanese Civil War 1975*, key words that will not exist in the ILO Thesaurus but will in our own," he added.

The overriding aim of the course is to create a data base for LERC storing information in a manner instantly retrievable whereby the LERC team itself will continue to index, fill in data, scan and photocopy to keep the system running always up to date.

○ | **Elie Nabhan**

Current Visiting Researchers at LERC

- | Kristine Shamas, PhD Candidate, working on her doctoral dissertation entitled *Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) and Identity Construction in Post-Occupation South Lebanon* at the Department of Communication at the University of Oklahoma, USA.
- | Suzanne Menhem, Ph.D. Candidate, working on her doctoral dissertation entitled *The New Immigrants in Lebanon: Toward an Ethnicization of the Labor Market* at the Department of Social Sciences at the Lebanese University and Migrinter, at the Université de Poitiers, France.
- | Akimitsu Ikeda, PhD Candidate, conducting research on agriculture and social structure in the Bekaa Valley, Lebanon, for his PhD at the Department of Social Anthropology at Tokyo Metropolitan University, Japan.

LERC's Team for the Fall Semester 2007-2008

- | Guita Hourani, Associate Director, working on citizenship law, migration from South Lebanon, diaspora investment, and banking services for migrants.
- | Dr. Eugene Sensenig-Dabbous, Adjunct Research Associate, working on absentee voting, insecurity and migration, and on diaspora investments.
- | Rudy Sassine, Research Assistant, working on diaspora investments, diaspora-homeland politics, and migration from South Lebanon (Student Employment Grant).
- | Elie Nabhan, Rapporteur, Editor of LERC website. He also catalogs material for the Lebanese Emigration Archive and Database (Volunteer).
- | Liliane Haddad, Research Assistant, working on diaspora investments, migration from South Lebanon. She also catalogs material for the Lebanese Emigration Archive and Database (Volunteer).
- | Sarah el-Hassrouny, Research Assistant, working on migration from South Lebanon.
- | Joe Malkoun, Research Assistant, working on banking services for migrants and on migration from South Lebanon.
- | Ghada Khoury, Administrative Assistant. She is also working on LERC's textual archives and library as well as transcribing interviews.
- | Amine Nehme, LERC's Program Developing Coordinator, working on diaspora investments and migration from South Lebanon.

China Commerce Ministry and NDU

29 July-18 August 2007

NDU Director of FBAE Graduate Programs **Dr. Rock-Antoine Mehanna** was invited by the Chinese Ministry of Commerce and the Chinese Embassy in Beirut to take part in a three-week seminar on *Managing Economic Development in Developing Countries*. The seminar took place in Beijing, Shanghai and Hefei and lasted from July 29th to August 18th, 2007. There were present senior delegates from sixty developing countries. The event was organized by the Ministry of Commerce and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China. Dr. Mehanna was selected to deliver the final speech during the closing ceremony on behalf of all the delegates.

Our photo show's Dr. Mehanna with Chinese officials and a South African Minister during the seminar.

Together with **Hannarong Shamsub**, Dr. Rock-Antoine Mehanna has recently published (2007) a book under the title *Does Regionalism Work? A Random and Fixed Effects Model*. (Inderscience, Switzerland and USA)



FBAE Graduate Students



Faculty of Business Administration
and Economics

Selected Master of Business Administration Theses:

MBA Candidate: Mrs. Dvozig Kassardjian. Thesis *Employing People with Disabilities: Human Resource Management and Analysis*. (Supervisor: Dr. Joseph Haddad; Reader: Dr. Atef Harb).

MBA Candidate: Mr. Edgard Jean Bassil. Thesis: *Mergers and Acquisitions: Do they always Create Value?* (Supervisor: Dr. Hassan Hamadi; Reader: Dr. Atef Harb).

MBA Candidate: Mrs. Marianne George Hage. Thesis: *Crafting a Comprehensive Growth Model in the Middle East Region: The Case of Chabros s.a.r.l. Entry into the Dubai Wood Trade Industry* (Supervisor: Dr. Tanios Touma; Reader: Dr. Atef Harb).

MBA Candidate: Mr. Nebras M. Wahid Khiata. Thesis: *Going back to Fundamentals, Will Financial Ratios Help to Predict Distressed Stocks during Trauma?* (Supervisor: Dr. Mohamed Hamadeh; Reader: Dr. Atef Harb).

MBA Candidate: Mr. Shady Ibrahim Matar. Thesis: *Firms Failure Predictions: Evidence from the Lebanese Market* (Supervisor: Dr. Hassan Hamadi; Reader: Dr. Atef Harb).



MBA Candidate: Ms. Eliane Samir Boustany. Thesis: *Reorganization and Change Integration through TQM: The case of CrepeWay* (Supervisor: Dr. Atef Harb; Reader: Mrs. Viviane Nakhle).

MBA Candidate: Mr. Joseph Elias Moussa. Thesis: *The Capital Asset Pricing Model, An Empirical Study on the S&P 500* (Supervisor: Dr. Hassan Hamadi; Reader: Dr. Atef Harb).

The following photographs show the class of Master of Science in International Business.



▲▲ The MIB class.

▼ Launching the MIB class.



Faculty of Engineering and General Secretariat of Catholic Schools sign

Memorandum of Understanding

On Wednesday November 28, 2007, NDU and the General Secretariat of Catholic Schools in Lebanon (SGEC-L), signed a Memorandum of Understanding that allows for technical assistance by the Faculty of Engineering to IT projects in the Secretariat. NDU was represented by **Fr. Walid Moussa**, President and **Dr. Elias Nassar**, Dean, Faculty of Engineering, while the SGEC-L was represented by **Fr. Marwan Tabet**, Secretary General and **Engineer Paul-Marc Bougharios**, IT Manager. This assistance will be through part-time and full-time training periods and projects undertaken by Electrical, Computer and Communication Engineering students. Up to four students can enroll in the program per semester. The scope of work includes Network administration and management and computer hardware implementation and software management. Students submit a report at the end of the training period and receive a certificate. The signing of the MOU took place at NDU in the presence of **Dr. Ameen Rihani**, VP, AA, **Mr. Suheil Matar**, Director of Public Relations, **Dr. Rabih Jabr**, Chairperson, ECCE Department, and **Sister Angel Nader**, Member of the Executive Council in SGEC-L. For more information on this program and how to enroll, please contact the Electrical, Computer and Communication Engineering Department.



Faculty of Engineering – Ulm University Protocol

On August 16, 2007, Notre Dame University, represented by Dr. Elias Nassar, Dean, FE, and Ulm University, Germany, represented by Dr. Helmut Partsch, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science, signed a Protocol of Cooperation between the two faculties concerning graduate studies and research.

Under this protocol NDU students from the Electrical, Computer and Communication Engineering (ECCE) Department will be given priority for admission to the Masters program in Communications Technology at the University of Ulm, which is taught entirely in the English language. The University of Ulm will also host one faculty member per year from NDU's ECCE Department for the purpose of conducting a research project with access to research labs at Ulm.

Currently three NDU graduates from the ECCE Department are PhD candidates at the University of Ulm and two are pursuing their MS degrees.

The University of Ulm is one of the top research universities in Germany with state-of-the-art research facilities and enrolls around 6000 students in faculties of Science, Medicine, Economics and Engineering.

The city of Ulm is the birthplace of Albert Einstein and is ranked as the healthiest city in Germany. It is located in southern Germany on the banks of the Danube River, halfway between the cities of Munich and Stuttgart.

For more information on the Communications Technology program go to:

<http://ctech.e-technik.uni-ulm.de/>

► *From left to right, Dr. Shumacher, Director of the Communications Technology Masters Program, Dr. Reimer, Program Coordinator, Dr. Lucker, Director of the International Relations Office, Dr. Nassar and Dr. Partsch, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science at Ulm.*



◀ *In front of the Engineering building at Ulm; NDU graduates from left to right: Gurpreet Singh (EE), Marwan Bou Sanayeh (EE) and Haysam Hajj (CCE), who are currently PhD students at the University of Ulm.*

7-10 November 2007

Biel Hariri Forum 2007

Sixteen universities and twenty technical institutes, companies and embassies took part this year in the Hariri Forum at Biel, which lasted from November 7th through the 10th. NDU was of course well represented. Of the 10,527 students visiting the Forum, 6,900 visited the NDU stand. Well over 120 schools came with their students and a hundred school directors and counselors dropped in to see what NDU had to offer. **Mr. Suheil Matar**, NDU Director of Public Relations, was present at the unofficial opening together with

Mrs. Lea Eid and **Miss Mirna Nehme**. Faculty members **Mr. Simon Abou Jaoude** and **Dr. Bassem Sabra** arrived on Friday afternoon and **Dr. Roger Hajjar** on Saturday morning.

The impressive new quick-screen was effectively used in front of the stand and four rolling screens about the NDU campuses and faculties were also displayed. Brochures, admission guides and pencils were distributed to those with serious interest, as well as sweets. Soft classical music (Vivaldi, Boccherini, Mozart) was played discreetly.

The Admissions team wore formal costumes with the NDU Logo. Success for NDU was beyond expectations. Contacts were established for the first time with a number of major schools of varied cultural and religious attachment and orientation appointments were fixed. There was considerable interest on the part of Muslim students from the Dahia suburb of Beirut. While secularist prejudices provoke argument about head gear in Europe, we of NDU hope to see more Muslim students in headscarves on our Campuses.

○ | Information kindly supplied by **Dr. Viviane Naimy**



▲ *The spacious and attractive NDU stand.*



▲ *Dr. Viviane Naimy, Director of Admissions, Mrs. Lea Eid, Registrar, Admissions team and helpers.*

► *Mr. Suheil Matar with members of the Admissions team.*



Advertising/Marketing

News from Kamal Darouni

The Advertising/Marketing Major is on its way upward and forward. Kamal Darouni, IAA Coordinator at NDU, received a letter from Dr. John Holmes, IAA Director – Education Program & Alliances, which is self-explanatory. Now eight years after NDU was accredited, the students have a great opportunity before them – an internship abroad, on condition of a high GPA level checked with their advisor.

Email from
Dr. John Holmes
IAA – Director of Education

Dear Kamal,
IAA will be partnering with IAA Accredited Institute Michigan State University (MSU) in an innovative international student internship program – InterSIP. Beyond serving to announce the program, this e-mail serves to invite you to serve as your institute's InterSIP coordinator.

InterSIP is being administered by Prof. Gordon Miracle at MSU, and is initially targeted to those accredited institutes who have expressed interest in providing international internship experience for their most talented students.

InterSIP benefits

As such, InterSIP will directly benefit –

Participating students – providing them with professional cross-cultural work experience.

Employers – providing them with a talented resource, a competent intern or potential employee.

InterSIP website

More complete information re InterSIP's policies and procedures are available from www.oiss.msu.edu. As

the program progresses, these will be more fully developed and refined.

Role of the InterSIP Faculty Coordinator

InterSIP's success is predicated on identifying faculty coordinators, an individual who will champion the program on Notre Dame University's campus.

The InterSIP coordinator will be responsible for –

- | Publicizing InterSIP to local students.
- | Identifying one or more well-qualified students.
- | Participating in identifying and contacting one or more local employers to offer an internship to a student from another country.
- | Obtaining information re –
- | requirements and procedures for foreign students to obtain visa, work permit or trainee status necessary for them to serve as an intern in your country.
- | Restrictions that your school places on students who will take an internship in other countries.
- | Participating in identifying and contacting one or more local employers to offer an internship to a student from another country.

Letter received from Dr. John Holmes, IAA Director of Education, addressed to Mr. Kamal Darouni, Advisor of IAA Club at NDU.

November 6th, 2007

Re the latter, Gordon will provide information, leadership and support service to recruit local employers.

Action Requested

Please consider serving as your school's InterSIP coordinator, or indicating a colleague who would be willing to do so. At first convenience, kindly apprise Gordon and me of your school's intention to participate. Once affirmative responses have been received from Accredited Institutes, InterSIP will then solicit prospective employers.

Best regards,

John

Dear IAA Accredited Institute Program Director,

As part of its overall Educational Programs, IAA's World Service Center is pleased to announce the formation of IAA Student Chapters. This will be a two year 'Pilot Program' which if successful will be continued indefinitely.

IAA perceives the IAA Student Chapter Program as an opportunity for advertising and marketing communications students enrolled in your accredited institutes to more fully identify with the professional community while pursuing their studies, and upon graduation facilitate their transition into the profession.

Many IAA Accredited Institutes currently have a student club, and have asked about affiliation with IAA, while others have considered forming such an organization on their campus.

At the outset, the success of IAA Student Chapters will be dependent upon a dedicated faculty advisor, willing to champion the formation of an IAA Student Chapter (Club), and/or assist student leaders in organizing and

administering its programs.

Many of you are already performing this task, and doing it well. For others, this may be a challenge which should provide dividends to your school – its students and alumni, as well as its teachers.

To assist in this regard, IAA has prepared IAA Student Chapter Guidelines, which have been attached.

Please review, and at your first convenience let me know of your commitment to participate in this initiative. If you personally can not serve as the school's chapter advisor, please pass this material on to a member of your teaching staff who would welcome such involvement.

Best wishes for a productive years; I will look forward to your response.

o | **John H. Holmes, Ph.D.**

Director – Educational Programs
and Alliances

Dr. Edward Alam at Mofid University, Iran



The Center for Human Rights Studies at Mofid University, located in the holy city of Qom, Iran, hosted Dr. Edward Alam in May, 2007, as he participated in the 4th International Conference on Human Rights entitled "Human Rights and Religion". The invitation came as a result of his previous participation in a similar International Conference on "Human Rights and the Dialogue of Civilizations", in Teheran, in May of 2001. The paper he delivered at the 2001 conference was subsequently published in a volume published jointly by Mofid University and the United Nations, and dealt with the influence of Catholic Social Theory on the formation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

This year he continued to explore this same subject, arguing that Pope Leo XIII's landmark encyclical *Rerum Novarum* at the end of the 19th century initiated a new era in Catholic Social Theory, which inspired thinkers such as Jacques Maritain of France, Charles Malik of Lebanon, and Giorgio La Pira of Italy, to play key roles in generating what finally came to be known as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Following the conference in Qom, Dr. Alam was invited to Tehran to participate in a seminar on science and religion at the famed Iranian Institute of Philosophy, and to Azad University to give a lecture on the history of philosophy.





Dr. Christine Sabieh: President of AsiaCALL



Dr. Christine Sabieh has been elected President of AsiaCALL, the Asia Association of Computer Assisted Language Learning. The focus of AsiaCALL is to be a premier body in the world in the field of Computer-Assisted Language Learning through integration and interaction with technology. Dr. Sabieh believes this goal is best achieved through AsiaCALL's four other goals: AsiaCALL is to be a platform for researchers and academics in Asia and elsewhere to showcase their work; to be synonymous with quality in all areas associated with its objectives; to be at the forefront of all technological innovations; and to be the reference point for consulting among government and private sector institutions.

Dr. Christine Sabieh has just returned from Indore, India, where she was keynote speaker at the 6th AsiaCALL 2007 International Conference. The conference, timely themed as Computers and Language Learning Technologies in and for the Developing Economies, took place from November 17 to 19, 2007 at the Indian Institute

of Management (known as the Harvard of India) in Indore, India. The title of her speech was *Making a Change: Taking Tech Supported Classroom Learning to E-learning*. She argued that, globally, many education set-ups have joined the band wagon and provided e-learning opportunities for their students. It sounds simple; it looks uncomplicated; it is thought to be straightforward; but the fact of the matter is that it is not so. This, Dr. Sabieh noted, may be a fact in both the developed and underdeveloped worlds. Unless done properly, she stressed, e-learning takes education methodology back to the days of individualized, behaviorist-oriented learning. This can not become the case – even if the need is to educate masses of students; education today must promote constructivism and the importance of critical thinking.

Dr. Sabieh also conducted a workshop to address ways to enhance the education environment where the focus was on promoting creativity, learning technologies and the intelligences.

NDU ALUMNI COUPLE REUNION

2007

"You will find as you look back upon your life that the moments when you have really lived, are the moments when you have done things in a spirit of love."

~ Henry Drummond

In the framework of celebrating the 20th Anniversary of Notre Dame University, the Alumni Affairs Office organized the NDU Alumni Couple Reunion 2007 - *Tonight I Celebrate My Love For You*, on Monday, October 15th, 2007 in Issam Fares Conference Hall - Main Campus.

The President of NDU, along with Members of the Board of Trustees, Vice Presidents, Deans of Faculties, Directors, Administrators and Faculty Members joined the large audience of NDU graduates who attended this romantic and love-filled gathering, exceeding all expectations.

The reunion, which was presented by Ms. Rania El Sabeh, NDU Alumna '03, opened with a welcoming address by the Director of the Alumni Affairs Office Mr. Simon Abou Jawdeh, who said, "I always look forward to organizing such events. I am equally proud of NDU Alumni - who are really the focus of the Office. I can only feel a sense of pride in having a role to play in helping to develop the next generation of outstanding leaders of Lebanon." He also announced that similar reunions were to be held in NDU Off-campus. He finally thanked Father President Walid Moussa for his trust and direct support for any activity or program initiated by the Office.

The program of the event included "a wedding scene" presented by NDU Alumni couple Georges and Nicole Milan, National Champions in Latino Dance. A gracious moment of the scene was when Georges surprised Nicole with his heartfelt sentiments; he addressed her saying, "I want everyone to know how lucky I feel to be your husband. You are beautiful, intelligent, caring - Nicole, you

look absolutely stunning tonight." Nicole answered back with words that captured the audience in precisely the right words which left Georges tongue-tied. She said, "I am proud to be here, proud of having married you and proud to be your wife. Can I ask all of you to give a big round of applause to my husband, Georges?" Often it takes a lot of creativity to translate a feeling.

Two documentaries were projected on a large screen; the first one included wedding pictures of NDU Alumni couples as well as married NDU Faculty/Staff members. The second documentary was under the title of *Hold on my Heart*. In this, three NDU alumni couples, Victor Kahi

▼ *Mr. Simon Abou Jawdeh opens the reunion.*



▼ *All together at the reunion.*



and **Saria Rahme, Wissam Melhem and Rania Abboud,** and **Rabih Moubarak and Sabine Ghanem,** gave a personal testimony about their love stories that started at NDU.

In addition, the event continued with "words of love" narrated by the Poet and General Director of Public Relations, **Mr. Suheil Matar,** followed by an exquisite Latino dance presented by **Georges and Nicole Milan.**

A memorable moment of the event was when **Fr. Fadi Bou Chebl** was invited to the stage, where he expressed hope that, "God's light will always be shining upon them and be their beacon in the years to come. May they always know happiness and

prosperity and be forever bathed in God's love and grace." All in the Hall were uplifted by their reading the renewal of marriage vows distributed earlier at the entry to the event.

Two notable features of the reunion were, first, the presence of the oldest NDU Alumni Couple, the renowned director **Myrna Khayat and Tony Abou Elias** from the first graduating class. Second, the presence of **Maya Halim Massrouha** celebrating her birthday at the reunion, and raising a glass in a toast to wish all NDU couples happiness and success.

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

wedding is neither an end nor a prison; it's a start and beginning of life with all its beauty. Your reunion at NDU was a sparkle that glowed with the light of love and ended up by a marriage." He also asked the NDU Alumni Couples to be "up to their responsibilities and the spiritual values which are fixed in their hearts."

Rafka Phares, NDU Alumna '07, who is gifted with a voice of such beauty that competent judges recommend her singing as a career, sang a few love songs that added a smile, a memory and a picture that everyone present carried with them long after the evening was over.

Victor Hugo once said, "I met in the street a very poor young man who was in love. His hat was old, his coat worn; his cloak was out at the elbows, the water passed through his shoes – and the stars through his soul."

► **Fr. Walid Moussa, Myrna Khayat, Toni Abou Elias (oldest NDU couple) and Rania Sabeh.**



▼ **Nicole and Georges Milan, Fr. Walid Moussa, Myrna Khayat and Toni Abou Elias.**



▼ **The Wedding Scene.**



▲ **Father Fadi Bou Chebl speaks.**

▼ **Halim and Maya Massrouha.**



▲ **Rania Sabeh**

This is the text of a talk given by a veteran of NDU, Miss Fadia el-Hage, on May 2nd, 2007, at a gathering to honor the University's Alumni.

Alumni Speech

Reverend Fr. Moussa,
Reverend Fathers,
Vice Presidents,
Administrators,
Faculty and Staff Members, and dear Alumni.

I was approached by Mr. Simon Abou-Jawdeh to deliver a speech at this gathering, so I took the opportunity to talk about building ties with our Alma Mater.

Two days after graduating from NDU in Business Management, I joined the family of NDU on October 1st, 1990. On that day, it was a baby university just three years old. Imagine what a nice feeling one would have holding a baby's hand and trying to bring it up gradually. I always had this great feeling about our University and am still praying to improve our work.

When the Alumni Association started on 1992, I subscribed to become a member. Why should one become a member? Because Alumni gives the feeling of belonging to a certain institution; if one doesn't have this feeling then one won't be able to be a member in the Alumni. Never ask what you are going to gain from a community or an association, always think what you can give and share with others.

Then I became a member of the Executive Committee in 1998, remaining in this position for six years. During 2003-2004, we were obliged to suspend our activities and were prevented from continuing our mission due to difficult circumstances at that time. Now the Executive Committee is not functioning after having been hindered from playing its normal role.

We always wanted the Alumni to be a social association under the Ministry of Interior, never coming under any political control.

We now look forward to a new Executive Committee being elected to continue the mission and gather in the graduates of NDU.

We are gathered here in a reunion organized by the NDU Alumni Affairs Office. I am confident that our collaboration with this Office will yield high dividends, because there is much work to be done to reach our goals.

I always keep in mind the following Psalm, No. 23: *The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul, etc.*

And Psalm No. 27: *The Lord is my light and my salvation: whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid: when the wicked, even mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell, etc.*

May God bless our University and give us the power, hope and patience to fulfill our missions.

o | Fadia El-Hage
May 2, 2007



First Student Film Festival

Notre Dame University honored the pioneer Lebanese film director **George Nasr** during the opening ceremony of the First Annual Student Film Festival, which was held at NDU from October 28, 2007 till November 4, 2007. NDU President **Fr. Walid Moussa** attended the ceremony along with cultural and artistic personalities, professors, students and representatives of universities. During the opening ceremony there was a documentary about the life of Mr. Nasr.

Students from Lebanese universities ALBA, USJ, LU, LAU, USEK and NDU participated in the festival, bringing short movies that were projected before a committee comprising cinema critics and university professors, who selected the three best. Many famous Lebanese feature movies were also screened during the festival, such as *Bosta* by Philippe Aractinji, *Zennar El Nar* by Bahj Hojeij, *Al3sar* by Samir Habshi, *Tayf al Madina* by Jean Chamoun, *Ilayka Aynama Takoun* by Borhane Alouié and *Falafel* by Michael Kammoun. Every showing was followed by a discussion directed by **Mr. Emile Chahine**.

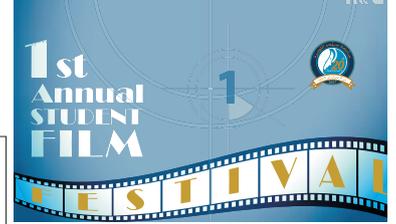
At the end of the opening ceremony, Fr. Moussa gave the University shield to Mr. George Nasr and **Mr. Sam Lahoud** (NDU Engineering Lab) gave him the festival medallion, after which a film by George Nasr entitled *Ila Ayn* was screened.



▲ *Cineaste Emile Chahine and Director Jean Chamoun.*



► *The Festival opened by NDU President Fr. Walid Moussa.*



During the closing ceremony, awards were distributed to **Rami Kodeih** from ALBA, who won first prize for his film



Shehrazade Tale; **Sara Haidar** from USJ (IESAV), who won second prize for her *Ni kaki ni tomate*;



and **Elsa el Amm** from LU, who won third prize for her *Tahta ta'ilat al mas'ouliya*.



NDU students' movies were shown out of

competition at the demand of the University since it was hosting the festival.

Mr. Saad El Naser, the Middle East Brodacasters' General Manager, offered

NDU student **Nader Tabri** an award for his film *Parallel, Point, Circle, Square* and he also gave **Elie Semaan** another award for his film *Ghanile ta'Ehlam*.

The judging committee was headed by the cinema critic **Emile Chahine**, along with actress and writer **Claudia Marchelian**, movie critic **Issam Kalaoun**, Judge **Hani Barsha**, actor **George Khabbaz** and Attorney **Nasri Brax**.

University professors were also represented on the committee, namely **George Kehdi** from ALBA, **Lynn Kodeih** from USJ, **Toni Farjallah** from LAU, **Abdo Nawar** from LU, **Josef Chemaly** from USEK, and **Sam Lahoud** from NDU.

NDU Director of Public Relations **Suheil Matar**, representing Fr. **Walid Moussa**, delivered a speech, as did the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities **Dr. Carol Kfoury** and **Dr. Joseph Ajami**, Chairperson Department of Mass Communication. All the speeches focused on thanking the participating universities and congratulating the winning students.

At the end of the closing ceremony, prizes and awards were distributed and a cocktail was held to celebrate the occasion.



▲ *The Jury.*



▲ *The three prize winners; left to right, Rami Kodeih (1st), Sarah Haidar (2nd) and Elsa el-Amm (3rd).*

▶ *Elie El-Semaan, MEB award winner.*



Music Club Karaoke

Starting with a new image, the Music Club opened the year 2007-2008 with a successful karaoke event on Wednesday, November 7, 2007.

The event was held at the upper cafeteria during the lunch break. Attendance was high and the crowd was very responsive.

The time allocated was not enough for everyone to take part but

nonetheless the participants and audience were very pleased.

A strong musical diversity was seen in the event with music choices covering all styles, most notably Arabic, classical, pop, rock, and metal as well.

Several highly talented vocalists participated and gave amazing performances...while a few other less talented people provided some

humor with their efforts.

Sami Gabriel, winner of Lebanon's karaoke competition, and 3rd in the world, was brought as guest and opened up with an outstanding performance. He also closed the event.

This event was sponsored by **Cluckster's**.



Social

Birth

NDU Shouf Campus is happy to announce the birth of Baby Meya Bou Karroum, daughter of Marina Bou Karroum El Beaini (mkarroum@ndu.edu.lb), at 13h.30 on Saturday, July 14th, 2007.



Pierre and Caline Abi Saab have pleasure in announcing the birth of their daughter **Mendy** at N.D. des Secours Hospital, Jbeil, on July 17th, 2007. Caline is Warden of the NDU Museum.

Obituary

We wish to express our sympathy to Colette Erro of the NDU Administration staff, who lost her father Ghanem Wheibe. He went to his eternal reward on Monday 5th November, 2007.



"Remembrances – Gone but Not Forgotten"

And she said, "When someone would say that my hands are thick, he would be the first to disagree. He always made me know how these hands were used for over 20 years – his age. He would say, 'Mom has the world's most beautiful hands.'"

Nadine slowly walked into the quiet hospital chapel. Thankful that no one was there, she knelt down before the altar with tear-filled eyes. She was no longer asking for a miracle, but for strength to get her through the most dreadful moments of her life. "Please, Jesus, give me strength," she cried. She did not ask for anything else as she knelt there weeping.

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

Some say that people will know that they are about to leave. I always thought this was true. However, upon thinking over, crying until my eyes were puffed as ever as can be, there was one thing that was in my mind.

Only a few of our NDU students knew their time. Most of the 37 of them passed away in a car accident, the majority of whom were pronounced dead at the scene.

In the framework of celebrating the 20th Anniversary of Notre Dame University (NDU), a joint activity between the NDU Pastoral Work, Student Affairs Office and Alumni Affairs Office was prepared for All Souls' Day under the theme:

"Remembrances – Gone but Not Forgotten"



During the past twenty years, NDU has said goodbye to several distinguished colleagues and students. The whole intent of the activity was to keep them a part of the University memory – the names of those who were there once, laughed, lived and worked well and left something for us to remember.

The idea of this activity came one day as "I stood before a broken headstone, thrown aside at the edge of the cemetery, the evident sign of the weathered, smashed stone gave a hurtful awakening when 'Not Forgotten' was all I could read clearly. To me it obviously looked 'Forgotten'. Who did this belong to and what was their life about? This headstone was for Miss Wadad Abi Nader, a sociology instructor at NDU who passed away in 1997."

To pay tribute to all those people we wanted to remember, a Mass was

celebrated on Monday, November 5, 2007 at 12:00 noon in Issam Fares Conference Hall. Fr. Fadi Bou Chebl, University Chaplain, sent out a request to all NDU constituents to help in building up the **memorial database** of "Faculty, Staff, Alumni and Students". The result was a documentary prepared by the Alumni Affairs Office that included photos of the forty-three persons who have left us so early but will always live in our hearts.

The Memorial Mass was celebrated by Fr. Bechara Khoury, Director of Student Affairs Office and concelebrated by the NDU fathers.

In his address given in the presence of the families of the

last three students, **Marwan Mouawya**, **Jad Korkomaz**, and **Roland Ammoury**, who departed during the months of September/October 2007, Fr. Bechara Khoury said, "If tears could build a stairway, we would walk right up to heaven and bring you back with us!" Today, we remember all the faithful departed - that is, those who have died, and are being prepared for their entrance into eternal glory. The biggest challenge people who have experienced loss will deal with is getting their minds around what they are facing." He spoke of the different stages of grief until we reach acceptance of what has happened. Fr. Bechara illustrated his homily with a scene from the Bible. In the face of her brother's death Martha looks to Jesus for true hope. He tells her quite clearly: "Your brother will rise again" Why? "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die." Martha

then voices her faith, which we echo: "Yes, Lord, I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

The peak moments of remembrances were when a candle was lit for every individual one of the forty-three in the form of a heart. The Sports' Office presented to the family of **Roland Ammoury Maalouf**, who was also a national basketball player, some memorable pictures of Roland.

I found this quote the other day, which sounds adequate in the light of the nature of the remembrance ceremony that took place: *"I think maybe you never get over anything; you just find a way of carrying it as gently as possible."*

o | Prepared:
Simon Abou Jaoude,
Director, Alumni Affairs Office



- 1 The author participated personally in the preparations for the creation of this reserve in his capacity then as UN Resident Coordinator.
- 2 This reserve has become one of the most important reserves in the ME region by promoting eco-tourism and its biodiversity.



By **Dr. George Abu-Jawdeh**
Former UN Ambassador in Lebanon

The Story of Nature Reserves in Lebanon

On 10 March of this year, the Lebanese Government, environmental NGO's and the media celebrated the National Day for Nature Reserves for the fifth consecutive year. It was in 2002 that the Government officially adopted the initiative of the Lebanese Environment Forum (LEF), of which George Abu-Jawdeh was Vice President, for proclaiming this national day for remembering nature reserves and highlighting their unique role in the protection of the forests and the biodiversity of Lebanon.

It was really a courageous, civilized and forward-looking action taken by the Lebanese Government to launch the official campaign for the establishment of nature reserves on 9 March 1992 with the promulgation of the Law creating the first two reserves of Horsh Ehden¹ and Palms Island (North Lebanon) at a time when the civil war had barely ended. This was followed in 1996 by a law creating the Shouf Cedars reserve,² and then in 1998 four new reserves, Tannourine, Bentaël, Tyre and Yammouneh were officially set up.

Since then, there has not been any new officially declared reserve in spite of the fact that experience with the existing ones has proved them to be

successful especially that civil society, principally through the Environmental NGOs, has contributed positively to this success, the NGOs having played an active role in the steering committees of these reserves. Moreover, the LEF, its member NGOs and other Environmental NGOs have as their priority the prevention of any further deterioration of the remaining green space in this country. Consequently, one of the most important initiatives of LEF has been to press for the official declaration by the Government of the first decade of the 21st century as the decade for the protection of the remaining forests in public properties and their declaration as nature reserves. In this regard, Lebanon ratified the international treaty for biodiversity in 1994, which was one of the most important ones contained in *Agenda 21*, which was adopted at the Rio World Summit in 1992 for the cooperation of all countries in achieving Sustainable Development (SD) leading to a better world of peace, justice and prosperity.

Lebanon, which is committed to applying the basic principles of SD, will intensify its efforts to improve the management of the seven existing reserves, will continue its efforts for the establishment of new ones and will

ensure the necessary material support and qualified human resources for their management and development. In this endeavour, the participation of civil society and especially of the Environmental NGOs as well as of the private sector will be crucial in promoting eco-tourism, which has become fundamental for SD in our present day world and particularly in a country like Lebanon.

Finally, we hope that the overall situation will permit the promulgation of the long-awaited (over ten years) law on nature reserves and the establishment of a special national fund for support of these reserves.



For an IMDA Symposium held in Maastricht, 4-8 July, 2007

By Kamal G. DAROUNI¹

PAN-ARAB ADVERTISING?

PRACTICES FOR BETTER COMMUNICATIONS

IN THE MENA REGION

Abstract

Since the discovery of oil, the Middle East has been the economic support of the United States of America. However in the area of communication, the Middle East has a different understanding and application of communication, due to its cultural, economic and political particularities.

In terms of economies of scale, the Middle East has many advantages to offer to global advertisers because the Middle East and North Africa consist of twenty-two Arab countries that enjoy one language of communication, Arabic, and a more or less common culture.

These countries are open to new opportunities as compared to the West. The average advertising expenditure per capita in the region is estimated at \$50 as compared with \$500 in the West. The following pages give a hint of the new trends in international advertising and of how foreign advertisers may best use efficient and effective communication practices.

1- Introduction

In the 1960s, most of the American global advertising agencies made joint ventures with many European companies, which were mostly based in England, in order to cover, among others, many countries in the Middle East and North Africa.

Today, due to the increase in specialized media in all their forms, the world is witnessing the rise of a fragmented population. The mass market is no more considered. The alternative is an emerging segmented social group with a specific life-style. We shall call the individual in this group the "Postmodern Man", who traces and follows new world semiotics and symbolism based on ideologies.

Due to this new age of the individual, the Internet is growing in popularity. This interactive system of online business encourages customers to purchase products advertised online. The main advantage is that it is measurable and has no geographic limitations. It provides the consumer with a larger diversity of choices and flexibility, with lower-priced goods. For this reason advertisers insist on having their ads interact with the audience, using the ROI "Return On Investment" approaches to ensure good results. It

is recommended that the following criteria should be followed. (Jewler & Drewniany, p. 77)

a) Product:

In standardization, the product should be in the same phase of the product life cycle in all the countries involved; otherwise, strategies in communication will be different and will no more be cost efficient or sequential. Flexibility requires working hand-in-hand with clarity because a "truly global brand" is able to work across any communication medium in order to achieve an emotional response based on product or service differentiation. Branding builds businesses and transforms the anonymous into the recognizable.

b) Creative strategy:

The process of communication in international markets involves a number of steps at each stage in the process. Cultural barriers may hamper effective transmission of the message and result in miscommunication, while global advertising achieves economies of scale by minimizing the cost of production in applying one single-minded idea, with some adaptations if necessary.

This is quite possible in the Middle East. Thus, when producing a



¹ Ass. Professor, Notre Dame University, Lebanon; Chief Executive Officer, Infomarkets Int'l – Advertising Agency; Gen. Sec. of Advertising Agencies Association; Member of IAA World Chapter; Author *Advertising and Marketing Communications in the M.E.*, NDU Publications kdarouni@hotmail.com

commercial, the creative director should use local figures, scenery, rituals, language, obscure symbols and colors with local music. The population in the MINA region accounts for over 250,000,000 persons who speak the same language and have similarities in culture with a Low Context Culture as compared to the Far East. "The LCC place a high value on words and communicators are encouraged to be direct, exact and unambiguous" (Mueller, B.p.114).

The ads that are culturally bound are the ones that contain imported humor; sex appeal and the textual back-translation of the original copy are not recommended. Preferably, copy should reflect local flavor and use suitable linguistic frames.

c) Media planning:

It is becoming obvious that today fewer people living in the Middle East watch their local TV channels, the three reasons for this change being as follows:

1. Arab viewers do like to receive unbiased news.
2. The functions of mass media are to entertain, inform and educate the public as well as to stimulate the economic system. The local TV stations

still fail to offer such services with the desired standard of quality but are mostly used by advertisers to compete against local rivals.

3. The rise of regional information has reinvigorated a sense of common destiny among many in the Arab World. To a great extent, regional print media as well as television broadcasts have combined to create a regional media market known to marketers as the Pan-Arab market, which is becoming increasingly influential.

Thus the multinational companies have realized that using Pan-Arab media (horizontal planning) with an advertising presence in the local media (vertical planning) would help them to achieve a high Gross Rating Point (GRP) that could lead to an increase in the Share Of Voice (SOV) which reflects positively on product performance in the key markets. (Darouni, K., p. 248)

2- Practices for better communications:

From the marketing communications point of view, the new trend (by my understanding) of the classical "4 P's" has been changed and has integrated a core value that is the people "5th

P", since consumers come first in the modern IMC models .

This is observed in the success of infomercials and interactive TV ads, and is specific with the online advertising since it no longer rests on one marketing method, Banner Advertising. It comes down to a mix of marketing, hard work, and much testing to gauge the effectiveness of online advertising, because today advertisers need accuracy and accountability in their message delivery.

On the whole, world brands will be more standardized and similarly marketed in every country. Words will be used less in commercials, for "less is more" in advertising, but the visual aspect will be developed with the use of more symbolism, as may be seen in the NIKE and MARLBORO global campaign strategies.

While the use of ingenious cross-cultural words generated from researching people's perceptions (VALS)

might be a good approach, imagery and relevance are often the elements that most affect any Arab consumer . Exploit the story, actors and the mood as much as possible. A simple striking device (simplicity) that occurs during your ad should reinforce your product and boost your message integrity. (Barban,A. p. 38)

Fragmenting the audience is more than slicing a market into age-defined consumer groups. Two decades ago, this would have worked; family units were stable, geographic data held more importance and lifestyle did not take into account gender preference or country of origin. Today's game is very different.

Globalization goes hand-in-hand with technology, especially from multimedia perspectives. Ignoring local culture, however, may jeopardize a company's business. Globalization generally offsets a multinational company which is positioned on a continuum from centralized to decentralized. Few can be found positioned at the extremes on either side. Most of them are clustered around the center and mixing both strategies, in other words "Glocalization". (Darouni, K. p. 257)

The smart advertising person and/or advertiser should face

this new trend of communication in order to promote global products using "best practices" for the success of their clients' campaigns. They should answer first the following questions:

- | What are the most efficient and effective media I should use?
- | Should I go local, regional or global?
- | Should I standardize, localize or glocalize my company's products and campaigns?
- | What suitable creative approach should I use as a cross-border?
- | What creative execution should I use to best appeal to my target group?

Creativity is not enough, in view of the complex and highly competitive market environments. It does not alone fulfill the needs of both local and multinational companies. All elements of the marketing mix must be calibrated precisely, regardless of whether the structure is centralized or decentralized or both.

Adaptation should be taken into consideration when entering new markets, so multinational companies must decide to what extent they will adapt their products, their marketing mix and their advertising campaigns.

Staying on top of the markets is no easy task. New segments emerge, existing influences shift and new consumer profiles surface within a market. For an advertising person the task is one of determining the beliefs, attitudes and behaviors of client patterns and customers. Keeping on

top of the cultural mix is the key to successfully reaching this goal.

Finally,

To enable marketers and advertising professionals to communicate to the Arab population, an understanding of the behavior, tradition, ritual, symbols, heroes, religion and practices of the area will lead to a better understanding in communicating with the consumers. Since different cultures have different values, one has to remember that in cross-cultural studies each country's culture adapts different values to meet the individual's needs and wants.

Having said all this, I finally believe that more effort should be derived from global institutions to protect this individual "postmodern man" from stereotyping, violence, unethical ads, and most importantly the subliminal ways of communication.

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Ahmed Karkanawi

N.D.U. Department of Musicology

Semitic Religions and Music

A Relation of Conflict



The world's history of music can never be separated from the history of religions; since religious beliefs and regulations concerning music have determined the nature of the process of music creation, and consequently the social practice of music worldwide, from the days when shamans and magicians were the musicians until modern times. Nevertheless, in the Semitic religions we trace a tendency of rejection and unwillingness to accept music except with conditions and restrictions of varying strictness.

In Christianity, we find that early on these restrictions varied from total rejection of music, linking it to sensuality that is not "proper" for Christians, to simple restrictions on the use of instruments in worship.

Clement of Alexandria (150–215) severely condemned the use of instruments even at Christian banquets (*Catholic Encyclopedia*, 2007). Saint Augustine (354–371) opposed the use of instruments in worship since instruments at that time evoked pagan traditions. He gave reasons why instruments should be excluded from Christian liturgical celebrations and Cauley (2004) explains: "Musical instruments were not used. The pipe, tambourine and harp here are associated so intimately with the sensual heathen cults, as well as with

the wild revelries and shameless performances of the degenerate theater and circus, that it is easy to understand the prejudices against their use in worship."

Chrysostom (347–407) in another justification of the exclusion of instruments says, "David formerly sang songs, also today we sing hymns. He had a lyre with lifeless strings, the Church has a lyre with living strings. Our tongues are the strings of the lyre with a different tone indeed but much more in accordance with piety. Here there is no need for the cithara, or for stretched strings, or for the plectrum, or for art, or for any instrument; but, if you like, you may yourself become a cithara, mortifying the members of the flesh and making a full harmony of mind and body.

"For when the flesh no longer lusts against the Spirit, but has submitted to its orders and has been led at length into the best and most admirable path, then will you create a spiritual melody." (Chrysostom, 347–407, Exposition of Psalm 41, (381–398 A.D.) *Source Readings in Music History*, ed.O. Strunk, W. W. Norton and Co.: New York, 1950, pg. 70.) (Cauley, 2004).

The *Motu proprio* of Pius X (22 Nov. 1903) sets a list of restrictions and regulations: "Although the music proper to the Church is purely vocal music, music with the accompaniment

of the organ is also permitted. In some special cases, within due limits and within the proper regards, other instruments may be allowed, but never without the special licence of the Ordinary, according to the *Cæremoniale episcoporum*. As the chant should always have the principal place, the organ or instruments should merely sustain and never suppress it. It is not permitted to have the chant preceded by long preludes or to interrupt it with intermezzo pieces. The pianoforte and noisy and frivolous instruments (e.g. drums, cymbals, and bells) are absolutely excluded. Wind instruments by their nature more turbulent and obtrusive are admissible only as an accompaniment to the singing in processions outside of the church. Within the edifice 'it will be permissible only in special cases and with the consent of the Ordinary to admit a number of wind instruments, limited, judicious, and proportioned to the size of the place, provided the composition and accompaniment to be executed be written in a grave and suitable style and similar in all respects to that proper

to the organ.' The restrictions imposed by the Church in this regard were formerly still greater." (*Catholic Encyclopedia*, 2007).

It appears that Semitic religions, even allowing for the diversity within each one, are hypersensitive about the term *music*, rather than about musical practice itself. Various terms came into use, replacing that specific word, such as chant, *cantillation*, recitation, *Tajweed* and many other expressions with religious implications. However, the musical essence has remained, dominating the liturgical rituals in the three religions.

Rabbinical and Muslim religious legal authorities from the start developed a reserved, and sometimes hostile, attitude regarding music *per se*, an attitude which has varied from complete rejection of the use of any musical component or instruments in ritual to various compromises or a tacit tolerance, which willy-nilly accept the role of music in worship. (Shiloah, 2001).

We can find this Judaic trend to exclude music when we go back to the great Jewish philosopher Maimonides, who formulated an extremely aggressive attitude toward music: "Israel is required to be

a sacred nation, and music provokes excitement and sensuality." Maimonides' stand about music is quite like the orthodox Islamic view.

Orthodox Judaism does not permit instrumental music during communal services. Consequently, the introduction of the pipe organ in some more liberal synagogues by the pioneer German Jewish reformer Israel Jacobson (1768–1828) provoked a fierce controversy because of the existing prohibition against instrumental music in services (*Encyclopædia Britannica*, 2007).

But this opposition to music is not compatible with the crystal-clear biblical stand. The Bible records that spontaneous music-making was customary among the ancient Jews on all important occasions, religious and secular, sad and joyful. A cursory reading of the Psalms alone shows an extraordinary position for music in the life of Israeli communities. Music is used to praise God with a variety of instruments all the time. Some musicologists have even suggested that in some cases specific instruments had precise functional roles in liturgical and social activities.

In Islam, the regulations concerning music were left entirely to the religious authorities. Islamic traditions have almost never mentioned music, so it would seem that the hostile attitude was simply inherited from the two previous Semitic religions.

The great cultural evolution of the Christian World helped in formulating a general attitude toward music that was more and more benign and

consequently music is no more such a controversial issue in Christianity. On the other hand, Islam and Judaism have had to look for some adaptive strategies for music in worship to be allowed. The first strategy is the avoidance of the term *music* altogether. Even when music later embodied ornate and melismatic forms, one rather finds terms like 'to read' or to 'recite' (Shiloah, 2001).

The æsthetical values articulated by the voice of the chanter or reader provide another subject for argument. When Rabbi Shlomo ben Adrat (1235–1310) was consulted, he answered: "If the fervor of his [the Cantor's] creative musical imagination rests on the desire to praise and give thanks to the Lord, and he stands before the Divinity in fear and awe, May he be blessed. But if his intention is to demonstrate his artistry in order to reap the praise of the congregation, his behavior is reprehensible" (Shiloah, 2001). Similar views are expressed by Islamic religious authorities. In Ramadan 2007, certain Quran readers in Saudi Arabia were indicted for their "over-singing" to the Quran! All such strategies aim at emphasizing the pre-eminence of the text over any other possible beauty. Finally, some religious chanting can somehow be considered acceptable if the melodies are based on tunes of folkloric nature.

On the other hand, music was accepted unconditionally by the Jewish and Islamic mystical sects, and was utilized as a fundamental religious practice in their worship.

A Jewish mystical movement founded



in Eastern Europe in the 18th century by Baal-Shem-Tov (Israel ben Eliazar), which spread rapidly to become a major Jewish sect, had a totally opposite approach to music. Hasidism not only adopted music, but actually encouraged joyous religious expression through music and dance (*The Columbia Encyclopedia*, 2005). Dancing and singing are considered in Hasidism as a "Holy Medium and particular expression of devotion" (Avenary, 1964).

In Islamic Sufism, singing is perceived as elevating the soul to celestial realms. Theories dealing with the power and function of song were developed extensively and given important practical and spiritual application by Sufi leaders such as Jalal al-Deen al-Ormayw.

Conclusion

The religious criteria in Judaism, Islam, and Christianity have always determined the evolution of music, and almost all aspects of life. So I have long wondered what would have happened if the use of instruments in the traditional church had not remained such a subject of controversy for so long. Might some Beethoven have arisen by the 11th or 12th century?

In this connection we must remember that the great masterpieces we come across in the history of music would have never existed without religious inspiration, works such as Bach's *St. Matthew Passion*, and Mozart's and Faure's monumental requiems. Even in the 20th century, when the modern

world would appear agreed on total secularism, the great French organist and composer Olivier Messiaen has shown us that religion will always be the fountainhead of inspiration with his *End of Times Quartet*, one of the most significant pieces in the 20th century, deeply based on Christian eschatology.

In brief, religious standards and norms are still to be taken into consideration and are sources that provide inspiration for any artist, scholar, scientist or philosopher, in the East and in the West, but on different levels of sensitivity. Therefore, religion will always be the virtual tyrant authorized by societies themselves to direct the evolution of the quality of each aspect of their life, either positively or negatively.

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Investment in Telecommunications and Economic Development in the MENA Region¹

Dr. Louis G. Hobeika²

Telecommunications is one of the world's most dynamic economic sectors. Hardly a week goes by without telecom events making news in the national, regional and international press. Research shows the importance of telecommunications as infrastructure for efficient economic and social development. The increasing information intensity of economic activity coupled with the globalization of capital flows, trade, manufacturing and other activities has resulted in strong demand for telecom services. Advances in telecom technology have helped reduce the costs of production in all sectors. Four words sum up today's telecom markets: private, competitive, VOIP and global. The convergence of mobile communications and the internet produces great results. Because of its

availability and its costs, the mobile internet should not be considered as a substitute for the fixed line internet.

The objective of the paper is to present the main telecommunications indicators for the MENA region and link them to economic development. Section One overviews the development in the international telecommunications sector. Section Two presents the current situation in the MENA³ region, with particular emphasis on the Arab states. Section Three analyzes the nature and scope of the relationship between telecommunications and economic development in the region. Section Four presents the recommendations of the paper.

I The Telecommunications Industry

The telecommunications industry has made its mark in history. It has experienced a series of dramatic changes since its inception in the 1880s. From an industry heavily

regulated and owned by the public sector without competition, it became privatized, very competitive and deregulated due to technological innovations and legal and institutional development.⁴ Roughly 2% of telecommunications firms in 167 countries were privatized in 1980. In 1998, the number had increased to 42%. National carriers were privatized, new competitors licensed and new services allowed. For the telecommunications companies, these developments created new opportunities. They stimulated the convergence of previously distinct industries such as telecommunications, information technology, entertainment, media, and consumer electronics into a new industry called "multimedia information". Internet telephony (VOIP) emerges as a major new telecommunications technology.⁵ As it improves, the artificially high prices of voice calls will not be sustainable. Since VOIP will cause revenue from voice calls to wither away, the most vulnerable operators are those that are most dependent on such revenue.⁶



This will cause a regulatory shake-up to the benefit of consumers and business.⁷ Perhaps in five years, telephony will be a free service offered as part of a bundle of services to buy other things such as broadband access or pay-TV services.

Revenues of the international telecom market reached \$1,370b in 2003 (\$1,070b for services and \$300b for equipments). World Computer and Internet Penetration Rates are improving, an important sign of social development and a direct consequence of the new economy. To achieve these results, an extensive use was made of alliances, mergers and acquisitions. The growth of data and mobile services has outpaced that of basic fixed voice services. In 2002, mobile subscribers overtook fixed line subscribers worldwide. These events continue to have serious implications for the design of relevant policies and regulation. They raise serious life and health concerns related to driving while using the mobile, and related also to the addiction of children (1 in 5 adolescents are awakened regularly by text messages late at night).

Technological change in key inputs of telecommunications and computer-based services and in complementary goods have contributed to lowering costs and made new services available at reasonable prices. The digitization and integration of telecom services with computers create significant business opportunities and threaten the fundamental features of the traditional regulatory regime. Around the world at the start of 2003, there were about 63 million broadband subscribers, a number rapidly increasing, and 1.13b fixed line and 1.16b mobile phone users. However, worldwide over 1 billion people remain without access to basic telecom services and 800,000 villages are still unconnected. Recently, the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), within the context of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS),⁸ launched "Connect the World" initiative to reduce the "digital divide". The divide remains in "Fixed Phone Line Access", in "Mobile Subscribers" and in "Internet Access". Although progress is evident, the initiative aims to consolidate and scale up existing development-oriented

connectivity projects and stimulate new partnerships to achieve the goal of connecting all communities by 2015.

In the Arab states where the sector is dominated by state owned monopolies, there are no fixed link operators which are 100% privately owned. Foreign participation in the incumbent remains minimal. Many Arab states are involved in privatization efforts not by conviction but because of the need for private capital for infrastructure development.

II. Telecommunications Indicators for the MENA Region

The MENA region remains relatively underdeveloped in technology and telecommunications. In 2001 for the "Regional Computer Penetration Rates" and the "Regional Internet Penetration Rates", MENA was ahead only

of South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa. The unsatisfactory result is due to many factors, including the overall level of economic and human development as well as to high costs and tariffs.

The MENA Arab region can be divided into two parts: the Gulf and the rest of the region. The indicators for the Gulf States are higher and could be easily compared to those of some advanced emerging markets. The main telephone lines per 100 inhabitants in 2003 were 26.76 in Bahrain, 19.6 in Kuwait, 26.12 in Qatar, and 28.11 in the UAE compared to 18.6 for Malaysia, 22.29 for Brazil and 21.88 for Argentina. Some Arab states need to invest heavily and urgently in the sector to reach adequate levels of technological development, ones such as Algeria, Djibouti, Egypt, Yemen and Morocco. The telephone indicator for Lebanon (20) is near those of the advanced Gulf states and is higher than those of Saudi Arabia and Oman. It is well known that Lebanon has invested heavily and successfully in its telecommunications sector, which needs to be maintained and modernized.

The indicator for mobile subscribers per 100

inhabitants for 2003 reached 63.84 in Bahrain, 57.16 in Kuwait, 53.31 in Qatar and 73.57 in the UAE compared to 91.17 in the UK, 70.09 in Korea, 67.9 in Japan and 54.58 in the USA. The same Gulf States show high indicators regarding the number of internet users and PC owners. Needless to say, Israel holds a very high level of telecommunication indicators, which are reflected in the efficient performance of its economic sectors. The ratio of the number of fixed telephone lines to mobile shows that the region, generally, follows international trends. The ratio is about 0.41 in Bahrain, 0.46 in Jordan, 0.34 in Kuwait, 0.85 in Lebanon, 0.38 in the UAE and 0.48 in Qatar and Saudi Arabia.

III. Telecommunications and Economic Development in MENA

Investing in telecommunications should improve the productivity of all factors of production. Telecommunications are considered a strategic investment to maintain and develop competitive advantage at all levels. Telecommunications constitute the core of, and provide the infrastructure for, the information economy. Telecommunications facilitate market entry, improve customer service, reduce costs and increase productivity. Telecommunications are today an integral part of financial services, commodities markets, media, transportation, and the travel industry. They provide vital links among manufacturers, wholesalers and

retailers. Moreover, industrial and commercial competitive advantage is influenced not only by the availability of telecom facilities, but also by the choice of network alternatives in line with changes in corporate objectives.

Countries that lack access to modern telecom systems cannot effectively participate in the global economy. Improving the standards of telecommunications would therefore help the development of the business sector, including e-commerce. Telecommunications help education and openness and bring the world closer together. As cross-section regression equations show, the level of GDP is strongly positively related to the main telecom indicators (number of PCs, number of internet users, total telephone lines and mobile telephone lines). Increasing these indicators should reflect positively on economic growth and expectedly on general economic development.

IV. Conclusion and Recommendations

MENA countries need to implement reforms in all sectors, including telecommunications. Gulf countries should benefit from additional oil revenues to invest further in infrastructure and human development. Despite efforts to reduce their size, the share of MENA's public sectors in output and employment still exceeds the average for developing and industrialized countries. Moreover, the low productivity of public investment (plus high costs, bad quality,

insufficient revenue and shortfalls in maintenance spending) is apparent in many sectors, such as electricity, telecoms and water. Private sector intervention continues to be stifled by limited progress in building market-oriented institutions and in integrating into the world economy. The private sector needs financing on adequate terms and an efficient and secure judicial system. That is why labor productivity remains low and unemployment rates continue to rise. The absence of dynamic private sectors has been specially felt in the area of investment. With the exception of Africa, MENA has the lowest private investment ratios among developing regions.

Telecommunication is part of the GATS since 1985. The MENA region, especially its poor countries, would benefit from improving the quality of existing projects and from further investments and reforms in the telecommunications sector. During the period 1990 – 2001, for developing countries private participation accounted for 25% of total investment in infrastructure. MENA investment in

infrastructure projects with private participation fell (in 2001 US\$) from \$3.6b in 1993 to \$2.8b in 2001. Cumulative investment in the region for 1990-2001 amounted to \$22.8b, which was less than in Sub-Saharan Africa (23.4) and South Asia (39.6) and even more so as compared to East Asia and the Pacific (210.6), Europe and Central Asia (97.1) and Latin America and the Caribbean (360.6). The regional sector should move further in the four directions:

- a. Commercializing and separating operations from government.
- b. Increasing the participation of private enterprise and capital.

Containing monopolies, diversifying supply of services and developing competition.

Shifting government responsibility from ownership and management to policy and regulation.

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² Professor of Economics and Finance at Notre Dame University – Louaize, Lebanon.

³ The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region includes Algeria, Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, West Bank and Gaza, and Yemen.

⁴ The USA was the first country to deregulate the telecommunications markets. The 1996 US Telecommunications Act attempted to adapt the regulatory structure to technological reality. Results have been so far mixed.

⁵ VOIP's leading proponent is Skype, a small firm whose software allows people to make free calls to other Skype users over the internet, and very cheap calls to traditional telephones. On September 12th eBay, the leading online auction-house, announced that it was buying Skype for \$2.6b.

⁶ % of revenues derived from voice is about 85% for Vodafone, 75% for Telecom Italia, 65% for France Telecom, 62% for Deutsche Telecom and 35% for British Telecom.

⁷ Regulation should only be used when it is clear that deregulated markets are likely to fail.

⁸ The WSIS plan of action was agreed by world leaders at the Geneva Summit in 2003. It laid out a series of targets aimed at connecting communities by 2015. The Tunisia Summit held in November 2005 reaffirmed the pledges made in Geneva and expressed concern over the lack of adequate funding offered by western governments.

ART : Resonance of Image, Sound and Soul

○ | Rima Saab

M.A. Visual Arts, B.E. in CCE, FAAD

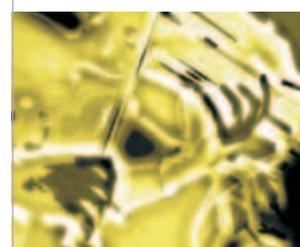
Can we rise through the beauty of image and sound to the ultimate beauty of soul? Can Art be the resonating frequency of image, sound and soul?

Resonance is the prolonging, vibrating or re-echoing of sound. In physics, resonance is defined as the increasing amplification of a vibration of a given frequency in a mechanical or electrical system, as an external vibratory stimulus approaches the same frequency. Poetically speaking, resonance can be defined as the inner amplified vibration of the soul with the stimulus of refined quality of image and sound!

Inside a violin, resonance of sound occurs when the violin, the violin player, and the medium are in perfect balance and harmony. Moreover, in order to produce a resonating sound within the instrument, the violin must be perfectly tuned. The violin player should also master his instrument: his

technique, his hands and his mental state must also be in absolute readiness and vigilance. In addition to all these, the medium – the sound acoustics – must be in perfect condition to allow the pure flow of sound waves without noise or distortion. It is only in the presence of these necessary conditions of violin, violin player, and medium that a resonating sound occurs.

This resonance of sound is the ideal state that a musician tries all his life to attain. It is a complete fusion between soul, body, instrument and environment. In this state, the artist-musician has no boundaries: his ultimate soul and heart are in perfect harmony and balance. His inner spiritual state is in complete fusion with the outer material world! On the other hand, the external material world has also acquired subtle spiritual attributes by exhorting the artist's inner soul, in resonance with exhorting the vibrating inner core of the violin.





The rigidity of the material world becomes more fluid! The heavy becomes lighter, and the dull becomes awake and vigilant. It is the state of an artist performing in front of his audience, where complete fusion occurs between the artist and the listener.

This is also similar to the state of a painter absorbed within his work. Complete absorption is the result of deep reflection and concentration! It is what I have already defined as 'resonance of soul'. It is a state in which the artist attains a sort of dissolution in a sublime world of images and sentiments! In this state, the artist melts into a platonic world of Absolute Beauty, which beautifies and illuminates the material world with a mystic fragrance.

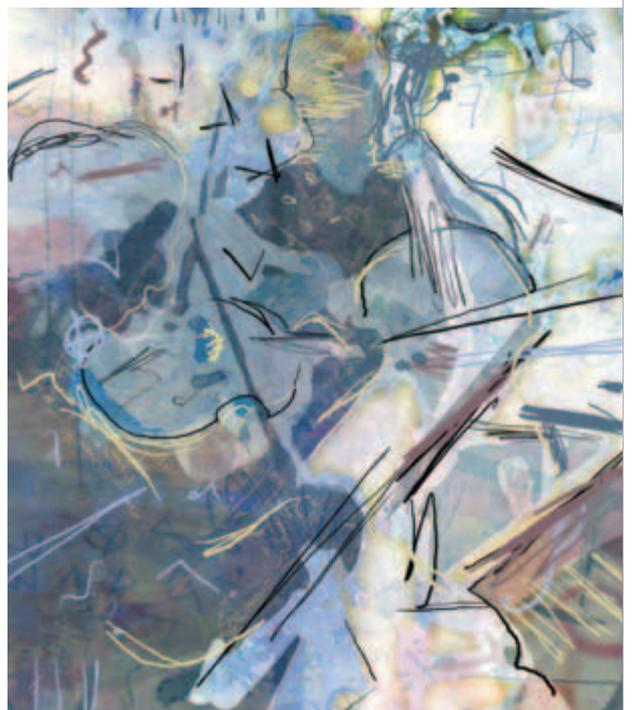
In a concert, it is this resonance of image, sound and soul that we can call 'music'. Upon such a quality of music being heard, it pierces the listener's heart and soul in a similar way. It may draw tears from his eyes, as an expression of inner resonance, as an expression of fusion and unity with the world of beauty. The concert becomes a communion, through which every rigid boundary is eliminated and everything becomes one as pure sound, pure heart, and therefore a state of 'Pure Art' is attained.

Playing music as painted images, and painting canvas as musical rhythms! I have always been intermixed between the two! Being a painter and violin player myself (or being someone who is trying to be), I have always tried to seek this resonance of sound and soul through both music and painting. In music, the musician becomes a painter. In painting, the brushes and canvas become the instrument, and the music of the soul plays through the act of painting. I often thought of painting what I play as visual musical images, and on the other hand thought of playing the music of the inner soul onto the canvas. The more sincerity of expression there

is, the more resonance of image, sound and soul is attained.

Could we rise above the psychological and social expressionism to a more essential state of soul through art? Could art be an invitation to sublimation more than anything else? Could art be a means for reflection and introspection? Can we rise through the beauty of image and sound to the ultimate beauty of soul?

If art remains external and superficial, it is not art! Not even if one masters all the techniques of art! Which is more valuable: the artwork or the state of art? The object or the process? Art is not just a means for recreation, nor is it an anti-stress prescription, or a disorderly psychological expressionism. Its mission is neither to deliver a social refusal or a message, nor to be abused as a kind of social event. It is neither a show-off, nor a delusion of creating a visually nice artwork. Art should be a life-time quest. It is a state of liberation, a quest of undefined resonance!





Teenage Romance: Obsolete or Not Yet?

○ | Yara Y. Zgheib
ENL 213

Love, like, dig, crush... Whatever you want to call it, romance is the main thing on a teenager's mind, next to fashion, basketball, and the latest MTV music hits. Teenage romance is currently a widespread phenomenon in almost all societies and cultures; it is not uncommon to see two fifteen-year-olds walking around the mall holding hands, sharing an ice cream, or buying Valentine cards. According to a research conducted by Clyde O. McDaniel, Jr., by the time teenagers reach university, a whopping 47% will already have been in a serious relationship (Online Source.). But while the quota is very high, most of the teenagers asked about this phenomenon do not define it as "romance", a "relationship", or any other term that might be considered *binding* in any way. They prefer the term "friends with benefits", or the expression "we went out"... With such a general cringing from notions like commitment and restriction, the entire concept of teenage romance is undergoing a general *mise en cause*...

It is interesting to know that what was once the most important social activity is now considered "on the road to extinction" by some. The general feminist notion set forth by Sharon Thompson (1984) argues that while teenage romance was in fact a crucial social phenomenon back in the 20s through the 70s, it is no longer important in today's society (Online source). This point of view is mainly enforced by the fact that, with feminism introducing women into the professional world, and the increasing educational requirements for success, marriage is no longer a top priority for anyone. While, twenty years ago, most women were married by

the age of twenty, the quota for "settling down" is now at the age of twenty-eight minimum. If no one is planning on getting married for another ten years or so, then why bother with dating now? The trend today is to enjoy the "freedom of choice", "keep one's options open", and leave issues like romance, dating, and marriage till after the PhD dissertation is written.

The internet is another reason why teenage romance is in decline these days. With so many chat-rooms, websites, and blogs, teenagers have entered the virtual world of cyber-relationships; relationships with many people, in many places, at the same time, and with absolutely no commitment or restrictions whatsoever. The anonymity and immaterial nature of the internet makes the relationship itself immaterial, and therefore less complicated and without consequences. As the article "Online Dating" interestingly put it: "*With such a care-free solution offered, why date the traditional, cumbersome way?*" (Online source).

Others argue that despite the tremendous technological advancements and the very nature of modern society, teenage romance is just as important and present today as it was fifty years ago. No matter how advanced people get, they still and will always feel the need to interact with others. No matter how modern a teenager's lifestyle, it cannot control or suppress his/her natural emotions and feelings of convergence towards a certain person. Attraction is a natural, biological phenomenon that should be expressed and acted upon. This makes romance, teenage or not, a natural process of life.

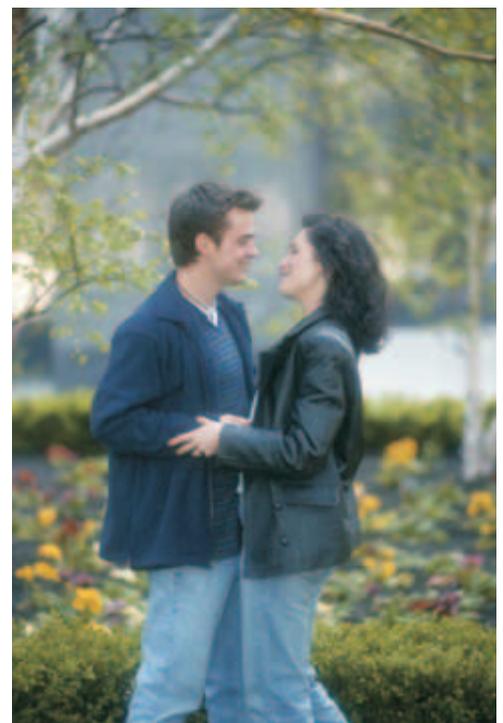


And while many argue that teenage relationships are a pointless waste of time, and that they neither lead anywhere nor last long, it is interesting to note that, according to Jamie Jones (2004), about 30% of young American girls marry their "high school sweethearts" (Online source). And to really put a fur ball into "puppy" love, many psychologists claim that teenage romances are actually crucial to preparing a person for future, adult relationships. Without them, some claim, a person would reach adulthood with no idea how to interact with and relate to the opposite sex, which would create a serious handicap to future marital plans.

Being a teenager myself, the issue of teenage romance is particularly interesting to me. It deals with a dilemma I, and most of the teenagers I know, are trying to solve. With so many technological, social, and academic barriers getting in the way of romance, and with the general teenage taboo attitude to words like "relationship" and "love," it may seem that teenage love is on the way out. I, however, am a hopeless romantic, and refuse to accept the idea that teenagers shouldn't fall in love because it is too early, or too complicated. Romances are what make the whole teenage adventure worthwhile and are clearly still a very prominent activity in our society. No matter how fascinating it may sound to simultaneously compliment six boys from six different countries, all from the same P.C., it cannot replace the thrill and excitement of a first date, or the feelings of compassion, tenderness, and attraction that stem from a faithful relationship. Teenage romance is *not* obsolete yet, and I'm sure I do not want to be around when, and if, it becomes so.

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SECULAR GOVERNMENT IN LEBANON

By Brenda Iara Younes

In an article entitled, *Secularism* (2007) the author defines a secular state as "...a state that is officially neutral in matters of religion, neither supporting nor opposing any particular religious beliefs or practices" (Online). This definition relates to Lebanon in many ways. As we all know, Lebanon is torn on the political front due, mainly, to underlying religious issues. It is not the same scenario the Lebanese witnessed during the civil war, since inter-religious alliances between parties are quite evident today. Yet, each political party has a particular religious agenda, which it is not willing to compromise. Thus, the inter-political clashes pertain to the representation of the religious beliefs in the government. Consequently, we must ask ourselves, would a secular government be the solution to Lebanon's tribulations? I believe it would be a possible solution.

Lebanon is a country composed of many complex political networks with external interference; therefore, it is difficult to attempt to foresee the effects of a secular government. Many claim that secularism would go against Lebanese political tradition and that it may require a drastic change in the Taef Accord. However, the Taef Agreement, as Bejjani, E. (1999) says, is aimed to "install a Lebanese puppet mercenary regime willing to help regional neighboring countries find a solution for the Middle East crisis at the expense of Lebanon and its people" (Online). Through the Common Agreement Policy, Lebanon was forced into a whirlpool of different and contradictory opinions and objectives that do not have common ground. This in turn has been inciting deeper religious and political clashes than ever before. If changes are required, then it is about time to make them! Moreover, as to going against Lebanese political tradition, permit me to remind the reader of the status of Lebanon before the civil war: we had several parties that united people from all religions in a non-religious vision. For example, there were the Communist Party and the Syrian Nationalist Party and the

Socialist Party. The true tradition of Lebanon is to act as a melting pot for various religions and nationalities and to create a system of cohabitation that adheres to the concepts of secularism. Some others claim, if all else fails, the population is not socially and culturally ready for such a dramatic change in their society. However, secularism does not necessarily require changes in society, but in the government as an institution. In a secular state, no decisions or questions of public interest should be based on religious ideologies; nevertheless, religion as personal route of faith is respected.

To explore the ways in which a secular government would benefit the Lebanese political scene and resolve many of its issues, the history of Lebanon must be studied carefully. Lebanon has a history of violent clashes between parties representing different religions. These cannot be appeased unless the government takes on an authoritative power beyond any religious concepts. While the government represents a certain school of thought and adheres to it, other schools of thought would be in resistance and that will diminish the

government's sphere of power. Therefore, secularism maximizes the adherence of all religious/political parties to one government. India is a good example of one central, secular power appeasing religious disputes. Jayaraman, T. (1997), describes the religious practices India has rejected in its secular government, such as untouchability and Sati and Caste. India is now introducing "affirmative action as a means of redressing socio-economic inequalities" (Online). Even though the Lebanese might find this hard to adapt to, they are at a point in history where they should be willing to compromise some of their hold on religious issues, for the general interest and advancement of the state and the economy. Judging by the partitions of the current political alliances, we are no longer unable to relate to other religions. We can find ways to relate to them in the visions we have for our country. The article *Bashir Gemayel: The Dream* (2007) states, "Total Syrian, Iranian and Palestinian armed forces withdrawal from Lebanon is prerequisite to the strengthening of a central Lebanese government" (Online). However, I believe that it is the government's hold on the country's various parties that would earn us a new status in the international viewpoint: The internal stability will in itself shut out political interferences from countries that see themselves represented in local minorities. As long as there is no one strong central government, we will always depend on external assistance. Without interferences, the only interest we have in mind is our own. We can then begin to prosper as a political entity with its own agenda.

In the continuous quest to find a solution to the "Lebanese question," not one route has led to religion and not one path requires religious dogma to be legislated in order to unite the people under one elected government. Not one path leads to the use of religious concepts in the governmental decision-making to grow and prosper in the modern world. Above all, not one route leads to the division of the population into smaller and smaller minorities to witness the end of civil dispute. After all, as the article entitled *Secularism* (2007) states, "the idea [of secularism even] has support in biblical teachings, particularly Jesus' statement, 'Then give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's'" (Online). However, the ideas I represent may seem utopian due to the hostile environment that surrounds Lebanon. On one hand, there are the Arab Muslim countries that have internal and external political tensions and on the other hand there is the Jewish state that is in conflict with the Arab and Iranian states. Besides, there are the long-term political, cultural and economic conflicts

between the East and the West. Therefore, secularism in Lebanon, nowadays, remains a dream, far-fetched and unrealistic. Nevertheless, if the Lebanese come to an understanding of the necessity of separating religion from the state and unite in their call for one strong secular government, this dream may just come true...

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RSS: A SPAM / JUNK MAIL Killer!

○ | By Victor Sawma



RSS (Real Simple Syndicate) is becoming, day after day, a hot Internet topic for end-users websites. Despite the hard luck that RSS faced during its early "childhood", when different formats from different providers messed up the daily web developer's life, RSS 2.0 promises to be a standard cornerstone for future RSS improvements.

SPAM, on the other hand, a major topic of controversy among commercial companies, is something that the majority dislike while the minority still use and pay for it. SPAM (also known as JUNK mail) is the unwanted email you receive from someone whom you don't know and that you didn't even ask to receive email messages from.

In this article, we describe how RSS can be used to fight SPAM by providing examples for the major sources of SPAM and how these sources can be fought by adopting RSS technology.

How Did Spam Start in the First Place?

Spam has its roots in the technical ignorance of Internet users and in their inability to foresee privacy mines on the Internet.

When a user visits a website and fills a contact form, he/she must provide an email address to be contacted back. In this scenario, the email address is a requirement. Other forms, such as registration to download software, require an email address although it will not be used at any point during the download process. Some websites use the email address provided to verify the identity of the users but many websites simply do not.

Another scenario occurs when a user subscribes to a newsletter. In this scenario, the user must fill a form and must provide an email address to receive the



newsletter. Check boxes are common in these pages and usually ask the user to specify whether he/she would like to receive messages from affiliate partners. When filling the form, the user is usually in need of the product and the normal reaction towards this type of checkboxes is "Why not?"; so the box is checked (if not checked by default) and the user submits his email address, which ends up in many cases delivered to third party affiliate programs who pay to get these databases of email addresses.

Another source for spammers is public directories such as Microsoft's Hotmail Directory, which provides the email addresses for the public. This type of directory can be scanned using robots or spiders and email addresses are collected in minutes. Such a directory can be protected from spammers by removing the email address from the public page and replacing it with a contact form.

Another interesting source for spammers is Domain Name Registries such as GoDaddy and Verisign. These directories can also be scanned for email addresses of domain-name owners and these email addresses end up collected and used by spammers. This has already been protected from email spiders by some domain-name registries using other technologies such as image authentication (where a user must type the text he sees in the image) prior to gaining access to the page displaying the contact information. Other registries allow domain name owners to hide their contact information.

About the Author

Victor Sauma is an instructor at the Computer Science Department, Faculty of Natural and Applied Sciences, NDU. Victor is interested in web research and technologies; e-commerce; e-commerce security; PHP; Linux and open-source projects. If interested in these topics you can contact Victor via email at vsawma@ndu.edu.lb.

Although the majority of websites use collected email addresses in an ethical manner, these emails end up being used by a minority of the Internet community for spam purposes regardless of the method used to collect these emails.



How Does RSS Help Fight Spam?

RSS attacks SPAM at its core by allowing users to subscribe to feeds without providing an email address. All a user is requested to do is to subscribe to the RSS Feed using his/her own reader (such as FeedReader) or browser (such as Mozilla Firefox or Microsoft Internet Explorer) or even his email client (such as Microsoft Outlook or Mozilla Thunderbird). Once subscribed, the reader will retrieve news feeds anonymously and deliver them to the user in a timely manner. No email is required to subscribe. The process is very simple. You grab the URL (e.g. www.ndu.edu.lb/news.xml) and you paste this URL into your RSS reader. The reader will then start fetching the news, announcements, etc. automatically and anonymously.

❑ RSS provides many other advantages listed below that are not related to SPAM directly:

❑ RSS Normalizes Network Bandwidth Usage. Spammers send out newsletters to thousands of subscribers at once. Thus, a mass mailing system usually clogs the network for hours while the spam mail is being sent. RSS, on the other hand, retrieves the news feed when the RSS Reader starts up. Thus, the network usage is distributed over the day instead of being clogged in one to two hours.

❑ RSS increases the View/User Ratio. RSS users must explicitly (and manually) subscribe to the news feed.

Normally, a user will subscribe to feeds that he/she is really interested in reading and, thus, there is a high probability that this user will read the news items that are retrieved by the reader. SPAM, on the other hand, is sent to all users regardless of its content. Thousands of SPAM messages are sent while only a minority of receivers actually read the message.

❑ RSS Eliminates Quota / Limit Problems for Users. RSS is retrieved when needed and is stored on the user's PC directly if required. SPAM on the other hand is sent to email accounts that are usually associated with a certain disk quota limit. This causes many users to go over their quota due to the huge number of spam emails that they receive daily.

Is This All?

Encouraging the usage of RSS is not by itself sufficient to prevent spam since an already spammed email address will continue to be so used. Once RSS is extensively used and all newsletter services are provided in RSS format, email users can simply change their email address, once and for all, without subscribing to any email newsletters or public email news provider. The result will be a new email address with a high probability of its remaining spam-free.

Conclusion

Although RSS's main intent is to distribute data in a standard format, its benefits for fighting spam are obvious and numerous. Thus, RSS must be encouraged by the Internet community to fight SPAM. Once this is achieved, users can simply change their email address once and can then rest assured that SPAM will not be their daily talk during coffee breaks!



Pollution!

When is it going to Stop?

Christina Keyrouz

Have you ever wondered why God created all these trees, flowers, rivers, and oceans? Has it ever occurred to you how lucky you are to be living on Earth? If there were no trees, no sun, no water, all life would be simply a dream. All organisms would vanish. Yet, although some people might be aware of this fact, they can't stop themselves polluting. How many times a day do we throw waste outside our car windows, or dump garbage in the ocean, or use chemicals that cause the ozone layer to deteriorate? In fact, all those actions are throwing back their negative consequences on us humans. Ever since humans were created on Earth, pollution has haunted them, leaving them helpless victims to its merciless plague.

Everyday in the morning, when I'm in the car coming to my university, I look at the sky expecting to see a clear blue back-drop with cotton clouds decorating the space; however I spot a black horizon of dust and fume particles floating in the atmosphere. If you come to think of it, this situation is very scary. Recent studies have shown that the increase in air pollution has caused respiratory problems to

spread, especially lung cancer. Consequently, more innocent lives are being stolen by air pollution. Another consequence humans and other living things are suffering from is global warming. As more and more toxic gases are escaping in the atmosphere, the ozone layer is becoming more and more perforated, allowing dangerous light waves from the sun to hit the earth. This is causing skin cancer in many humans, in addition to the extinction of many species due to global warming.

Another kind of pollution affecting our lives negatively is land pollution. Farmers nowadays use advanced techniques such as fertilizers in cultivated fields and get rid of insects with pesticides. The repeated use of such chemicals harms the plants, vegetables, and fruit, which in turn harm the health of individuals consuming them. Therefore, more diseases are spreading and more people are dying. The problem doesn't stop here. Many factories use toxic materials in the process of manufacturing certain products. They then need to get rid of all the residue and waste, so they dump it in the soil, harming all plants, trees, and flowers.

Severe water pollution has spread throughout various parts of the world, in just a blink of an eye, as it were. As we all know, the earth's surface is mostly covered by water in the form of rivers, seas, and ponds. More than half of the oceans have become polluted

due to accidental oil spills from huge ships. This is a serious problem since this oil can't be easily removed, so its large quantities cause the death of many fish. The poor fish and other underwater organisms do not suffer only from those oil spills. The countless discharges of chemical products and sewage pumped by factories into nearby rivers cause the formation of layers of algae on the surface of this water. As a result, the algae take in all the oxygen, leaving nothing for the fish and aquatic organisms. No oxygen means death. And death once again is caused by pollution.

Pollution has spread everywhere in our lives. However, it does not exist in the environment only. The major source of pollution is the human mind going along the wrong path. It is us humans who have created all this irresponsible technology that has caused pollution. The wars with their threat of nuclear weapons, and all the toxic substances and chemicals, have been caused by our polluted souls, which have allowed hatred, envy, jealousy, selfishness and greed to control our every single move. Unless we clean our souls, pollution is going to become our permanent shadow, following us everywhere. The question is this: When are we going to free ourselves from this slavery to ignorance and indifference?



A Great Opportunity for International Students!

By
Omar el-Khoury

After three consecutive years of course studies and a flowering of theories, a time arrives when an engineer should experience the application of his learning and nurture the spark of his future profession. As for myself, I was given the opportunity to be involved in training outside Lebanon. The country was Egypt, the country of the Pyramids, the first Wonder of the World and the only Wonder surviving to this day. My first priority was to be indulged, for I was to be involved in civil engineering activities that would be for me the best means for exploring in the field what I had studied throughout the scholastic curriculum.

Our University, NDU, gave some distinguished students the opportunity to have training abroad, where students could get to know new people, culture, background, education, and ideologies. My decision was to go to the land of Egypt, specifically to Assiut. The training was with an engineering firm, Arab Contractors Company, working with the assistance of Assiut University.

I should explain that Assiut is a rural area in the south of Egypt. As is well known, Assiut University is a well-

established and highly reputable university that enables international students from all over the world to exchange experience, education, and cultures. The journey started when the students were introduced to this gigantic university. The training gave a deep insight guaranteed to extend the engineering skills of an engineering student in any field of study.

The training started on the 30th of June, when engineering students and other non-engineering students were sent to their respective branches of internship. As civil engineering students, we were given a series of seminars for us to have an overview of the engineering work of the firm. In the main, the seminars dealt with safety, efficiency, economic sustainability, environmental concerns, telecommunication issues, management affairs, and the Egyptian code. The major objective was to focus on the features and the unique traits that make a successful engineering firm, where environmental, safety, and efficiency concerns dominate equally in order to result in a successful project.

After the engineering seminars, students started their training. I was

chosen to be trained on two site projects, Zahraa Tunnel, a stadium building in the Faculty of Business of Assiut University, and some other sites which were visited such as the water treatment of Assiut. In that perspective, a safety engineer, a hydraulic engineer, a structural engineer and any others could work together with a keen team spirit. Punctuality and planning are some traits of the firm above-mentioned. So our training involved putting us on the right track of engineering ethics and morals, in addition to that of sound engineering judgment. The Egyptian code is clear that Egyptians should work hard to compete in the international

▼ Aton Museum



engineering market. ACC is a really huge company that has taken on projects in South Africa, the Middle East and some European countries.

As stated previously, my starting stage was at Zahraa Tunnel. The main objective of this transportation project was to relieve the congestion of the heavy traffic existing at this point. The implementation of the project started in 2004 and it will, it is to be hoped, be terminated in 2008. The project is an exciting one that has required a team of engineers, technicians and architects who work smoothly in unison to meet the deadline. It should be noted that the firm in charge has shown great ingenuity in planning the road. Egyptian

engineers are seen to be people keen to face challenges and to work out wise solutions. The stadium was another crucial project that focused on the structural field of civil engineering. In short, I was really lucky as a trainee since I have gained experience in the transportation, structural and even hydraulic engineering fields (tunnel, stadium, and water treatment respectively).

One of the huge projects which are being completed by the company is the Aton Museum. It is a pyramidal structure (recalling the Egyptian pyramids), which requires high structural skills and highly resistant soil. The company's motto is to compete in the international market and to establish a better scheme by a better and environmentally safe design.

Far from being a mere educational experience, this trip was a real journey on which the student would really get to know more about other cultures. The building of new friendships with people of other backgrounds is one of the most important issues in this training. On the first day, it was difficult to adapt but once we started knowing new people, we got really enthusiastic about knowing more about others. That was the really challenging task in my training, apart from that of being seen as a serious student in my evaluation letter later on.

My final remark is that I retain much that is useful from my training and that even more importantly I have been enriched with memories of human contact! This was a really exciting experience which I strongly recommend to any student from any field and faculty.



▲ *Omar with fellow students from Arab countries.*



► *Omar on the great river Nile.*



◀ *Scaffolding for the Aton Museum.*



Why have an international experience?

George Bader

Last summer I applied to do my summer training in a foreign country, and I was accepted to work with CCC in Oman. Summer training is a period when you are required to learn the essential tools that will help you start your professional career in civil engineering. It is well worth spending a whole summer outside Lebanon and profiting from the experience to learn how different people from varied backgrounds deal with problems. In addition, this experience will probably give you the opportunity to be involved in huge projects such

as you may not encounter in Lebanon, such as building a dam using the RCC (Roller Compacted Concrete) technology.

Of course, the fact that you will be in a foreign country allows you to be in contact with different nationalities and thus discovering new cultures. For example, in the project where I was assigned, you could find twelve different nationalities, from Europe, Africa, Asia and the Arab region. So you will be in a community where you will learn how to accept others of different religion, race or language. Furthermore, living in areas with a harsh climate, where the average temperature is 43° C, imposes special behavior and special techniques such as dressing always with white or light clothes to reflect the heat of the day and drinking huge amounts of water. So, you will adapt yourself to new environmental conditions and a new style of living. Believe me, although such conditions may seem difficult and hard to bear, you will find yourself adapting and later on you won't even notice them.

If you have the opportunity to gain this experience yourself, as I hope you will, don't hesitate to take it. At least you will have happy memories and new adventures to talk about.



◀ *Pouring concrete at night to avoid the high temperature during the day.*

Is Curiosity a Need?

○ | Wassim Beaineh

Major: CCE - Senior

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Curiosity is one of the most important aspects of life. It is defined as a thirst or a desire for knowledge. It is a skill or a tool for motivation and exploration (Edelman, 1997, p.1). "What would make me more successful?" said Dr. Rowland, PhD, University of Maryland, when he was doing his research on similarities between curiosity and exploration. His answer was definitely, "To be successful, it is important to develop a paradigm of curiosity" (Henry, 1996, p. 72). We can say that curiosity is a powerful and basic effort toward a goal. It causes and guides our movement. But an important question could be asked: Is curiosity a need? I believe that curiosity is a need because it has many advantages in society and science.

The involvement of curiosity between humans and their relations is very important. Also, it has influence on people, especially on their personalities, backgrounds and choices. It can be used positively to change people's thinking and understandings. It is the direction and the persistence of behavior (Edelman, 1997, p. 3).

For example, Tayeb Salih explains in his novel *Season of Migration to the North* how curiosity made Mustafa Saïd hate and blame women; Saïd used his curiosity to talk about philosophies in order to attract women sexually (Salih, 1991, p. 40). It made him sadistic and attractive. He became cold and sick. He equated making love with women to killing, so he wanted revenge. This revenge on women came from his background because he was neglected by his mother when he was a child (p. 61). An important idea to mention is that Mustafa Saïd's case is an exception and does not reflect the positive influence of curiosity on people's behavior. A new study shows how curiosity aids in reproduction and sex.

Investigations and learning are aimed at finding a suitable member of the opposite sex and mating. For instance, a man sees a woman across the room. Her appearance arouses his curiosity and he decides to make contact with her to satisfy that curiosity. The woman, on the other hand, depending on how he approaches her, may become curious about him (Henry, 1996, p. 102).

Another reason why I consider curiosity a need is because it is involved in learning and the evolutionary process. Curiosity is essential for critical thinking and effective decision-making, so it helps us not only for being able to see and understand different points of view but also for increasing the ability to respond rather than react. Moreover, curiosity is a process in asking better questions to gain better information, so that any learning will be more effective if it is preceded by a question. Remember, the better the questions, the better the answers. This process leads to gaining more information, more choices, better decisions, better overview, and a better perspective. Also, it is obvious that curiosity is a vital element for being able to plan effectively. It drives us to see the relationship between the elements and the principles. It prevents us from acting upon incomplete information (De Haas, 2004, p. 47). History has proved that curiosity aided humans in every scientific revolution. About ten thousand years ago, some curious people noticed that if seeds drop on the ground, a few weeks later plants containing the same kind of seeds grow on the same spot. They were curious about how this happened and tried sowing the seeds. This was the beginning of the agricultural revolution that led to an incredible increase in the food supply. Not only can we see advances in agriculture but also the amazing things that curiosity led to in practical

Curiosity

applications such as in electronics, medicine, manufacturing, ecological understanding, etc... Curiosity has made humans the most successful species currently on the earth (Henry, 1996, p. 32).

While curiosity has many advantages, it must be conceded that from a psychological point of view, curiosity makes people more judgmental. Thus, people will take things too personally and will be too achievement- rather than learning-orientated.

Also, curiosity causes negative stress which takes people's energy away from logic.

"Conforming to consensus reality, lack of humility and complacency are the curiosity killers," says Dr. Howard, PhD, Cleveland State University (Evans, 2002, p. 22). From a pragmatic point of view, curiosity may not help society in some domains. During my interview with Dr. Hammoud, Professor of Mass Communication, Notre Dame University, I found that he believes that curiosity is a difficult appeal to use in advertising. Two basic problems are involved in arousing curiosity. The first problem concerns how a consumer relates to a particular product. The consumer may have a high interest in the product rather than one induced by the ad. The second is that once an ad has aroused a consumer's curiosity, the consumer has an irritating habit of searching for his own answer. "Ads use curiosity less to sell the product because of the appeal of curiosity than to help deliver and make memorable the rest of the sales message," says Hammoud (Beaineh, 2006).

Among the most important reasons why I find myself a supporter of the need of curiosity are creativity and individuality. According to the Boyer Commission report, sixty-six percent of students at the University of Chicago are creative due to their curiosity. This report showed that these curious people have five attributes: nudging conversation with new ideas, taking pleasure in

learning about other people and showing it, focusing on the person they are with, using jokes and humor to liven things up, and accentuating the positive in what they like about their conversational partner or the conversation itself (Evans, 2002, p. 38). From these factors, we can develop a curiosity scale that suggests that the criteria of fluency, flexibility, creativity and originality are the major indicators of the level of curiosity present in individuals. I can say that creativity and curiosity are clearly components of the inquiring intellect of individual.

Finally, if anyone were to ask me what my greatest strength was, I would say curiosity. The reason I would say this is that curious people learn a lot. Curiosity will help you learn what you need to know. It is through curiosity, a desire to find out something, that life promotes itself, keeps itself alive, reproduces itself, and gathers resources more effectively. A lack of curiosity can lead to a lack of life, rather than the opposite. Are you curious? Do you ask questions that bring you the results you want? It may sound simplistic, but developing your curiosity can be a powerful ingredient in the recipe for success. That's why I believe that curiosity is a need.

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Replaying car accidents with Speed Master

○ | **Rabih Yaacoub**

Computer and Communication
Engineering Student, NDU

In order to have safer roads and to avoid the thousands of deaths and injuries resulting from car accidents, there should be someone monitoring all the cars running on the roads. This, of course, would not be possible without the Speed Master Project.

Are you wondering from which galaxy this project has landed on earth? Well, incubated at Notre Dame University (NDU), supported by its excellent teachers, we three graduating engineers Milad Khairallah, Jack El Khoury and I, Rabih Yaacoub, have worked on the Speed Master as our senior project.

In brief, this project consists of a black box for cars identical to that of airplanes but sampling specific parameters.

The project is based on the MMA7260Q technology, which is an accelerometer chip that detects acceleration in three dimensions and sends the data as an analog signal to the microcontroller (PIC 16F877A used in this project). The sensor used is so sensitive

that it even detects the acceleration of the earth.

A microcontroller is a device that can transmit, receive, store and manipulate digital and analog data. In its turn, the microcontroller sends the manipulated data to the computer through the serial port (RS232).

The data transmitted to the computer reach the Microsoft Excel program, where a simple macro code has been written to generate tables and graphs for the three dimensional values corresponding to the last 30 seconds.

This device samples twice per second one's movements and also has an LCD (Liquid Crystal Display) Screen to display instantaneous acceleration in three dimensions.

It is very easy to upgrade this project for it to become a professional device, tapping values for days. All we have to do is to use memory chips (PIC I²C's) to get a device that could fine one if one has passed a certain speed limit over highways.

While we were showing this device to a friend, he commented: "You have worked so hard to fine us. All you care about is money..."

It was very easy to persuade him to put

this black box in his car, because after an accident, everyone starts wondering at what angle and speed the accident occurred.

This is the only device that can sample values to reconstruct a real-time animation that allows what happened to be seen in slow motion. The Global Positioning System, known as GPS, can only locate a person.

Another application for this device is for underground exploration, where no wireless transmission can take place. For example, if a team is digging underground tunnels, each member of the team can carry such a device and any underground accident taking place will be registered.

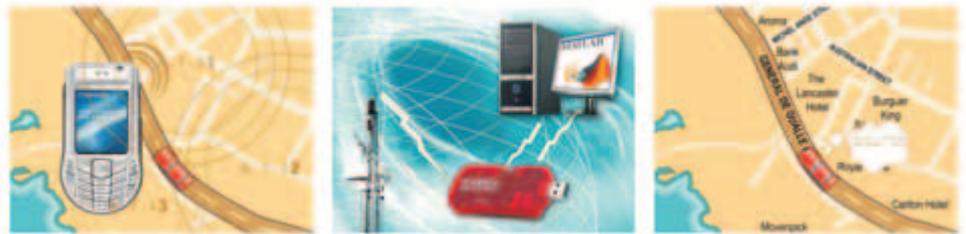
While one hopes that, in the near future, no more car accidents kill or injure people, this might be a temporary solution to specify reasons behind accidents, thus reducing their number.



A GSM-based Location System

Hiba Abdel Samad

CCE Graduated Fall 06



Nowadays localization of mobiles in GSM networks is getting more and more important. Algorithms, which can be integrated without the need of any additional hardware, are required. So the GSM companies are looking for inexpensive and efficient technologies. This type of technology does not need changes in the network infrastructure. One of these techniques depends only on the data available in the network itself, *i.e.* Existing Signal Strength Data. A GSM-based Location System (BLS) is used to locate the position of GSM mobiles.

My senior project was a BLS using signal strength technique. It was implemented through Matlab. MTCtouch GSM Company granted access to signal strength information that was transmitted from network cell sites, and then stored in a database. Through the Mobile location service centre (BLS), the whole positioning cycle was performed. So at first the subscriber sends an SMS to know his position or any other position-related

information. The service centre gets signal strength information concerning the mobile that should be located instantaneously, so when it receives the SMS it compares this data to the stored ones and, according to the proposed algorithm, the data will be processed and some calculations will be made. Then the subscriber's position and related information are defined. At the end an SMS containing the position and requested information will be sent to the user's mobile via NowSMS web tool.

This system demonstrated location accuracy of within 11m in a metropolitan area 81% of the time with an average error in X of ± 2 m and ± 3 m in Y coordinates.

The development of wireless communication systems available today for the mobile environment and the realization of smaller and more powerful mobile computing devices provide the prerequisites to access information anywhere at any time.

The Saga Continues

The following is the text of a speech delivered by Doctor Amal Saleeby Malek on Friday, November 9th, 2006 at the panel discussion for the launching of Ms.G. Hourani's book: The Impact of the Summer 2006 War on Migration in Lebanon: Emigration, Re-Migration, Evacuation, and Returning.

Images of my family driving to nearby Syria will not be easily forgotten. My father said: "Pack one suitcase, leave the cat behind, we're going to the States until the war is over...may be six months or so." My father, my brothers and my cousin, not forgetting the driver, were huddled in a taxi one hot August morning. It was a long and tedious drive, and, although it was somewhat dangerous, we were looking forward to some peace away from our war-torn country. We spent the night in Damascus, and took the first plane to Paris the next morning. Six months became years and we ended up making a long stay in the United States. In the meantime, I graduated from University, got married and had a daughter.

No, I am not referring to my trip to the United States in July 2006. This was July 1976, the year of the infamous Lebanese War when friends, relatives and scores of Lebanese fled the country in search of a safe heaven, a trip that lasted till July 1996. (What is it with July anyway??)

When I was asked to speak tonight about "The Impact of

the Summer of 2006 on Migration in Lebanon..." I immediately decided to share my own experience. My book, *Returning Home: A Post-War Lebanese Phenomenon*, published in 2001, is a testimony of the 1975-1990 war that devastated Lebanon. Today, the *déjà-vu* is uncanny. Will history keep repeating itself?

July 12, 2006. Only four weeks away from summer vacation. "The best summer" ever was around the corner. Lebanon was ready to welcome well over a million visitors, Lebanese and others. The country was fully booked, from cultural events to hotels, to car rentals. The spirit of the country was soaring; we were promised that the Lebanese economy would boom, and that we would start repaying the country's debt. It was good news all around.

But all this changed.

Once again I felt exasperated and angry, my country a battleground for a war I had no say in. Democratization, reform, reconstruction, cultural awakening, all off the table. Are the Lebanese all over the world still planning to invest in Lebanon? Are they still considering returning home after years of disappointment and disillusion? Will schools and universities still attract foreign students?

On the morning of July 12, a Wednesday, I was in class, giving a lecture in English Sophomore Rhetoric when I noticed more agitation among the students than usual. "Guys, you know that cell phones are not allowed in class," I mildly chided. "But Miss," as I am often called, "Hezbollah has captured two Israeli soldiers." The SMS messages on their mobile phones spelled disaster. I felt as if a bomb had exploded right there in class. Not only was I surprised, but images of the civil war started dancing in my head and I had a feeling of impending doom.

On July 13, in the morning, the airport was hit and shut down. Suddenly, we realized that we were thrown in the middle of a war I neither expected nor wanted. The hostilities between Hezbollah and Israel escalated dramatically. Classes were suspended, the Graduation Ceremony was cancelled. As the war unfolded I was gripped by fears of another full-fledged and long crisis.

In July 1976, my father prompted my brothers and myself to pack a suitcase, and leave the country "for a while until the war is over," he said. In July 2006, my husband, worried and alarmed by a new round of violence, recurring hostilities and lingering crises, suggested my daughter and I leave the country for a while until the situation settled.



Being of dual citizenship, we had two options: Do we evacuate with the Americans by sea, or depart by land? After much deliberation, my daughter and I decided to take a risk and go by land, which we thought would be less dramatic. Taking "a blanket and enough food for three days", as the US embassy instructed, made the sea evacuation unpalatable.

Thus on July 26, four of us, my daughter, my step-niece—who by the way was in Lebanon to study Arabic—, a friend and I would go via Damascus, to Amman, Jordan for a couple of nights and then fly to New York.

The trip from Beirut to Damascus was uneventful. We had decided to go by Pullman, thinking there was safety in numbers (We learned subsequently that the road was hit about a half-hour after our passage). At the throbbing Syrian-Lebanese border, we were surprisingly welcomed by bottles of water, juice and biscuits. What, was Syria the good guy now?! After

getting visas at the Syrian border, we left the bus and took a private cab that we had previously hired to drive us to Amman. The whole trip from Beirut to Amman had taken about eight hours with the necessary stops.

The minute we landed in New York, we were picked up by our Lebanese friends. But all we did was spend most of our time watching the news. CNN and local TV stations, LBC, Al Jazira, and other channels brought the tension and desperation into our living rooms. We were in a clear state of war. Insecurity and anxiety had succeeded in leading us to flee the country once again after having come back in 1996, supposedly for good this time. Separated from my husband, and from family left behind, my worst nightmare was that of being unable to return.

You see, in 1976, being a young student, life abroad was an experience and an adventure. In the summer of 2006, however, I was determined to return, and soon.

I am back now, and it is as if things were back to normal, but the summer of 2006 will always be etched in my mind as a reminder of the state of affairs which we Lebanese live in, and that the war could actually erupt at any time. But are things truly back to normal? I know for us they are not. Our 22-year-old daughter who left with me did not come back. She decided (in fact we all decided for her) to stay in the USA. Though we had on and off thought that this would happen at some point, this latest July war suddenly precipitated and concretized what was otherwise a possibility.

With this reality in mind (that another war could erupt at any time), I will not willingly leave Lebanon permanently, nor do I wish to start a new life abroad. This is my home no matter what happens to it. At the risk of sounding a cliché, the question remains: How many times will the Lebanese have to go through this? How many times, before we finally settle and feel safe at home?



◀ *Dr. Sensenig-Dabbous (left) introducing the panel, including Dr. A. Malek (center), before her talk on her war time experiences at the inauguration of Guita Horuani's book *The Impact of the Summer 2006 War on Migration*. Thursday, 9th November, 2006.*

Keats

K.J. Mortimer

More than any other poet of his time, Keats restored that faith in the pure enchantment of poetry that had all but disappeared from the English world with the passing of Geoffrey Chaucer, Edmund Spenser, Christopher Marlowe and William Shakespeare. What Keats wrote remains unsurpassed for sheer felicity and natural magic.

Joseph Auslander

In the few unhappy years of his brief consumptive existence between 1795 and 1821, John Keats used the English language to create a world of pure beauty and magic. Left an orphan at fifteen, he turned for consolation to Homer, Virgil, Spenser and Shakespeare. At the age of eighteen and nineteen he wrote such mature monuments of literature as the poems *Endymion*, *The Eve of St. Agnes*, *Ode to a Nightingale* and *Ode to a Grecian Urn*.

It may well have been he who with his love of beauty set in motion the great aesthetic movement that dominated British culture during the nineteenth century:

...“Beauty is truth, truth beauty,” – that is all
Ye know on earth, and all ye
need to know.¹

The movement was a preoccupation with the formal elements of art for themselves

rather than serving to enhance the content, “art for art’s sake”. Whistler’s famous *Mother* did not express filial devotion; for Whistler (1834–1903) it was *Arrangement in Grey and Black*. This led finally to abstract art, pleasing often to the eye, admired by the expert, but superficial when compared to a Rublev icon, the statues of Chartres, or *The Philosophers* of Raphael. For Walter Pater (1839–1894), art aspired to the condition of music. To write a few sentences he would spend the whole morning carefully choosing some words written on pieces of coloured paper and spread over his table. Throughout the

nineteenth century a conflict raged between those who, usually after a long stay in Paris, had adopted the revolutionary views current there and those bourgeois “Philistines” who thought a picture should tell a story; between those who thought that beauty of form justified any novel or poem whatever its content and those who thought that literature should be moral.

Keats himself retained objectivity. He was looking for beauty and found it in nature,² using his skill to express it to perfection, notably in *Ode to a Nightingale*:

...[T]ender is the night,
And haply the Queen-Moon is on her throne,
Clustered around by all her starry Fays;
But here there is no light,
Save what from heaven is with the breezes blown
Through verdurous glooms and winding mossy ways.

I cannot see what flowers are at my feet,
Nor what soft incense hangs along the boughs,
But in embalmed darkness guess each sweet
Wherewith the seasonable month endows
The grass, the thicket and the fruit-tree wild.

Goëthe had already taken a romantic view of the most unromantic classical Greek world and like him Keats sought escape into this ancient fantasy.



...What leaf-fringed legend haunts
about thy shape
Of deities or mortals or of both,
In Tempe or the dales of Arcady?³

But he did not seek in Ancient Greece a justification for sexual freedom and even vice, as others were to do later on. Perhaps he realized that it was not a world of fine character and joyous liberty. Family relations as revealed in classical literature and history were psychotic, providing a vocabulary for psycho-analysts. The Greeks were not the "beautiful, wise, happy creatures, with free and natural customs" imagined by Lessing and quoted by

...[A]nd for many a time,
I have been half in love with easeful death,
Called him soft names in many a mused rhyme,
To take into the air my quiet breath;
Now more than ever seems it rich to die,
To cease upon the midnight with no pain,
While thou art pouring forth thy soul abroad
In such an ecstasy!
Still wouldst thou sing, and I have ears in vain –
To thy high requiem become a sod.⁴

With this Keats had a deep awareness of the passing of time and of the tragedies of the ages. To the Grecian urn, already survivor of millennia, he said –

Trevelyan. Orestes deliberately killed his mother. Alexander hardly enjoyed a happy home in his youth. Oedipus unwittingly killed his father and married his mother.

Keats, who may be considered as having set all the æsthetic evolution into motion, died shortly before recognition burst upon him. He had said, "I am not afraid of failure; for I would sooner fail than not be among the greatest." But he was among the greatest. And like Gray he had a calm view of approaching death. He said to the nightingale –

When old age shall this
generation waste,
Thou shalt remain, in midst of
other woe
Than ours, a friend to man, to
whom thou say'st,
"Beauty is truth, truth
beauty," – that is all
Ye know on earth, and all ye
need to know.

When oppressed by ugliness in this world and fears for the future, we can turn to Keats for beauty and peace of mind.

¹ *Ode to a Grecian Urn.*

² Degas and "aesthetes" such as Whistler and Wilde considered art as superior to nature, and this was the tendency of their whole movement.

³ *Ode to a Grecian Urn.*

⁴ *Ode to a Nightingale.*



The Former Language Laboratory and the New Writing Center at NDU

Mary Khoury,
lecturer in the DETE, FH

This year, I was asked to become a member of the Faculty of Humanities Action Committee for the new Writing Center. This brought back all my memories of the (ELRC) English Language Resource Center where I served for many years. I immediately accepted because the new Writing Center is a modern trend in a traditional means for helping students help themselves.

By having a brief look at NDU's history, it can be seen that NDU adopted the language laboratory in the English Language Resource Center and is now moving and integrating in its curriculum the Writing Center; this policy has led to an important resource area in many universities worldwide.

The Language Laboratory has been significant in the practice of various language skills at both the pre-college and college level. There are certain objectives for each lab

session. The universities devise lab syllabi that integrate with the course syllabi for all the English course levels that are designed by the department. However, the Writing Center's services are for any student, regardless of his or her level of writing. The Writing Center is not meant only for remedial students, or for students who have problems in writing their essays or term papers, but it contributes to academic excellence among the students.

NDU was founded in Fall 1978 at Notre Dame Louaize School. At that time it was known as LCHE. Beirut University College and the Maronite Order of the Blessed Virgin Mary started the mission with only seventy-eight students who mostly came from French schools. The language laboratory started with one simple classroom which had grammar books and an SRA Reading Kit accompanied by answer keys designed mainly for the Intensive level. The instructor's job was to supervise the students' work and grade it, while the seventy-eight students used to attend five one-hour sessions per week.

In 1980, LCHE had a new location and a new campus which functioned till

1998. It is the one known now as the Division for Continuing Education (DCE). As a result, with the increase in the number of students the lab flourished. A new lab. in the early 80's was designed and furnished. The lab. was large enough to accommodate thirty booths, where students used to sit and do individual work. It was equipped with headphones with listening comprehension exercises designed for intensive students to prepare them for college level. The lab. was also supplied with exercise books for Intensive, Freshman and Sophomore levels. The lab. instructor would supervise and correct all the exercises. This was done with the help of student assistants. The main teaching was done by the instructor in the classroom and lab. sessions were application and practice of what had already been taught in a previous class session. There were also sign-up sheets. Students selected their own time for lab. sessions. This procedure gave the students freedom.

The syllabi of the courses at different levels were designed in a way to integrate and synchronize them with the different levels of the ELRC syllabi. The lab. grade was 10% of the overall

Final grade. A midterm and a final were the means of evaluation for all levels.

In addition, there was a lab. syllabus for each course level. For instance, beginning with the Intensive English lab. syllabus, the ELRC students were required to attend five lab sessions per week at which they received work on written exercises in vocabulary, reading and grammar. In listening-comprehension the students worked individually in one whole group where answers to all of these skills were given verbally at the end of each session as a means of direct reinforcement.

In Freshman 101 and 102, ELRC students were required to attend three lab. sessions per week. Exercises in vocabulary, reading and listening-comprehension as well as video sessions were assigned. Corrections were given verbally at the end of the sessions where the language skills were being reinforced.

In Freshman 103 and 104, ELRC students were required to attend two lab. sessions per week. Exercises in vocabulary, reading and listening-

comprehension as well as video sessions were assigned. In addition, a video film was shown of the novel on which the research or critical paper of the regular course was based. There were also feature films shown to the students.

In Sophomore English 211, ELRC students were required to attend two sessions per week. These supplemented, reinforced and expanded upon class work in critical reading and listening-comprehension. There were sessions for writing skills at which students were expected to learn and acquire the ability to write texts correctly, emphasizing structure, punctuation, vocabulary and logical order. Furthermore, there were key sessions for reading skills at which students were required to read in the lab. argumentative texts to supplement and reinforce their class work in critical reading and writing. Finally, there were sessions for audio-visual skills at which students were required to analyze films of argumentative and persuasive nature.

Every semester, the lab. syllabi for all levels were revised and added to. Exercises and activities were added or

omitted according to the needs of the students. For example, In Freshman English 101 and 102 video sessions were introduced in Spring 1994. There was an instructor who videotaped BBC programs and feature films through cable television. He watched these films carefully and prepared the sessions for discussion. He also prepared comprehension questions with which the students were quizzed at the end of each lab. session.

In Fall 1998, all faculties moved to the new campus. This was the greatest achievement for the whole NDU family. The family grew, and the buildings made a dream come true. However, in spite of the huge space, there was no specific location for the language laboratory. In Fall 2006 a Mini-Handout Center in the Library was established. The mini-handouts present different aspects and samples of academic writing on grammar,

general writing, documentation, CVs and cover letters which are contributions of the instructors of the English Department.

It is now Fall 2007. A Writing Center finally exists. It is located in the Faculty of Humanities in Room HA 114. There are red and black booths that will be equipped with 8-10 computer stations with writing software. The mini-handouts are also shelved in this center so students can pick up what they need. Dictionaries and reference books are also available.

In addition to the instructors in the English Department, the members of the Writing Center Action Committee are

tutoring the students by volunteering one to two hours per week in this center.

The procedure is that the students sign up and arrange for an appointment for one 20-minute session per week. They will receive private tutoring in paragraph-essay writing, research paper writing, linguistic issues or any language problem that they are facing. The tutors will also look at the thesis statement and how the student set it up, word choice, sentence construction and punctuation and grammar; however, the paper will not be edited. The aim is to teach students to become better at revising their own writing.

The Writing Center is not meant only for remedial students, or for students whose writing is not acceptable at a college level. It is meant to contribute

to academic excellence among the students and give them access to writing experts when they need them. As a matter of fact, it is a resource center for both graduates and undergraduates.

There will also be workshops on subjects such as APA documentation and avoiding plagiarism. The first ten students will be welcomed.

Now the Center is open three days a week from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.. As soon as we have the necessary personnel the Center will be open five days a week. Although we are presently in phase one of the development of the Writing Center, all visitors are welcome. The Writing Center Action Committee advises all NDU students, faculty, staff and administrators to pay a visit to this new professional center.



Our Story

Note by author Elie Nabhan of LERC, who read out this poem at the inauguration of LENIFRA, the Lebanese-Nigerian Friendship Association, on 20th October, 2007: It was a hot afternoon in Ibadan, I think sometime in early May, and I was standing in the shade of a mango tree when I heard a storyteller say –

*“Take an empty ash bowl
To fill with souls of men,
Spread those seeds on fertile ground
And watch intent what springs up then.”*

*He vanished in the sweltering crowd,
The babble then broke out aloud;
The answer shone in the Afric’ face,
And arms outspread to the Arab race.*

*Gen’rous warmth the Nigerian way,
The Lebanese too had much to say;
An upsurge of hopes gave start to an age,
The way they grew soon filled the page.*

*Brothers may travel and usually fly,
With fervour blessed by the Powers on high;
Our spirits shall speak with shaking of
hands,
So see me midst people of distant lands.*

*Climb up a mountain and I’ll be there,
Sail on our rivers without any care;
Crossing new borders, find me when you can
In the eyes of a child or a grown-up man.*

*Withstanding the test and the march of time,
Much we created is noble and fine.
Remember our customs and language too,
The threads of our history, shining and true.*

*The bridge we have built will be ever the same,
Standing together we gain a great name
In commerce and science and in culture and
art.*

With LENIFRA here we’ll remain one at heart.

More than Mere Black-and-White

*Red is a color,
Pink is a name,
With strengths of a poem and words of
the wind.
I love you! Ill let it begin!
It’s never too early and never too late.
A touch of your lips,
A kiss on your hand,
Every girl’s one demand.
Roses cry with the rain
While bears hide in caves,
And I’ll draw a shower from outside my
window.
But would I cry,
Would I smile?*

*As I think of all things that must die!!
All I know is I’ll live,
I’ll smile
And I’ll cry.
I’ll watch my fine rainbows with full
desire.
Pink is a color,
Yellow is a name;
Call the stars
And tell them they’re beautiful
Because they deserve it!!
Shining out there in the darkest time,
Being out there at every time.
Friends of the moon!
You’re friends,
You’re stars,
Dear best friends, you’re my stars!!!*

Carla Ghorra, Freshman FAAD

Tricked by Your Reflection?

*You think you can, but you don’t;
You think you might, but you won’t.
Imagine your life, but still it’s unclear;
Persuade yourself it is not, but still it is
there.
You think people can’t see, but they all do
stare.
You think it gets better, but know it’s not
sure.
You think soon you will see, but all’s still a
blur.
You imagine a clear reflection, but it’s
really confusing,
You think life is good, but it’s you that are
losing.
You think you’re the same, but you’ve
changed to another.
Think you that you know yourself? – but
you’re not even started
Do you know who you are? – Just a
million pieces parted!*

**Belinda
Daou, Freshman FAAD**

Living on Memories

**The days that passed,
The years that flew,
The moments we spent
together;
The tears we shed,
The laughs we shared,
Engraved in memory
Like wounds in the heart.
We knew since the
beginning
That day was coming,
But lived in denial.
The visceral pains,
The aches in the head,
The love stories,
The horror movies,
I still do believe
One day all will happen
again,
And thanks to you my
friends,
I have known some
wonderful people.**

Rola Ghorra, Freshman

Something for your grey matter

Crossword

1	2	3		4		5		6	7	
8				9				10		
11						12	13			
14			15		16		17		18	
19			20			21				
		22			23				24	
25				26						
		27				28		29	30	31
32								33		
				34						
35	36	37						38		
39										

Across:

1. recent 4. replacement ruler 8. numbers up to ten
 10. vase 11. repulsive rodent 12. Sicilian volcano 14.
 plan 17. therefore 18. circular relation 19. pronoun
 20. absent-minded 22. medical title 23. educational
 and scientific body 25. large, important 27. fragrant
 plant used for drink 29. heavenly body 32. furs, skins
 33. Ireland 34. make unhappy 35. solar body 38.
 wriggly fish 39. enormous

Down:

1. hospital profession 2. make or pass a law 3.
 preposition 5. random answers 6. sister 7. snare 9.
 identical 13. throw in the air 15. wandering (...
 knight) 16. large flightless bird 21. fashionable 22.
 distribute cards 24. ... Sharif 26. material, cloth 28.
 terminated 29. bishop's diocese 30. prongs of a fork
 31. Scottish dance 32. mail 36. ancient city
 37. north-east