

# ndu spirit

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*O Sea!*

*Return their luggage, the scent of their clothes, their photos, and their gifts.*

*Return their names, dreams, and joyful days.*

*Return our loved ones to our sight, hearts, desires, and hopes.*

*Return them ... O Sea.*

*For we are mothers, fathers, brothers and sisters, lovers, and children... For our hearts, backs, and days are broken.*

*O Sea...*

*Tobacco leaves, orchards' blossoms, fishermen's nets prepared for casting, doors, windows, and streets open, turning their watery eyes toward you, toward your crest and depth, toward your bay, and toward every sparkle of hope in every grain of sand and every drop of water*

*you possess... but you are a deaf rebel, your waves increase, climbing ever higher, and as your color darkens, you raise an insurmountable wall to drown our plea!*

*You buried them O Sea,*

*You hid them away,*

*You took them on an eternal journey of eternal tears into the dark silence of the void.*

*And left us hanging between blasphemy and faith.*

*Editorial Staff*

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New artist at NDU...

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### Saint Maroun... The priest

As the Church is celebrating the 1600th anniversary of the passing away of Saint Maroun from this world, and as Pope Benedict XVI has declared a year of prayer for priests, I find it appropriate this time to share with you some thoughts related to these two celebrations.

Maroun, the priest who lived in the fourth century and died in the beginning of the fifth, is a saint of all the Holy Church and not only the father of the Maronites.

His Eminence, Patriarch Nasrallah Boutros Sfeir, in his letter on the occasion of the 1600th anniversary of Saint Maroun and Lent 2010, noted that Saint Maroun was an evangelic and prophetic figure. He added as well that this Saint indeed laid the spiritual foundations of a Church named after him, through his living faith, his apostolic zeal, and his prophetic preaching; this was by leading the life of a role model where the radiance of his activities reached all his surroundings. Moreover, His Beatitude explained that Saint Maroun practiced in his life three kinds of heroisms: first, apostolic heroism in announcing the Word of God; second, spiritual heroism expressed in his detachment from earthly matters and his openness to heaven; and third, human heroism where faith and humanity meet to serve the People of God, physically and spiritually, through the miracles he performed.

In fact, the Catholic Church teaches that God is really present in His Word. "Through all the words of Sacred Scripture, God speaks only one single Word in whom he expresses himself completely" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, n. 102). In this Word, "the Father who is in heaven comes lovingly to meet his children and talks with them" (n. 104). Saint Bernard indeed affirmed that Christianity is the religion of the incarnate and living Word of God. Thus, the Word is the presence of God, the Word is God.

Indeed, like the Holy Virgin Mary, the priest is the servant of the Word. After hearing the announcement of the angel of God, Mary offered herself affirming that she is the handmaid of God, and the Word became man in her womb by the power of the Holy Spirit, and then the Savior was conceived in her.

Likewise, the priest, who listens to the voice of God and consecrates willingly himself to Him, is called to bring salvation to the world. Saint Jean-Marie Vianney said that the priest continues the work of redemption on earth.

Furthermore, in as much as the priest serves the Word, giving himself unconditionally to God and the Church, he becomes another Christ who came to serve and not to be served. Serving the Holy is a holy service and it has to lead the servant to holiness. The Catholic Church as well teaches that "the sacrament of Holy Orders configures the recipient to Christ by a special grace of the Holy Spirit" (n. 1581). As a matter of fact, "the vocation and mission received by the priest on the day of his ordination mark him permanently" (n. 1583).

May the prayers and intercessions of the Saint Priest Maroun bring peace and salvation to all of us.

**Fr. Walid Moussa, S.T.D.**  
President

## NDU President in USA

●● Following the primordial mission of NDU of building bridges and communicating between Lebanese resident and Lebanese expatriate, Father Walid Moussa, President of Notre Dame University-Louaize visited the United States and toured the various universities, starting with the state of Ohio, where he visited the University of Dayton, a Catholic University on January 20-21-22, 2010). He met with the Board of Trustees and a large number of Lebanese workers, in order to exchange experiences and discuss joint projects between Notre Dame University and the University of Dayton.

He then moved to New York, there he met the friends of the University who welcomed him warmly.

The aim of the visit was to promote communication: NDU represents resident Lebanon and NDU friends abroad represent expatriate Lebanon, and with these Father Moussa is developing warm relations.

Father Moussa then visited Bishop Gregory Mansour, who praised and commended Notre Dame University for the service it renders to Lebanese everywhere.

His final objective in New York was discussing how to create a permanent process through the formation of the "Friends of Notre Dame University" in each state of the United States of America (already existing in Washington, California, Los Angeles, Dayton and elsewhere. Then Father Moussa moved to Washington, where he attended the annual conference of the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities (January 30-February1, 2010), which dealt with the subject of Catholic identity in the universities. ●●



## Accreditation

As part of NDU's extension of institutional accreditation, its President Father Walid Moussa and the Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Kamal Abouchédid attended the 124th Annual Meeting of the New England Association for Schools and Colleges (NEASC), which was held in Boston, Massachusetts, on December 2-5, 2009. The annual meeting represented a learning opportunity for NDU's accreditation as Father Moussa and Dr. Abouchédid participated in workshops and engaged in plenary sessions on assessment and evaluation in higher education.

On Friday, December 4, 2009, Father Moussa and Dr. Abouchédid had a lengthy business meeting with Dr. Barbara Brittingham, Director of the Commission on Institutions for Higher Education (CIHE) of NEASC and the Deputy Director of the commission, Dr. Patricia O'Brian.

During the meeting, NDU's progress with accreditation was received with much positive reaction.

## Engineering Alumni Reunion

Simon Abou Jawdeh, Director Alumni Office



❖❖ A large and happy crowd of NDU Engineering Faculty, Staff and Alumni.

●● The First Engineering Alumni Reunion 2009 offered Bassel Baaklini, (BE '99), much more than a chance to see some of his classmates, even though he enjoyed this opportunity. *"Meeting classmates I hadn't seen in ten years was wonderful,"* he says. "Bonds were reinstated. Dormant friendships were reactivated. Plans are already underway for acquaintances prior to our next reunion."

The Reunion, which took place on Monday, December 21, 2009, was attended by Fr. Walid Moussa, President of NDU; Fr. Bechara Khoury, Director of Finance; Dr. Shahwan Khoury, former Dean of the Faculty of Engineering; Dr. Georges Eid; Mrs. Nina Helou, the spouse of the late Dean Dr. Fares Helou; Chairpersons of the Faculty, faculty and staff members.

In his address, Mr. Simon Abou Jaoude, Director of Alumni Affairs Office, made sure to point out that 2009 marks the 10th Anniversary of the first graduating class from the Faculty of Engineering. A wise man once said, *"All our dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them."* And it all started 15 years ago with the Engineering first class session in 1994.

Hassan Saab (BE '99), however, said friendships weren't the only things that got a boost during the event. The reunion revitalized his assurance, especially after hearing Fr. Walid Moussa, President of NDU, deliver the discourse saying, *"You are the pioneers that began paving the way for the success of the NDU Faculty of Engineering. NDU Engineers have an*

*outstanding reputation. As our alumni make their mark, future generations of students benefit in turn. Ten years have gone by, and NDU continues to place dedicated professionals such as you into the marketplace and to prepare them for the greater challenges in life."*

The highlights of the reunion were two documentaries; the first shed light on the history of the Faculty of Engineering, and the second documentary contained testimonials of graduates of Class of 1998 - 1999, who emphasized the dedication, time, effort and loyalty the Faculty has devoted to making NDU the institution it is today.

Dr. Elias Nassar, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, stressed that Alumni feedback is critical to future planning. He added *"Your feedback is important to the Faculty as we work to grow and improve our academic and outreach programs. It gives you an opportunity to comment on the program's strengths and areas where it could improve."*

Though she is only three years past graduation, it was the opportunity to reconnect with old friends and former graduates that brought Ahlam El-Khazen (BE '05), to the reunion. Ahlam brought her classmate Maria Akl (BE '05) to share in the experience.

While most attendees participated in the full schedule of events, many named socializing at the coffee tent at the Faculty of Engineering as the finest moment to make meaningful connections with their professors who were able to catch up on

the graduates' professional and personal progress. But just as long-anticipated as its beginning, the reunion's end came too quickly for Engineering alumni, who spent the last few minutes exchanging phone numbers and email addresses.

*"I left campus rerunning the conversations of these few hours and thinking that what is most inspiring about my classmates and their spouses is not what they do, but who they are,"* said Peter Taouk (BE '99) says. *"I left campus marked with confidence that with people like my classmates there is good reason to be optimistic about the future of Lebanon."*

*"Leaving campus definitely was bitter-sweet,"* Souhad Abou Chabke (BE '04) says. *"We knew the fantasy of the moments and the magic of the gathering couldn't last forever, but it can't hurt to dream, right?"* He glanced at the place, and the sheer light of memory flashed in his eyes.

The Faculty of Engineering expressed its utmost gratitude to Mr. Simon Abou Jaoude and Mrs. Rose Mady for helping drive this reunion, particularly for the time and effort they invested to locate lost Engineering graduates.

The event turned out to be a great success and both Engineering Alumni and Engineering Faculty and Staff members alike enjoyed their time and remembered all the happy and sad moments they had lived at the NDU's old and new campuses. A wise man said, *"We do not remember days; we remember moments."*

## WEERC

### Water, Energy and Environment Research Center

**2009:** A year of activity on an international level

#### MEdIES teacher training on water-related issues

Seminar held at WEERC, NDU, on Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd, May, 2009

##### Objectives of the seminar

- To introduce MEdIES Network & its material, emphasising water material to Lebanese educators who are not aware of it yet.
- To introduce the package *Water in the Mediterranean* and its philosophy.
- To exchange views between practitioners in the field of ESD and to merge their experiences in an enjoyable and fruitful way
- To get feedback from the Lebanese educators who have already applied the water material.
- To apply or demonstrate and explain characteristic activities from *Water in the Mediterranean*.
- To work on methodologies for applying the water material & EE/ESD material in general.
- To cultivate interest in the subject of water.
- To welcome those interested in MEdIES e-network [www.medies.net](http://www.medies.net) .

##### SEMINAR REPORT

Following the successful launching of MEdIES in Beirut in November 2005, once again the Lebanese Ministry for Energy and Water, GWP-Med and MIO-ECSDE undertook the organisation of a one-day training repeated for Lebanese educators on Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd, May, 2009.

The goal of this training was to provide Lebanese educators at both Primary and Secondary level as well as those of non-formal systems (NGOs, museums, nature reserve staff, etc) with efficient teaching tools to address with their students the



critical issues of water management, including demand, pollution, consumption, etc.

Participants were warmly welcomed by Dr. Fadi Comair, Director General of Hydraulic and Electrical Resources at the Lebanese Ministry of Energy and Water and head of WEERC. Then the trainers Ms. Vicky Malotidi and Ms. Iro Alampeï, experienced MEdIES staff, undertook the presentations and workshops of the training. After an introductory/theoretical part, the participants were introduced to selected activities of the Water Kit in an experiential way.

The training was attended by 58 participants (33 on Saturday and 25 on Sunday), most of whom come from the formal system as well as a few NGO staff. Some 10% of participants had attended the previous training of 2005, and they shared with the rest the experience of applying the water kit in their schools in the period 2005-09. At the end of the training certificates were handed out, as well as a copy of the educational material *Water in the Mediterranean* in Arabic, French or English. During the seminar simultaneous translation in English, French and Arabic language was provided.

Most of the participants expressed their interest in the MEdIES network, and their willingness to subscribe as e-members and provide MEdIES secretariat with reports of their activities in ESD.

##### Joint Workshops

The Ministry of Energy and Water (MEW), the Water, Energy and Environment Research Center at Notre Dame University-Louaize (WEERC-NDU), Notre Dame University-Louaize, in cooperation with the Italian NGOs AVSI and Istituto per la Cooperazione Universitaria (ICU), are organized two workshops within the framework of the project *Integrated River Basin Management and Monitoring of Nahr El Kalb Watercourse including Chabrouh Dam and Jeita Aquifer*:

●● On March 30, 2009 a training on Water Framework Directive and a Stakeholders workshop at the WEERC, Old Campus of Notre Dame University.

●● On March 31, 2009 a Seminar for the presentation of the results of the study of Nahr El Kalb watershed final workshop at Friends Hall, Notre Dame University main campus.

**1- On Monday March 30, 2009** training on the European Water Framework Directive in the framework of the project *Integrated River Basin Management, Monitoring and Data Management of Nahr El Kalb Water Course and Jeita Aquifer*.

**Lecturers**

**Dr. Fadi Comair**, General Director of Hydraulic and Electric Resources in the Ministry of Energy and Water and Director of WEERC.

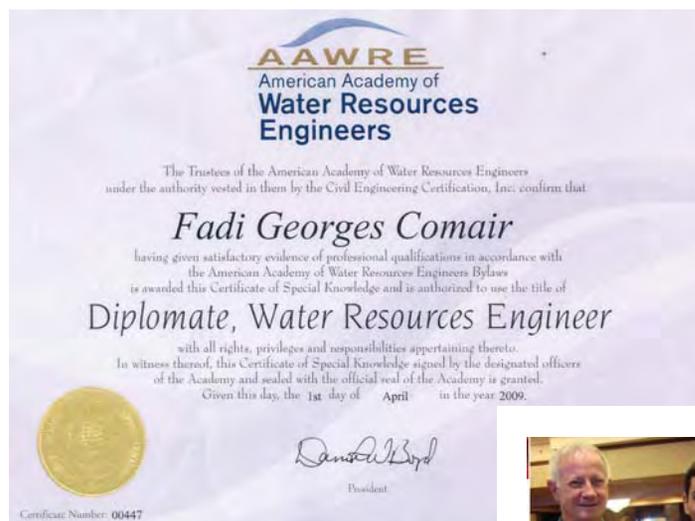
**Dr. Alberto Mazzucchelli**, Specialist in Water Resources and Hydrology from Milano, Italy.

**2- On Tuesday March 31, 2009**, Notre Dame University, the Ministry of Energy and Water, the Water, Energy, Environment Research Center at NDU, and the Italian NGOs AVSI and ICU concluded a one-year project for the study of Nahr El Kalb watershed. This project was funded in its first phase by the Lombardy Region and the Municipality of Milan.

The final workshop took place on March 31, 2009 at the Friend's Hall at NDU; it presented the results of the study of the pressures and impacts on water conducted at the level of pollution load, urbanism and agriculture, in addition to a Geographical Information System elaborated for the whole basin (GIS created by Eng. Salim Roukoz). funding is a major requirement for further studies.

**On 17-21 May, 2009, Kansas City, Missouri**

At the 2009 EWRI World Water and Environmental Resources Congress in Kansas City, Missouri, USA, The American Academy of Water Resources Engineers (AAWRE) held a special 5th Anniversary Diplomat Induction ceremony and reception for diplomats on Monday evening, May 18, 2009. On this Occasion the President of AAWRE, Daniel W. BOY handed to Dr. Fadi Georges Comair, General Director of Hydraulic and Electrical Resources at the Ministry of Energy and Water, the distinction and designation certificate of Diplomat Water Resources Engineer (D WRE). Dr.Comair is the first non-American citizen to have received this award.



Doctor Fadi Comair, his sister Claude, his son George, and Mr. Jerry Roger.



**Solar Thermal Electricity**

The Water, Energy and Environment Research Center (WEERC) at Notre Dame University – Louaize organized jointly with the Ministry of Energy and Water (MEW), the Lebanese Association for Energy and Environment Conservation (ALMEE) and Notre Dame University (NDU) a workshop on *Solar thermal and photovoltaic electricity market in EU Mediterranean countries*, on Friday June 19th, 2009 at the campus of Notre Dame University-Louaize, Bou Khater Auditorium. Present at the opening were NDU President Father Walid Moussa, Dr. Andreas Poullikas, Mr. Michele Genovese and Mr. Hassan Jabber.

In his opening speech, Dr. Fadi Comair said that renewable energy had not been a priority with the Lebanese Government and that this contributed less than 2% to domestic energy use. However there were plans to increase hydroelectricity by additional dam construction. In addition there was now strong official and other interest in solar energy.

Dr. Comair said that through its universities, ALMEE, and the MEW –LCPC Center, Lebanon could offer theoretical research and training in the areas of solar, wind, hydro and biomass technologies. Also,

major Lebanese consulting firms could offer services in feasibility and engineering studies related to the integration of renewable energy systems into existing power systems.

**Projet FASEP QADISHA**

A l'ancien immeuble de l'université Notre Dame, Louaizé, le mercredi, 29 juillet, 2009, le Ministère de l'Énergie et de l'Eau, Direction Générale des Ressources Hydrauliques et Électriques, a organisé un Séminaire National de Restitution des acquis du projet de FASEP QADISHA, mené en collaboration avec l'Université Notre Dame de Louaizé (NDU) Centre de Recherche pour l'Eau, l'Énergie et l'Environnement (WEERC), ASCONIT, SED Ic et CORAIL.

Contributors included Dr. Fadi Comair, Directeur Général des Ressources Hydrauliques et Électriques du Ministère de l'Énergie et de l'Eau(MEE) et Directeur du WEERC; M. Nawfal CHEDRAWI, Président de la Fédération des Municipalités de Bcharreh ; M. Jamal KRAYEM, PDG de l'Établissement des Eaux du Liban Nord ; M. Youcef KARAM, CDR ; Mme L. Belmont (ASCONIT) ; M. S. Dore (SED).

## LERC Activities

Reports by Elie Nabhan, Asma Abdel Khalek and Elias Sfeir

### UNDP Invitation

In October 2009, the Lebanese Emigration Research Center of NDU was invited to join the National Academic Working Group on Migration in Lebanon formed by the United Nations Development Program. The invitation came from Mrs. Martha Ruedas, UNDP Deputy Special Coordinator for London. LERC Director Guita Hourani and Researcher Dr. Eugene Sensenig-Dabbous joined representatives of the AUB, St. Joseph's and the LAU.

### Arab Migrant Women in Europe



Representing LERC, Dr. Salwa Karam sits on the panel.

At the invitation of the General Secretary of the Arab League Office in Tunis, LERC participated in the conference Arab Migrant Women in Europe: the Present and Future, held in Tunis on 9th December, 2009. LERC was represented by Dr. Salwa Karam, LERC Researcher since 2007. In her presentation given in the session on Economic and Social Role of the Arab Migrant Woman, she considered migration to Europe to be a natural phenomenon due to the links between European countries and Mediterranean states, among which was Lebanon.



Dr. Salwa Karam making a statement on Tunisian Television.

### Live Lebanon launching

On Thursday, 12th November, 2010, a launching ceremony for the Live Lebanon Project was held in the old Dome Cinema in downtown Beirut. It was organized by the United Nations Development Program and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants/General Directorate of Emigrants. Many ambassadors, Lebanese expatriate delegations, and NGO and media representatives attended, including those of LERC, which further provided important data and material in support of the project. Keynote speakers were Mrs. Marta Ruedas, UNDP Resident Representative, Mr. Haytham Jomaa, Director General of Emigrants, Mr. Amine Moukarzal, President of Golden Tulip Hotels, and Mrs. Randa Bdeir, head of electronic banking and credit cards in Bank Audi. Speeches mainly concerned obtaining emigrants' support for development in the more deprived areas of Lebanon. Mr. Raghed Assi, Manager of UNDP's Poverty and Social Development Program, briefed the audience on general aims.

### Dr. Ziad Salameh of King Saud University



Dr. Ziad Salameh visiting LERC.

On 2nd December, 2009, Dr. Ziad Salameh, Director of the Center of Excellence in Biomaterials and Biochemical Research at King Saud University, Riyadh, KSA, visited LERC to inform himself about LERC's networking with Lebanese expatriate scientists in order to study the possibility of an international scientific network and to enhance scientific research into Biomaterials and Biomechanics in Lebanon. A graduate from St. Joseph's Beirut, he obtained his Ph.D. in Dental Science at the University of Sienna in Italy.

## LERC Award to Antonio Kaim and Youssef Beydoun



❖ Familiar personalities attending the event.



❖ H.E. Jorge Alvarez receiving the award on behalf of Mr. Antonio Kaim, absent in Mexico.



❖ Mr. Youssef Beydoun receiving the LERC Acknowledgement Award from NDU President Father Walid Moussa.

On Friday, 11th December, 2009, LERC honored Mr. Antonio Trabulse Kaim and Mr. Youssef Beydoun for their outstanding service, the former to the Lebanese community in Mexico and the latter to the Lebanese of Dearborn, Michigan USA.

Those attending the ceremony included H.E. Jorge Alvarez, Ambassador of Mexico; Mr. Thomas Daughton, Chargé d'Affaires, US Embassy; Mrs. Amanda Cranmer, Political Officer, US Embassy; Fr. Walid Moussa, President, NDU; Dr. Ameen Rihani, NDU V.-P. Academic Affairs; Dr. Assaad Eid, NDU V.-P. Sponsored Research and Development; Dr. Michel Nehme, Director University International Affairs Office at NDU; Claudia Maroun, Cultural Section, Embassy of Mexico; Dr. George Hayek, President Lebanese-Mexican Friendship Association; Dr. Elias Maroun and families and friends of those honored;

LERC Adjunct Researcher Dr. Eugene Sensenig-Dabbous; Mr. Amin Nehme, LERC Program Developer; Mr. Roberto Khatlab, LERC's Latin American Liaison Officer; LERC Director Guita Hourani and staff and friends of LERC.

Ms. Basma Abdul Khalek, LERC Project Manager, gave biographical sketches of those honored. Mr. Antonio Kaim, born in 1947 of a family from Kfarhouneh, South Lebanon worked in the theater and films after completing graduate studies in the field. In 1966 he founded and directed the Lebanese Folklore Ballet of Mexico, in the 1980s moderated La Hora Libanese on radio and in 1987 co-founded and became director of the Mexican Lebanese Cultural Institute. He wrote books about Lebanon and about the Lebanese in Mexico and the famous Poema por la paz en Libano.

Mr. Youssef Beydoun was born in Bint Jbeil in 1962. He has an MBA Strategic Management from Davenport University, Dearborn, and wide experience in teaching and training. From 1998 to 2007 he was Deputy Mayor of Dearborn and on behalf of the city organized much humanitarian work in the Middle East and for Middle Eastern communities in USA. He was responsible for the twinning of Cana with Dearborn, of Beirut with Los Angeles and of Bint Jbeil with Sydney, Australia. Currently he is Senior Development Manager at Dubai Airport and Adjunct Professor at the American University of Dubai.

Then Father Walid Moussa explained about the Acknowledgments, saying how essential it was for services to Lebanese communities should be recognized.

## Emigrant Scholar Fr. Charles Khachan



Father Charles Khachan, based at St. George's Maronite Church in San Antonio, Texas, came to learn about LERC and to donate material for the archives and database. A member of the Lebanese Maronite Missionaries, he went to the USA in 2003. With a Master's degree in Sociology from the University of Texas, he completed internship at the Institute of Texan Cultures and is a PhD thesis on Diaspora and Religion.

❖ Khachan touring the LERC Lebanon and Migration Museum.

## LERC Publications for Patriarch Sfeir



❖❖ Left to right: Mrs. L. Haddad, Dr. G. Abdelnour, Ms. G. Hourani, His Beatitude, Mr. A. Nehme, Ms. B. Abdel Khalek, Mr. E. Nabhan, Mr. M. el-Khoury and Mr. E. Sfeir.

On Thursday, 14th January, 2010, the director, personnel and associates of LERC were granted an audience by His Beatitude Patriarch Nasrallah Sfeir at Bkerke, on which occasion they presented him with a copy of the Center's latest book, *Our People* and the special issue of NDU's *Palma Journal* on Lebanese migration. He was also briefed on present and future LERC projects.

## Book Commissioned on Diasporic Zajal



❖❖ Dr. Joseph Abi Daher and Dr. Assaad Eid shake hands on the agreement.

On Thursday, 14th January, 2010, a contract was signed between Dr. Assaad Eid, NDU Vice President for Sponsored Research and Development, and Dr. Joseph Abi Daher, journalist, poet, writer, critic, sculptor, painter and expert on Lebanese zajal, for a book on zajal to be published by NDU Press. Zajal is a form of sung extempore poetry competition, practiced by Lebanese pioneer emigrants and still appreciated by the new waves.

## Fieldwork Skills with Dr. Dorai



❖❖ Ms. Guita Hourani and Dr. Dorai give a certificate to one of the participants.

On Tuesday, 19th January, 2010, the Lebanese Development Network (LDN) and Lerc together organized a workshop given by Dr. Kamel Dorai (French National Centre for Scientific Research, CNRS) on Conducting Biographical and Expert Interviews. Visiting researcher at MIGRINTER, University of Poitiers, he is currently based at the French Near East Institute in Damascus (IFPO) and focusing on asylum seekers, refugees, migration, geopolitical reorganization and the Palestinian Diaspora. There were over forty participants from universities, NGOs, embassies and government institutions.

## Amendment of the Lebanese Nationality Law

Mr. Melkar El Khoury, Research Affiliate, represented LERC at the launch of the media campaign Toward Amending the Nationality Law in Lebanon and the study on Situation of Lebanese Women Married to Non-Lebanese held at the Phoenicia Hotel, Beirut, on 26th January, 2010. The campaign is organized by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the National Committee for the Follow-up on Women's Issues.

Dr. Aman Kabbaa Chaarani pointed out that 77,400 individuals are adversely affected by the present discriminatory law. Ms. Marta Ruedas, UNDP, stressed the need for change, while Interior Minister Ziad Baroud pointed out that amendment of the law was not only a legal issue but also a political one. Dr. Fehmiya Sharaf ed-Dinn presented statistics, after which a documentary with testimonies and interviews with Lebanese women married to non-Lebanese was screened.

## LERC and German Students



❖ Professor Sensenig at the podium delivering his lecture (Feb 2010).



❖ Professor Escher (second row fourth left) attends with both sets of students (Feb 2010).



❖ At the museum: Ms. Abdel Khalek shows original LERC materials to the German students (Feb 2010).

On Wednesday, 17th February, 2010, the Lebanese Emigration Research Center at Notre Dame University, Lebanon, welcomed eighteen German students from the University of Mainz, Germany, led by Professor Anton J. Escher, university lecturer in Human Geography at the University of Mainz and Director of the Centre for Intercultural Studies (ZIS). They were guided by Mr. Andreas Wischnat, a research affiliate at LERC. Professor Escher had previously visited LERC in April 2009 after being told of the Center by Mr. Wischnat. After they had been taken on a brief tour of the NDU campus by LERC IT specialist Mr. Elias Sfeir, they were joined in the NDU auditorium by students of Professor Eugene Sensenig-Dabbous, Chairperson of the Departments of Political Science,

Public Administration and Diplomacy (FPSAD) at NDU, and Acting Director of LERC.

Professor Sensenig-Dabbous presented to the students the challenges he encountered while researching for this topic in Lebanon for his lecture *Doing Research on Sensitive Topics in the Middle East*. Professor Sensenig-Dabbous went on to explain the difficulty of using Western research methods in the Middle East and encouraged the students to read widely to recognize sensitive topics that must be approached with care.

Lebanon, he pointed out, may appear more Western than other countries but still requires careful attention when approaching certain topics. Information is available here, but requires knowing the right people and having the right

connections, as a prerequisite in order to push research further. Permits, he advised, are of crucial importance. Since Lebanon has held no census since 1932, surveys based on sampling are very difficult especially concerning the availability and accessibility to data, documents, statistics and the like. LERC, he said, can advise on the possibility of doing applied research of a high academic standard. It is unique in being the only research center dealing with migration outside the First World.

The student group was then shown around the LERC premises and resource library, where welcome refreshments were offered.

## FAAD

### Arabic Music

Teachers and students from all faculties were happy to gather in the FAAD Exhibition Hall drawn by the sounds of Arabic music and songs that the Department of Musicology organized with Miss Marie Nassar (vocalist), Mr. Walid Bou-Serhal (keyboard), Mr. Nicolas Haddad (percussion) and Mr. Milio Ghanem (percussion). Songs of Feyrouz were generously interpreted and all were invited to sing along and to cheer during lunch break, on Friday, February 19.

**Lola Beyrouti,**  
Music Department



❖ Left to right: Walid Bou-Serhal, Nicolas Haddad, Milio Ghanem and Marie Nassar.

## FAAD Fashion

Theme: 16th Century Traditional Lebanese Costumes

On 27th January, 2010, eleven students in the Fashion Design BA program at the FAAD featured their creations in a catwalk show as a workshop outcome entitled

## Traditional Lebanese Costumes.



❖ Maria Khoury  
❖ Farah Chahine

who dealt with concept, design, and color as they relate to the 16th century, responding to distinct social conditions at that time. Students worked seven days on sketchbooks, manipulating woven and nonwoven fiber structures and different kinds of fabric textures such as chanton, taffetas, cotton, linen and silk.

All the participants were introduced to a variety of processes and encouraged to carry out at least one research on different kinds of traditional Lebanese costumes in sufficient depth to make them their own. They studied history and discovered that the traditional tantour and veils were meant to boost the outfits to give them an air of feminine mystery. Accessories made from gold, silver or copper were used to indicate different levels of society.

“The strategy of FAAD is undertaking workshops to enhance the students’ skills and upgrade their qualifications,” said Mr. Nadim Matta, Chairperson of the Design Department. “The catwalk event means a good exposure for them, and is a fine experience. It is great to help them build up their own design experience whilst they are being exposed to different design backgrounds and theories.”

This workshop took place at the Fashion Studios on the FAAD premises, where modern equipment and technologies have been installed, with highly qualified specialists who teach contemporary skills assisted by personnel specialized in textile couture.

Facilities include a spacious fashion design studio and superb equipment: large tables, sewing machines and a heat press, networked computers, scanner and printers for digital textile design.

The workshop program was conducted by Mr. Majed Bou Tanous for the History Research section along with Mr. Joseph Honein,



❖ Hind Keyrouz



❖ Creation Rami Saad



❖ Joanna Khattar

Students were also inspired by the costumes of the famous Rahbani musicals. Crucial help was given by Mrs. Antoinette Whaibe for tailoring. The excitement of the students reached a peak the day of the event, and finally they proudly showcased their designs, a delight for the eyes and an enchantment to see.

Working on the show provided the students with a real insight into the hard work required and the satisfaction gained from running a successful and applauded event.

“It is incredible to see all our hours of effort come to fruition,” said the students.



Sketch by Alexandra Saddi



Implementation Alexandra Saddi



Sketch by Marianne Mallah



Implementation Marianne Mallah



Sana' Ayoub



María Aphtim



Creation Jessica Bonni



At the end of the spring semester, the senior project of the graduating students will be based on another topic dealing with modern outfits. The FAAD continues to graduate the highest caliber of fashion designers, ones to watch out for in the future.

We wish all our students every success.

Report by Roula Majdalani, FAAD

## FAAD Ceramic and Photography

Earth Water Pixels

On December 2nd, 3rd and 4th, 2010, the Faculty of Architecture, Art & Design organized a three-day joint venture with ceramic, photography and music students taking part in an exhibition entitled

### Earth Water Pixels.



❖ Viewing



❖ Mr. Habib Melki, Acting Dean, FAAD

On the day of the opening, a student band from the Music Department presented live a diverse and animated program of jazz, blues and other entertaining music. Our talented students received an immediate response to their music from an appreciative audience.



❖ Live Band: Rami Battikh, Jad Feytrouni and Fadi El Jurdi

By this event the Music Department wanted to provide not only an educational musical experience for the students, but also a chance to interact with other people.

The participants at the exhibition were Ceramic and Photography students from all Faculties at NDU. They were inspired by the water element, and worked hard to express their own personalities and creativity, using clay and cameras. Two hundred items of frames and mugs of various dimensions in ceramics and photographs were displayed at the Exhibition Hall.

The hand-made ceramic mugs and frames were decorated with symbols related to the theme, fish, seashells and seaweed. Some of the attendees were wondering how the ceramic students managed to get this fabulous effect on their items.



❖ Working the theme.

It demanded a two- step procedure: Mugs and frames made by the students out of clay were fired in an appropriate kiln, for clay is hardened by heating it to a high temperature, thus fusing the clay particles. At this stage it becomes Bisk or pottery.

A coating of material applied to the Bisk called glaze forms a glass-like colored surface after a second firing at a high temperature kiln up to 1050 degrees. At this stage it becomes ceramic.

The photography course provided an excellent opportunity for students to use their cameras in their unique perspectives to observe the changes in nature, to touch the distinctive colors, and to record unique and memorable moments they had experienced. Seventy landscapes with streams and sunsets were showcased in either a figurative or abstract way within the ceramic frames.

Students from all majors may take the Introduction to Ceramics and Introduction to Photography as part of their education and learning.



❖ Photo and frame

Furthermore, the BA in Photography at NDU offers the students the opportunity to explore and develop individual style in a project-based system where initiative, research and analytical thinking underlie each body of work.



Roula Majdalani, FAAD

## 2009 International Conference: Computational Tools for Engineering Applications



❖ Left to Right: Mr. Suheil Mater, Dr. Elias Nassar, Dr. Ahmad Jammal, Fr. Walid Moussa, Dr. Assad Eid

●● The 2009 International Conference on Advances in Computational Tools for Engineering Applications (ACTEA 2009) was organized by the Faculty of Engineering at Notre Dame University and technically co-sponsored by the IEEE Lebanon Section. The aim of ACTEA 2009 was to advance the state of knowledge in engineering computational tools by bringing together researchers and industry, and to provide a common platform for researchers and engineers involved in computational tools to share research results and pioneering views about recent trends and developments.

The conference was held July 14-17, 2009 on the NDU campus and was very well attended, with 130 papers in the technical program chosen from among 240 submitted abstracts and presented in 30 parallel technical sessions. Four distinguished keynote speakers gave presentations about the latest developments in computational tools in the different areas of engineering research. ACTEA 2009 attendees came from 30 different countries and represented more than 70 universities and research centers worldwide. A total of 160 participants registered for the conference with eighty percent from outside Lebanon. The conference included an industrial exhibit by two leading companies from the USA, namely MSC



❖ From left: Dr. Mohamad Zoeter, Dean, Faculty of Engineering, Lebanese University, Dr. Pierre Gedeon, Dean, Faculty of Engineering, Antonine University.

Software and National Instruments, who also were the main industrial sponsors for the conference. An excellent social program allowed attendees to visit some of the outstanding natural and historical sites in Lebanon including the Jeita Grotto, Byblos, Our Lady of Lebanon Shrine, Old Souks of Zouk Mikael and Downtown Beirut.

The opening ceremony included speeches from Dr. Elias Nassar, Dean, FE, Fr. Walid Moussa, President, NDU, and Dr. Ahmad Jammal, Director General of Higher Education in Lebanon. Keynote speakers included Prof. Kamal Al Haddad of Ecole de technologie supérieure, Université du



❖ Dr. Elias Nassar and Dr. Abdallah Kassem with ACTEA 2009 attendees from Qatar.

Quebec, Canada; Dr. Bikash Pal of Imperial College, London, UK; and Prof. Joe Majdalani of University of Tennessee, USA. Also attending were Mr. Michel Haddad, Regional Manager for National Instruments, some of whose wares were exhibited, and Mr. Eddy Fadel, Regional Manager for MSC Software.

The proceedings of the conference are available through the IEEE Online Digital Library IEEEXplore <http://ieeexplore.ieee.org/xpl/tocresult.jsp?isnumber=5227822&isYear=2009>

More information about the conference organizing committees and program as well as a photo gallery can be accessed at [www.ndu.edu.lb/actea09](http://www.ndu.edu.lb/actea09).

## 2nd Annual Engineering Awards



❖ Dr. Elias Nassar,  
Dean, FE



❖ The National Anthem



❖ The Award trophies

The Second Annual Engineering Awards Ceremony was held on Wednesday, October 28, 2009 in the Abou Khater Auditorium. Twenty one Engineering students were honored during the ceremony for their achievements during the Academic Year 2008-2009.

Dr. Elias Nassar, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, opened the ceremony with a message in which he thanked the Engineering faculty and staff members for inspiring the students to greater achievements. He also thanked Father Walid Moussa and the NDU Administration for their support to the Faculty in its endeavor to become one of the leading faculties of Engineering in Lebanon and the region. He added "We are proud of our students because they have demonstrated that by dedication, discipline and a mind open to new ideas they can achieve great results."

Father Walid Moussa congratulated the students for their achievements and thanked the parents, whose support and encouragement were essential to their children's success. He also stressed that NDU aims to educate the whole person and that success is measured not only by technical achievement but also by being a productive and effective member of society.

### The awards were divided as follows:

- The Sarmad Rihani Award was won by student **Rawad Salameh** from the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department with a GPA of 3.77. In a short speech read by Dr. Ameen Rihani, VP, AA, Engineer Sarmad Rihani addressed Mr. Salameh saying: "Join forces with your colleagues who share

the same good values and principles that you have, and create a future Lebanon that will be marked with what we all have been craving for - a Lebanon known for its integrity, candor, and humbleness, and a Lebanon that is free from corruption, arrogance, dishonesty, and self-served interests." In his turn Mr. Salameh thanked Mr. Sarmad Rihani and NDU for their support and encouragement.

- **Dean's Award for Academic Excellence.** This goes to the student with the highest GPA from the graduating class in each major.

### 2008-2009 winners:

George Badr,  
Saad Khoury,  
Hanna Aftim,  
Georges Akiki.

- **Dean's Award for Engineering Innovation.** This goes to students from each Department who have shown innovation in their Engineering design project, whether in solving a practical problem or in finding a novel solution to a research problem. Students will be recommended by each Department and approved by the Faculty. Nominations should be accompanied by a description of the students' projects and the innovative contributions.

### 2008-2009 winners:

CEE: Salam Salameh,  
Anthony Rashed  
ECCE: Adel Nehmeh,  
Lewaa Hamadeh,  
Ribal Atalah  
ECCE (NLC): Habib Al-Alam,  
Roger Dawra

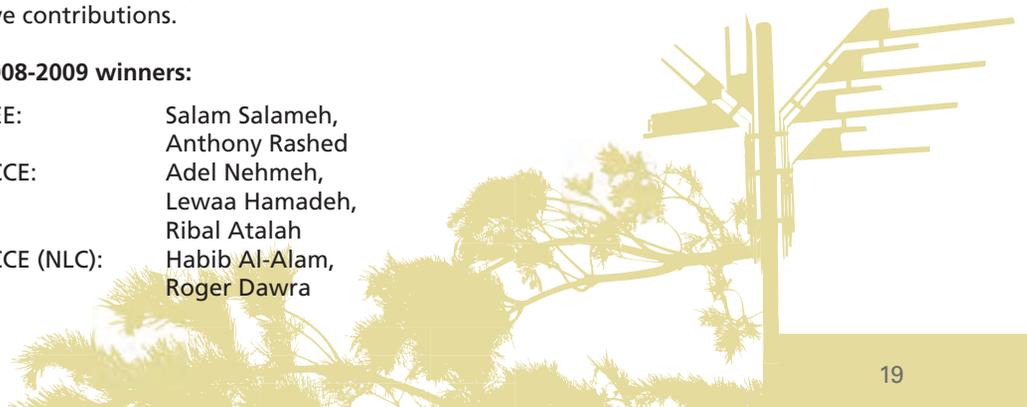
ECCE (Shouf): Hussain Kais,  
Nadeen Rishani  
ME: Eva Saade

- **Dean's Award for Outstanding Service.** This goes to the students in the Faculty of Engineering who have shown dedication to service by planning professional activities, tutoring, volunteering, etc., for the benefit of fellow students. One student will be recommended by each Department and approved by the Faculty. Nominations should be accompanied by a list of activities that qualify the student for this award.

### 2008-2009 winners:

CEE: Antoine Salameh  
ECCE: Robert El-Chabb,  
Fadi Khattar  
ME: Charles Haddad,  
Elie Aoun,  
Jessica Ghobril,  
Patrick Jreijiri

Following the ceremony a cocktail reception was held for parents, faculty and students.



## IEEE NDU Branch

Seminar of Dr. Rafik Bachnak



❖ Students and Faculty attending the seminar



❖ Dr. Rafik Bachnak

On Monday, November 9th, 2009, there was a seminar by Dr. Rafik Bachnak, Professor at Texas A&M International University and Fulbright Scholar, organized by the NDU Student Branch of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) and held at midday in the NDU Engineering Building. The subject of the conference was Application of Eddy Current to Crack Detection in Materials.

Dr. Bachnak received his B.S., M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Electrical and Computer Engineering at Ohio University in 1983, 1984 and 1989 respectively. Prior to joining TAMU in 2007, Dr. Bachnak was on the faculty of Texas A&M-CorpusChristi, Northwestern State University, and Franklin University. He has had fellowships

with NASA and the US Navy Laboratories, and employment with Koch Industries. Dr. Bachnak is a registered Professional Engineer in the State of Texas, a senior member of IEEE and ISA, and a member of ASEE. He is currently at Notre Dame University as a Fulbright Scholar.

Dr. Bachnak explained at the seminar how Nondestructive Testing (NDT) plays an important role in ensuring that components and systems are free of defects that might compromise their functionality. For example, NDT techniques are used to locate flaws that might otherwise cause major catastrophes such as aircraft crashes, train accidents and plant explosions. The tests are performed in such a way that objects under inspection are not damaged or affected in any way.

While there are several NDT methods, the three most widely used for materials testing and evaluation are radiography, ultrasonic and eddy-current.

Dr. Bachnak described the development of an eddy-current prototype that combines positional and eddy-current data to produce a C-scan of tested material. He explained that the preliminary system consists of an eddy-current probe, a position tracking mechanism, and basic data visualization capability. Test results of the prototype were presented and discussed.

As our illustration shows, Dr. Bachnak had a keenly interested audience.

FH

## Clermont-Ferrand Film Festival

From Sam Lahoud, Audio-Visual Facilities

We are very proud to inform the NDU family that our RTV student Georges Tarabay was accepted to participate in the 32nd Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival for his film Civil but Not Civilized "أهلية بمحلية". The film was presented at the Monaco Film Festival, the NDU Student Film festival and the European Film Festival, and in all three events it was well received and applauded by the audience. George's film was the only Lebanese film that was accepted from among twenty-two other films from Lebanese directors, students and professionals.

Thousands of films from around the world apply to participate in this festival that was due to take place

this year in France between January 29 and February 6, 2010. This year eighty-seven films from different countries competed. The acceptance of Georges' film is by itself an important matter for Georges and for NDU, and we awaited the return of Civil but Not Civilized from France with good feedback, hoping it might leave a good impression about the potential of the Lebanese Film and about the Audio Visual Major at NDU. In addition we wish Georges success in his future career and we tell him that we are very proud that he once was one of our brilliant students.

For more details you can check: [www.clermont-filmfest.com](http://www.clermont-filmfest.com)

## Advertising and Marketing



❖ From left to right: Mr. Raymond Merheb, Mr. Ibrahim Tabet, Mrs. Jamale el Rassi, Mrs. Janine Rbeiz, Mr. Kamal Darouni, Mr. Dany Karam and Mr Anwar. Aswad.



❖ The winner Miss Theodora Haddad receiving her certificate of Merit from the General Secretary of the Advertising Agencies Association (AAA) Mr. Dany Karam.( CEO of

On the 19th of January 2010, the NDU end-of-year ceremony for the students of the senior class ADM 490, lecturer Kamal Darouni, was held in the friend's hall at Notre Dame University-NDU.

Three students had the pleasure of presenting their Advertising Campaign plan for different products. This event was organized by the IAA /NDU Advertising Club and sponsored by the Advertising Agencies Association (AAA).

The students who presented their campaigns were Serge Chidiac, Lucy Abillamah and Theodora Haddad. Each one had been assigned by his or her professor to work on a fully-fledged advertising campaign that included the marketing plan, advertising plan, media plan, creative plan and execution, promotional strategies and PR campaign.

The Jury was composed as follows: Mr. Raymond Merheb, Mr. Ibrahim Tabet, Mrs. Jamale El- Rassi, Mrs. Janine Rbeiz,

Mr. Kamal Darouni, Mr. Dany Karam and Mr. Anwar Aswad. The students gave state-of-the-art presentations that were much appreciated by the Jury, as these members of a new generation holding the future of advertising in their hands.

At the end of the ceremony, winner Miss Theodora Haddad received a certificate of Merit from the General Secretary of the Advertising Agencies Association (AAA) Mr. Dany Karam.

## NDU Education Society

**Motto:** - Once Education Major, Always NDU Priority.

**Member's Motto:** - Once NDU Education Society Members, Always Making NDU Proud.

The Education Society held its Spring 2009 event in the Faculty of Humanities, HA 119 titled *The Scholastic Leveled Bookroom, Children's Educational Programs and Book Publishers*.

The Scholastic INC. Middle East and North Africa area sales manager, Ms. Michelle Alwan and the sales executive-education and trade, Mr. Bassam Badran in coordination with Dr. R. EL-Meouchy gave an interactive presentation where they emphasized the ultimate need of

'Helping Children Around the World to Read and Learn' and exposed our pre-service teachers to Scholastic Teaching Resources as well as to complementary student activities.

The *Education Society* at the faculty of Humanities was launched by its founder, Dr. R. EL-Meouchy, and its pioneer education major students on the 4th of December 2008. We wish to express our appreciation to our Dean, Dr. C. Kfoury; our previous Chair, Dr. Mary Angela Willis;

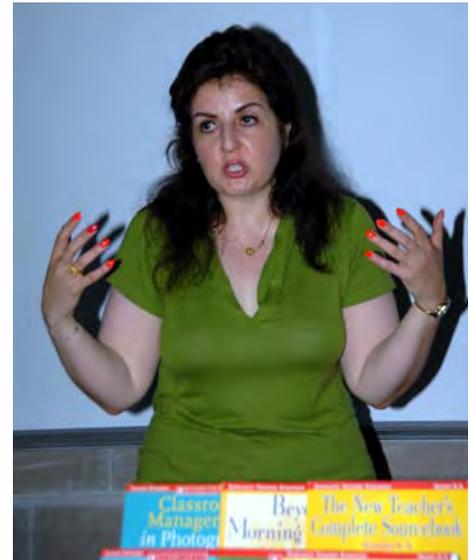
Rita EL-Meouchy  
(Ph.D. Education)

and our Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. A. Rihani for their unconditional support and encouragement.

NDU Education BA / MA graduates as well as Teaching Diploma & Teaching Certificate majors need to feel that NDU always backs them academically as well as teaching career wise. NDU has established their academic background and paved the way for their practicum exposure in teaching- a never ending journey towards attaining the teaching



❖ Education Society Members with Dr. Rita EL-Meouchy



❖ Ms. Michelle Alwlan, Area Sales Manager, *Middle East Dimension*

❖ Mr. Bassem Badran, Sales Executive, Education and Trade, Middle East and North Africa



missions. It automatically follows that NDU will incessantly act as its graduates' education patron in providing all possible assistance needed. The *Education Society* members' feedback help sustain the Education program in preparing an action-oriented, problem-solving curriculum with content and materials designed to produce change agents, particularly catered to our imminent education setting.

Thus, the *Education Society* at the Faculty of Humanities aims at promoting the Education Department and establishing and solidifying mutually beneficial relations among schools and our Education Department through our pre-service teachers. In addition, it aspires to keep the Education majors intertwined through professional and social contact under the NDU educational umbrella. It is our plan to continuously enrich our members' academic repertoires with updated researches in their field, supervisory conferences and workshops that are linked to their teaching experiences in the classroom.

I confidently reckon, as advisor of the BA Education, Teaching Diploma & Teaching Certificate, that a prospective teacher's education should not end at the student teachers graduation; hence, I unhesitatingly support the idea of future professional development throughout an educator's career.

As Founder of the *Education Society*, I can vouch that the purpose and provisions of the society will undoubtedly accentuate our Education majors' sense of NDU belonging; Even after graduation, our pre-service teachers will be made to feel that NDU sustains their professional development.

We are proud to share with you that Education Society has initiated a set of activities for 2010. We will be looking forward to have you participate in the events of these events in the upcoming issues of the NDU spirit. Keep on the lookout for our announcements.

All NDU Education majors and graduates are encouraged to apply to the *Education Society*.

To apply, please contact: Dr. R. EL-Meouchy via NDU email: [relmeouchy@ndu.edu.lb](mailto:relmeouchy@ndu.edu.lb) or phone extension-Main Campus-: 2418. Presently, we are 48 members, definitely educationally 'alive' and planning to master the art of professional academic 'kicking'! Wish us luck!

(Article shortened for reasons of space)



❖ Materials on display



❖ 2009 Pre-service Teachers' Group with Dr. Rita EL-Meouchy

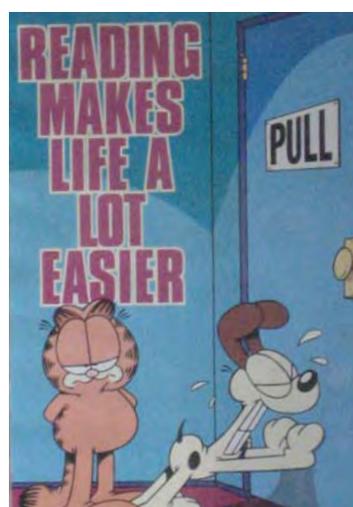
## Pre-service Teacher Training:

### Continuous Need for Reform and Thinking

By: Rita EL-Meouchy  
(Ph.D. Education).

### Education Practicum – Roundtable:

Professional Development for our NDU Pre-service Teachers.



❖ Left to right: Ruba, Layale, Petra, Sara, Perla, Dr. EL-Meouchy, Priscilla, Ange and Phylipsy

- The Education Teacher Training Practicum courses in the Education Department at the Faculty of Humanities fully acknowledge that the gap between the curriculum taught to teacher trainees and the reality that exists in schools is an ever real concern. So the Education Teacher Training Practicum courses in the Education Department introduced the concept of **“Taped Roundtable Practice Oriented”** sessions.

- Dr. R. EL-Meouchy, Practicum Instructor & Advisor of the Teaching Diploma/ Teaching Certificate as well as B.A. Education, introduced the notion of taped roundtable open discussion sessions in each Education practicum course.

- The first roundtable discussion follows an open ended approach that focuses on encouraging innovative outcomes as well as underlining the feasibility of the taught teaching/learning strategies. The second one zoomed on the actual happenings in the schools and encouraged our pre-service teachers to suggest workable solutions and to plan their final full lesson – to be given in the pre-service teachers' respective schools-accordingly. The final pre-service teaching session and its constructive feedback session are to be taped as of next semester. Dr. EL-Meouchy believes that taping each pre-service teacher's last teaching session enables our future teachers to reflect on their strategies as well as on their trainer's comment/s while developing an educated constructive critical eye. In addition, our Education Department needs to build on the practicums of

In addition, our Education Department needs to build on the practicums of our pre-service student teachers. The Dean of Humanities, Dr. C. Kfoury, gave permission for practicum courses to be equipped with adequate audio-visual component/ aids (camera) in order for the pre-service teachers teaching session to be taped.

The picture of our Roundtable 'wrap-up' session focused on the need for regular "skilling" of teachers: on using eclectic methodologies of teaching to create and manage a learning environment, on training in delivering an "engaging and interactive" learning experience as well as training in creating high quality sharable experience in delivering the assigned content.

In addition, the roundtable argues the establishment of certification programs for Lebanese teachers as well as examining the potential impact of expected standards on professional development. The eight pre-service teachers in the

Education practicum for 2009 were initiated to take 'leading roles' in sharing their individual teaching experiences in Catholic schools, where they were assigned to observe, reflect and teach. Discussions were innovatively lively and educationally constructive.

In 2009, our pre-service teachers have been welcomed by the following schools: NDL, Jesus & Mary, St Joseph's, Antonine Sisters of Ghazir, and Sagesse Ain Saade. Our thanks go to Fr. Naji Khalil, School Principal of Notre Dame of Louaize, to Fr. Joseph Tannous, Jesus and Mary School Principal, to Fr. Richard Bou Moussa, Principal of St. Joseph's School, Sister Dominique Halabi, Principal of Antonine Sisters School and to Fr. Gabriel Tabet, Principal of Sagesse Ain Saade. Our pre-service teachers for 2009 were Ms Ruba Maatouk, Ms. Layal Sarrouf, Ms. Petra Abi Farah, Ms. Sara Koutia, Ms. Perla Nassar, Ms. Priscilla Koueik, Ms. Ange Moukarzel, and Ms. Phylipsy Antoun.

(Article shortened for reasons of space)

## Ecology with Prof. Nagi Wakim

On Tuesday, November 24, 2009, Professor Nagi Wakim gave a lecture at NDU about Realizing an Information Ecology, a research that he started in 1991 while he was working at NASA. His presentation can be divided into two parts. In the first part of his lecture, Pr. Wakim defined Information Ecology (IE) as being a metaphor used to associate an informational space with a natural ecology. The main aims of IE are (1) to develop information systems that are able to manage change in the system, data, and users, (2) to build autonomous software, and (3) to achieve automation. Moreover, he discussed some major challenges that face IE, as for example: (1) the high cost of maintaining a control center, (2) the complexity of the infrastructure, (3) a highly dynamic environment, (4) real-time and mission-critical systems, and (5) the incompleteness of information.

In the second part of his lecture, Pr. Wakim addressed the issue of how to realize an IE. His approach uses software agents that are expected to achieve active learning. He also gave some areas of applications of agent-based systems, as for example (1) data and web-mining, (2) e-profiling for security risk assessment, marketing, etc. (3) monitoring and control with reference to satellite operations, weather forecasting, etc. It is worth noting that Professor Wakim is still doing some research on this specific topic with some colleagues and Master students.

Dr. Nagi Wakim is a professor in the Computer and Information Science Department at the Holy Spirit University of Kaslik. He earned a Ph.D. in Computer Science in 1989 from Polytechnic University (New York, USA) and has over



Professor Nagi Wakim and his audience

research and development, and administration in industry, government, and higher education, which includes appointments as a department chairman, dean, and vice president. He conducted his doctoral research in the area of Integration of Heterogeneous Data Systems while working at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center. His research findings provided the foundation for the development of NASA's Master Directory for the on-going Global Change studies. His scientific research interests include information ecology and distributed and heterogeneous systems. Moreover, Prof. Wakim has a fond interest in human development and the use of information technology in education. He has published numerous papers and articles and has presented his work at the national and international levels.

## Social Security: "Facts and Challenges"

Reported by: Mrs. Claudia Freiji Bou Nassif (Actuarial Science Program Coordinator)

On Monday, 14th December, 2009, Dr. Mouhamad Karaki, Director General of the National Social Security Fund (NSSF), lectured on the Current State and Challenges facing the Fund. He presented the main three divisions of the Fund, namely, the Maternity and Sickness, Family Allowance and End-of-Service Indemnity. He discussed the legal structure and the administrative as well as the financial conditions of the Fund and highlighted the substantial lack of a trained and adequate labor force. While the End-of-Service division showed consistent surplus during the period extending from 2003 up to the present time, the other two divisions experienced substantial deficit. This financial strain resulted from high administrative cost, high lapse rate and gigantic unpaid governmental bills amounting to 962 billion Lebanese pounds of which only 240 billion were paid in 2009. The investment strategy of the fund was also discussed, according to which 80% of the money was invested

in government bonds and the remaining 20% placed in private banks. The average return amounted to 9% in 2008.

Dr. Karaki presented the challenges facing the NSSF. A non-exhaustive list includes –

- a. Aging and depletion in the workforce.
- b. High administrative cost.
- c. Lack of adequate specialization.
- d. Lack of actuarial assessment in rate-setting benefits provided for new adherents.
- e. Insufficiency in computerized systems
- f. High government debt owed to the NSSF.

Finally, future steps envisaged to achieve the desired reform in the NSSF should focus on the following:

1. Substantiating the independence of the Fund by eliminating political influence on the selection and appointment of employees.



Dr. Mouhamad Karaki

2. Hiring qualified and specialized employees and providing them with adequate training.
3. Improving the financial situation of the fund by cost containment through computerization, utilization control, enhanced salary structure, etc...
4. Increase in the number of beneficiaries.
5. Increase in benefits such as dentistry, workers' compensation, unemployment benefits, etc...

Finally, Dean Eid and Dr. Karaki entertained the idea of having one or two NDU students for internship at the NSSF.

## FPSPAD

## Smoking Policy at NDU

Ray Kazan, Business Faculty  
Dina Darwiche, Political Science Faculty



Smoking has always been an important issue in our society. Controlling it at Notre Dame University was one of the motives that pushed Dr. Elham Hashem and Dr. Eugene Sensenig-Dabbous to organize students for their presentations of combating indoor campus smoking. The alternative is smoking outdoors! The session was held between the students of MGT 312, Training and Development and the PAD 201, Introduction to Public Administration classes. The presentation was held in Abou Khater Hall on Tuesday the 26th of January 2010. It was broadly about the development and the implementation, or non-implementation, of the NDU smoking policy. The PAD 201 students prepared two different presentations regarding the smoking policy issue at NDU.

The first group capitalized on the intention of the policy, how the smoking policy was set on the agenda, where the policy is being articulated, the policy formulation and the initiators, to what degree the policy is being enforced among the student body, and lastly if the policy is even legitimate.

The second group discussed the issue of policy implementation, evaluation and change. They concluded that the non-implementation of the policy is taking place at four distinct levels, i.e. the academic, non-academic, co-academic, and the student levels. The policy and its implementation should be organized and interpreted in a way that all members of NDU's faculty and student body can fully understand it. In case the policy is not being implemented, the group proposed various sanctions for the violation of the policy by staff and the students. It also considered way of encouraging the university to fight the culture of impunity and implement its own policies on campus.

In the second set of presentations, two students of the MGT 312 class prepared and presented presentations on the issue.

In the first presentation, Caline Kajouni a Human Resources Management major, explained that all the advantages of smoking are not worth one of the disadvantages of tobacco. In an interactive presentation, she demonstrated how smoking can affect the life of smokers negatively. Then she interacted with the non-smokers in the audience by attempting to understand why they don't smoke. The most common responses were the smell, taste and the effect on their health.



Ray Kazan, a Human Resources student, did the second presentation. He began his presentation with a TV advertisement called "Get Unhooked". This was used in the United Kingdom for smoking prevention. The main points of his presentation focused on the different types of tobacco, the effects of smoking on personal health, the coverage of the Smoke Free Policy, the objective

of the Smoke Free Policy, how the policy "should" be implemented, how to report someone who is not abiding by the policy rules, and some steps on how to quit and prevent smoking in the university.

It is clear that the Smoke Free Policy covers all types of smoking products not only cigarettes.

The policy seeks to take into account the needs of those who smoke and offers support to those who wish to stop. It raises awareness of the dangers associated with the exposure to tobacco smoke and guarantees a healthy working environment because it protects the current and future health of employees, students and visitors. It guarantees the right of non-smokers to breathe air free from tobacco smoke.

The policy should be applied to and enforced by all University visitors, patients, students, faculty and employees. It is the responsibility of every member of the University community to comply with the policy.

**No one should be scared to report someone who is not abiding by the policy rules.**

Some steps the University could take to implement the rules are placing sensors in all the indoor areas. The use of pictures and videos may be more useful than traditional signs.

The presentations were concluded by a discussion between Dr. Ziad Fahed, the Assistant Director of the SAO, Dr. Sensenig-Dabbous and Dr. Hashem on how the policy should be implemented and whether it is possible to apply this type of policy at a Lebanese university.

## The Bologna Process

### For a European Higher Education Area

Jessica Hallak, FPSPAD

Current DAAD Director (<http://www.daad.de/en/>), Andreas Wutz, recently chaired two presentations regarding the Bologna Process. The conference was held at the NDU campus on the 14th of December 2009 and the 18th of January 2010. Students and representatives of the FPSPAD, FNAS, FH and FBAE faculties attended both of the sessions. In the first day, Dir. Wutz introduced the international agreement. The second day of the conference, he did a brief overview of the process and concluded with a question-answer session.

The Bologna Process agreement was signed in 1999. As of today, there are 46 signatory countries. The main goals of the Bologna Process are to establish a European area of higher education and to promote the European system of higher education throughout the world. The objectives of the process are directed towards coping with the rising number of students, a changing labor market, the encouragement of student

mobility through the internationalization of research, and the encouragement of the free-flow of the workforce.

The establishment of a homogenous educational system is required to be in compliance with the Compact Bachelor Curricula, the European Credit Transfer, the Accumulation System (ECTS), the three-cycle system (Bachelor, Master, PhD) and the Diploma Supplement.

Furthermore, the implementation of the Bologna framework is dependent upon the domestic political priorities, the decisions and cooperation of national institutions, student organizations, and the universities.

Dir. Wutz included in his discussion the various criticisms that the process has been facing. These are concerning over-regulation, the excessive work-load for undergraduates, and the link between teaching and research. The universities are becoming mere "diploma factories". The undergraduate mobility is not increasing and there is often no significant

effect on the duration of studies. Furthermore, the agreement is seen as part of an un-democratic decision-making process.

As part of the European Neighbourhood Policy's commitment to Lebanon, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education has drafted laws on the re-organization of private higher education and on the universities of Lebanon.

However, their adoption has not yet been accomplished. As of today, there are some countries, which still have not decided on the extent to which they will implement the Bologna Process measures. A great deal more needs to be done to accomplish the goals of the process.

NDU students and faculty are currently considering how they can become part of the Bologna implementation process in Lebanon. The DAAD encourages Lebanon to take an active role in linking education in the Middle East to Germany and the EU in general.

## Rondine – Universities Building Peace

Michele Fenianos (Club for International Relations)

Michele Fenianos and Nadine Mazraani, both students of International Affairs, accompanied the Dean of the Faculty of Political Science, Public Administration and Diplomacy (FPSPAD), Dr. Chahine Ghais, to a Transcontinental Study week at the association "Rondine Cittadella della Pace" (Arezzo, Italy - <http://www.rondine.org/>). This is a non-profit association that is active in creating a culture of dialogue through the creation of the International Hall of Residence, a neutral territory for students coming from regions impacted by protracted conflict situations.

The conference, entitled: "Uni4: Universities building peace", was scheduled the 23rd through the 26th of November 2009. The main goal was to focus "on the role played by universities and education in inter-cultural dialogue and peace research processes." Shedding light on how this method can be positively

reflected in conflict resolution and peaceful coexistence." Teachers and students participated from countries in Europe, the Middle East, Russia, the Caucasus, Africa and the United States. They came from 12 different universities and all interacted and shared with one another their different experiences, knowledge and skills to produce a common declaration to be implemented by both public and private sectors around the world.

NDU contributed to the conference with a student presentation and scholarly paper on the role of expatriates in the development of the home communities. Titled "Reconverting Brain Drain into Brain Circulation: The Diffusion of Knowledge and Science as a Tool of Development and Peace" this presentation dealt with the role that universities in the Middle East/North Africa (MENA) region can play in establishing networks



between countries of origin and expatriate populations abroad. It highlighted the activities of the Faculties and Research Centers (<http://www.ndu.edu.lb/Lerc/>) at NDU, in particular, and the greater migration research community in Lebanon, in general. Special emphasis was placed on the contribution made by advanced undergraduate and graduate students in the areas of applied field research, advocacy, and civil society networking.

## Communio



❖ Hospitality of Dr. Doumit Salameh, 22-01-10.  
Left to right: Dr. Thomas Scheffler, Mr. George Trad, Mr. Kenneth Mortimer, Dr. Habib Charles Malik, Dr. Richard Khouri.



❖ Left to right: Dr. Edward Alam, Dr. Eugene Sensenig-Dabbous, Dr. Doumit Salameh.

**On December 18th, 2009**, the Communio circle once again enjoyed the hospitality of Dr. Habib Charles Malik to discuss the article *Fundamental Politics: What we must learn from the Social Thought of Benedict XIV* by Thomas Rourke, published in *Communio* (Fall 2008). As usual the attendance was quite interdenominational, with the Latin, Syriac, Eastern Catholic-Orthodox and Reformed traditions all represented by participants mainly academics from Notre Dame-Louaize and other Lebanese universities.

Dr. Malik acted as moderator for the discussion, the subject of which was introduced by Dr. Edward Alam and Mr. Riad Mufarraj. The article in *Communio* opens by stating that Pope Benedict, an Augustinian, is known as a biblical and patristic scholar rather than as a political thinker, but Thomas Rourke suggests that he is in fact a profound political thinker even though he does not express himself as such in his scholarly or pastoral statements. An analogy was drawn between fundamental dogmatic theology, as the basis for pastoral and all other branches of theology, and "fundamental politics", as the basis for other branches of Politics.

The study of the first section of the article dealt with the relation between person and relation, a matter which gives an insight into the Christian understanding of the Divinity. The Hebrew Old Testament referred to the face of God (panim), while the Greek equivalent for person, *prosopon*, referred to a role, as in a theatrical drama. This dovetailed with the theological explanation of the identity of the Biblical God, person and

relation being practically synonymous. Greek philosophy perfected theology rather than corrupting it. Anthropology began with the idea of person. A clear idea of God as person led to respect for the 2human individual, of man as the likeness of God.

Consequently, the concept of an individual as an isolated monad was also seen as erroneous. Person was inseparable from relationship, as in the Trinity. Mr. Riad Mufarraj raised the matter of the person transcending nature, for in the case of identical twins one apparently sees two persons with one nature. Discussion continued long, but all were amply refreshed by the generous hospitality of Dr. Malik. In addition to those mentioned above, participants included Dr. Richard Khouri, Fr. Martin McDermott S.J., Mr. Kenneth Mortimer, Mr. Tony Nasrallah, Dr. Doumit Salameh, Dr. Eugene Sensenig, Mr. George Trad and Dr. Yussef Zgheib.

**On Friday, January 22nd**, the Communio circle met, not for the first time, in the home of Dr. Doumit Salameh. One recalls the verse of Hilaire Belloc in protest against the religious Puritanism of the North:  
"Wherever the Catholic sun doeth shine,  
There is always laughter and good red wine.  
At least I've always found it so,  
Benedicamus Domino!"

The article under discussion was the same as that studied at the previous meeting. First of all Mr. Riad Mufarraj chanted in Arabic the versed used during the baptismal rite, sung in early times by Christians for the benefit of the newly

baptised: "You who have been baptised in Christ have put on Christ. Alleluia!" Dr. Edward Alam then opened proceedings, a continued study of the present Pope's treatment of political order, holding that reason inhabits the universe its autonomy does not imply independence from God. In one of his books, the Holy Father uses Genesis to stress that the notion of creation guarantees the coherence and intelligibility of the universe. Genesis dispels the pagan demonic powers and divinities to insist on the one Creator, while the sun and the moon are no longer gods but are placed to measure time. It was through the Logos that all things came to be, according to the Prologue of St. John, so when reason is used to attack creation, it denies its own source.

Benedict warns that political reason cannot afford to ignore the Decalogue, the basis of social and political order, which does not mean that politics may be deduced from revelation, as in a theocracy. The denial of God leads man to try to refashion his own nature, in fact a power elite trying to refashion the others. The State, even with a democratic constitution, that excludes God in the name of science tends towards totalitarianism, whether of right or left, while talking about democracy. One example mentioned was that in accordance with the Eugenic theories of Sir Francis Galton, down to the nineteen-sixties Aboriginal and Amerindian children were torn away from their families to be "Euro-peanised", British children were taken away from supposedly defective families to be sent to Australia and some Scandinavian children mistakenly considered to be subnormal were sterilised.

The discussion then turned on the questions of theocracy, which tries to find in revelation a solution for every problem, and millenarianism, the expectation of a state of salvation within history, "applying political means beyond their own logic." True utopianism was seen not as a search to establish an ideal state but as a search for ideals in a hypothetical state, such as the Pope finds in Thomas More's Utopia.

But the "de-divinisation" of the state did not mean religious and moral neutrality. With the State making itself king, above the first principles of natural law, the foundations of Western civilisation have come under attack in the realms of sexual morality, marriage and family.

**On Friday, 26th February**, the Communio Circle met at the German Oriental Institute at Zqaq al-Ballat in central Beirut to hear Dr. Richard Khuri of LAU give a profound insight into the background, personality and thought of Alexander Solzhenitsyn. His starting point was the Communio article On Solzhenitsyn by Orthodox priest Father Alexander Schmamann.

In addition to those present at the previous meeting, there came Fr. Vincent McDermott, S.J., Dr. Yusuf Zgheib of NDU and Mr. Tony Nasrallah of LAU.

Father Shmemann said of Solzhenitsyn, "His truth exposes the lie of Soviet literature, but because he is totally part of it, he converts the 'Soviet' into Russian. Having brought forth a national writer Soviet literature ends, but it also acquires in itself the principle for its rebirth as Russian literature."

Dr. Khuri first pointed out that in Russian tradition there is always grace and joy at creation and redemption. Solzhenitsyn's final book, now published in English, is bursting with joy.

Concerned with evil, Solzhenitsyn's presentation of it is concrete, not as an abstraction, and he deals with man in the concrete. Russian authors are thinkers but express their thought in literature rather than in formal philosophy of the kind familiar in Western and Southern Europe. There is a general faith in the regeneration of man. It was agreed to hold the next meeting on 9th April at 7 p.m.

**N.B.** Communio meetings are open to all, whether members of the NDU family or of other universities, or simply members of the public interested in the more intellectual aspects of religions.

This invitation is extended to the faithful of every religious adherence, for Orthodox and Reformed participate regularly and Muslims have on occasion made valuable contributions to the discussion (held in English.)

**Information may be obtained from**

Dr. Edward Alam at NDU, 09.218950...5, ext. 2405 ealam@ndu.edu.lb and edwardjosephalam@yahoo.com .

Associated websites of interest include the following:

- <http://www.communio-icr.com/circles.htm>
- [http://www.metanexus.net/globainetwork/societies\\_detail.asp?SocietyID=77](http://www.metanexus.net/globainetwork/societies_detail.asp?SocietyID=77)
- <http://www.metanexus.net/institute/>

## Community Service Office (CSO)

### CSO with *Offre Joie*



Through the Community Service Office (CSO), NDU students distributed all the supplies furnished by the campaign in the NDU Main Campus immediately before and after the short vacation, in collaboration with "Offre Joie" organization. Clothes and basic needs were offered to six thousand prisoners held in the various Lebanese prisons. The NDU's students went to the women's prison located in Barbar el-Khazen barracks in Verdun, which holds eighty female prisoners. Our students visited



ten cells and so had the opportunity to interact directly with women who had many problems to face in their lives, and to express their empathy for them. They demonstrated how their initiative came within the Open Hearts Project launched by NDU. Through the Open Hearts project, it is intended to enter to all the prisons in Lebanon and especially Roumieh prison, where the infirmary and clinic were restored by our students last year, and where other urgent needs will be pro-



vided for in the near future. Through the CSO the University will provide a sustainable framework for the activity of its students, who have proved time after time their readiness and compassion. An important feature of the action is open-mindedness towards organizations of civil society, specially NGOs, and a willingness to cooperate with them. The attached photos show the CSO team and the way they are ready to dirty their hands in a good cause.

## On-Campus Banking 2010 Forum Sponsorship Office/CSO

The Sponsorship Office in the Finance Department at Notre Dame University with the collaboration of the Student Activities Office - SAO organized the On-Campus Banking Forum 2010, which was held on the 14th and 15th of January, 2010 in the Exhibition Hall.

At this exciting event, organized for the first time at NDU, the banking sector in Lebanon, especially its institutions with which the University is cooperating closely, established relations with the NDU community as a whole (administrators, faculty members, staff members and students). In this way the NDU community became better acquainted with banking representatives and had the opportunity to ask them about any issue related to their field such as PC loans, student loans, car loans, accounts, etc. For their part, the banking representatives stressed the role of customer care and answered in detail the various questions put by NDU members. They also offered special packages during the exhibition such as a tombola draw (cash money), special competition, special souvenirs, etc.



❖ A review of Lebanese currency

He introduced the major objective of this Forum especially that it was being organized for the first time. He explained that the Forum was a two-way communication between the banking representatives and the NDU community and expressed the hope that it would be organized on a yearly basis. He also encouraged all the NDU community to really benefit from this forum and obtain all the information they needed about all subjects related to the banking sector. Ms. Karla Sfeir, Student Activities Coordinator, also welcomed the bank representatives and announced about the tombola and prizes provided by each bank throughout the two days.



❖ Karla Sfeir, Jocelyne Issa, Simon Abou Jaoude and ex-NDU students representing different banks



❖ Zeina Sfeir (student, an old currency winner) and Karla Sfeir

the theme of the event especially that old and new Lebanese currencies were posted on big posters in the Exhibition Hall to recall our Lebanese currencies. Hence the theme was based on the old Lebanese currencies and coins, so the person who showed up with an old Lebanese currency or old coin was to win L.L. 150,000 in cash.

All the NDU community participated in this competition and it was amazing to see how many people had the old currency already in their pockets as a sign of good luck! Winners were as follows: Leyla Dib, student, with L.L. 1; Adib Karam, student, L.L. 1; Manuela Angelina, staff, L.L. 1; Jocelyne Chidiac, staff, L.L. 5; Zeina Sfeir L.L. 10; Johnny Maroun, student, one coin; Charbel Tarabay, staff, five coins; Assaad Wheibe ten coins.

RIM Water Company participated as a sponsor during the two days of the event. Moreover, booklets had been prepared that presented the advertising posters of all the banks participating, and were distributed to all the NDU community and to the banking representatives as well.



❖ Jocelyne Issa announcing the competition



❖ Jocelyne Issa, Farouk Ghoneim NDU student winner of the competition, and Credit Bank representatives. The prize for scoring the highest number in the Play Station game was Play Station 3, value \$525

The following banks participated in the Forum: Al-Mawarid Bank, Bank Audi, Bank of Beirut, Banque Libano-Francaise, BLC Bank, Byblos Bank, Credit-Bank, CreditLibanais, Fransabank, IBL, SGBL, Standard Chartered Bank.

To open proceedings, Fr. Beshara Khoury welcomed all the banking representatives and managers taking part in the Forum and assured them of the University's wholehearted collaboration with the banking sector as a whole.

The banking officials also had an opportunity to introduce themselves to the audience and to inform them about their special offers and about the products they wished to market during the Forum.

In addition to the above, Ms. Jocelyne Issa, Sponsorship Coordinator, announced the beginning of the competition that was organized by the Sponsorship Office. This competition related to

## STAFF

### Fall Spiritual Retreat

On December 12, 2009, our priests Fr. Roger Chikri and Fr. Fadi Bou-Chebl invited us to attend the semester spiritual retreat, for which we spent an unforgettable day at the Monastery of St. Theresa, Sehayleh.

Our group consisted of about 80 persons, staff and a few faculty members, and we started the day at 9:00 am with a prayer entitled The Priest's Prayer on Sunday Evening. It was very touching because one could realize the feelings of any priest when he is left alone on a Sunday evening, spending his time by himself, appealing to God to keep him strong in his loneliness, to keep him humble and conscientious towards Jesus Christ.

Then hymns were sung, and Psalm 131 was read by the group. Later on, there was a reading from the Holy Bible, followed by a lecture about the greatness of priesthood and its difficulties. Fr. Bou-Chebl explained six points about the priest.



These were as follows:

1. The priesthood of a priest is an extension of that of Jesus Christ and derives from it.
2. The priest must not aim at pleasing everybody, for this will lead to endless difficulty and frustration.
3. The priest is responsible for his behavior.
4. The priest needs God's support; without it he will despair and despair is a sin against the Holy Spirit.
5. People's attitude towards God depends largely on the example given by the priest. When the priest deserves people's respect, they will attend the liturgical offices of the Church. Otherwise, they will be turned against the Church and religion.
6. The priest needs to have an upright conscience, to avoid sin and to practice the virtues in his life.

Coffee break followed. Around 11:00 am, testimonies were given by Fr. Walid Moussa, Fr. Roger Chikri, Fr. Bechara Khoury, and Fr. Samir Ghsoub, explaining their priestly life along with their administrative tasks and the difficulties they face in their daily life. Their experience was very fruitful for us and we were impressed with their frankness. Then we started our Holy Mass and Fr. Bou-Chebl gave us his testimony and about how he suffered during his sickness, and was cured by God's Will. After the Mass, we had a delicious lunch at the Monastery, and then headed to the newly- built Church, where we saw a splendid Nativity grotto showing the old Lebanese village and its activity.

**Fadia El-Hage**  
Dec. 20, 2009

## Barbara/Halloween at NLC

On December 4th, Halloween, or rather its Lebanese equivalent Barbara, was celebrated at NLC, with prizes for the most grotesque costumes.



## Commerce and Industry

Dr. Fawwaz Hamdi

The Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the North in Tripoli was the subject of a talk given by Dr. Fawwaz Hamdi on December 17th in the main conference hall at Barsa campus. A comprehensive explanation was given to the students covering Business and Economics.



❖ Fr. Samir Ghsoub and part of Dr. Hamdi's audience. ❖ Dr. Fawzi Hamdi

## NLC Christmas Mass



NLC Director Father Samir Ghsoub celebrated Christmas Mass on the Campus on December 23rd. In the congregation were administrators, staff, faculty and students, as well as members of their families. *La bûche de Noël* was the centerpiece of a small cocktail at which all present enjoyed carols sung under the leadership of Father Khalil Rahmeh.

## NORTH LEBANON CAMPUS

## NLC School visits

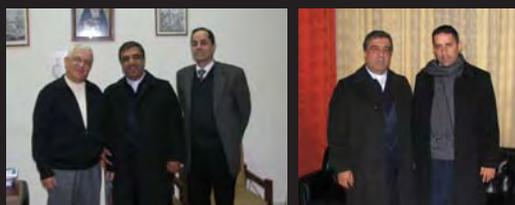


On Wednesday February 3rd, Father Samir Ghsoub together with Mr. Edgar Merheb-Harb visited schools in the Akkar area. **Photos by order:** National Orthodox School of Cheikhtaba (director of secondary classes Mr. Hanna Nicolas) Sister Suzanne Salameh (Ecole Saint Joseph des Soeurs Basiliques) Miniara.



Earlier on Tuesday, February 2nd, they had visited Secondary schools around Batroun, starting with M.P. Antoine Zahra, Batroun, then going to the Institut Père Michel Khalifeh to meet the director Joseph Abi Saab, and ending with Notre Dame de la Délivrance to meet Soeur Marie-Celeste Sarkis at Chekka. **(Photos by order)**

❖ Father Samir Ghsoub and Mr. Edgard Harb with Mr. Chafiq Haidar of the Orthodox, al-Mina



On Friday, February 6th, 2010, visits were paid to the schools in Tripoli of the Carmelite Fathers and of the Orthodox, al-Mina.

❖ Father Samir Ghsoub with Mr. Joseph Yarak of the Carmelite School





Continuing the tour of the Batroun area, on February 15th, 2010 Fr. Samir Ghsoub visited the Capuchin School. In the first photograph he may be seen with the Principal, Father Abdallah Noufailli. Together with Mr. Edgar Harb he then visited the Batroun Official Elementary School, where he may be seen with the Principal, Mr. Youssef Hanna. He then visited Sister Georges-Marie Azar, Principal of the Maronite Holy Family Sisters' St. Elie School. (Photos by order)

## SHOUF CAMPUS

### Bin Talal Institution



❖ Dr. Abdel Salam Mariny explains the inspiration of H.E. El Walid Bin Talal

On the 14th of December 2009, Dr. Abdel Salam Mariny, Director of the Educational and Social Affairs Office at the El Walid Bin Talal Humanitarian Institution, was a guest at NDU-SC where he talked about the humanitarian role played by the institution.

This institution was founded by His Excellency El Walid Bin Talal, a well known philanthropist, who believes in unconditional giving. His Lebanese citizenship, in addition to his Saudi nationality, has had great effect on his life due to the great heritage and patriotic beliefs his grandfather Riad El Soleh instilled in him. Moreover, he strongly believes in

the coexistence of the Lebanese communities. Knowing all this, one would not feel surprised at his ever readiness to land a helping hand to anyone, without favoritism or discrimination.

The institution has been active since 1980. Its contributions are equally distributed among the Lebanese regions and communities, targeting institutions rather than individuals. The assistance covers fields such as education, health, community development and society improvement.

The event was organized by the SAO and the PR Office at NDU-SC.

### Shouf Acquaintance Party

*It's the annual traditional acquaintance party!  
Get off your seats and on your feet!  
For where else can new students learn about NDU  
And their fellow students meet?  
Where else can faculty and staff let down their barriers,  
And dance all night to the beat?  
Where else can everyone enjoy a lovely meal,  
While they chat, giggle and each other greet?  
Where else can it be really cold outside, while inside  
We'd bask glowing in the warmth of friendship and the  
sizzling heat?  
It's the event that no one should miss,  
A night that is so special none other can beat!*

The acquaintance party at NDU-SC took place on Friday, November 20, 2009 in the student lounge. It was organized by Br. Abdo Sleiman, SAO Assistant Director, with the help of the Music Club. The turn up this year was very impressive mostly because many alumni took this opportunity to drop by and relive the good old days!

The program started with the welcoming speech of Fr. Boutros Bou Nassif, Director, who expressed his happiness at seeing all the smiling faces; he wished everyone a prosperous year. Then the Student Cabinet representative, Mr. Bassil Bou Nasreddine, addressed the crowd and extended a helping hand to any new student who needed it. After the words, the program proceeded as planned uninterrupted.

It is worth mentioning that the sky that night was beautiful and starry, typical of the Deir El Qamar gorgeous autumn nights!



## Social

### Obituaries

#### Abdo Youssef Mhanna

Abdo Youssef Mhanna, father of Joseph Mhanna, Acting Head of the Serials Department and of the Evening Services Department of the NDU Library, and father-in-law of Charla Chebl Mhanna, Head of the Cataloguing Department, passed away on the morning of Thursday, 4th February, 2010.

The funeral was held on Friday, 5th February, 2010, at Wardieh Church, Zouk Mosbeh, at 3.30 p.m. Head Librarian Leslie Hage says, "Our thoughts and prayers are with Joseph, Charla and the rest of the Mhanna family on this sad occasion."

### Births



On December 2, 2209, The Division of Computer Services announced with joy the birth on Friday, November 27 of **Marc Rechdan**, son of Nathalie Kallassy Rechdan, Application Analyst and Developer, Main Campus. It is worth mentioning that the sky that night was beautiful and starry, typical of the Deir El Qamar gorgeous autumn nights!

## The Murder of English

On National Geographic TV Channel, a woman prison officer talked to some violent young criminals about their need for “identifying your anger issues”. Could these young street gangsters possibly understand what she said? Could she understand what she said? Perhaps she meant “Know why you’re angry.” Presumably the officer had picked up this senseless jargon from some university course.

We may note here that the word *issue* is being overworked and abused. Correctly, it means number of a periodical, a distribution (an issue of rations), outcome or discussion (*as in the point at*

*issue*). **Words should be used with a clear and precise meaning.** This is where the study of classical languages such as Latin comes in useful.

**Common mistake:** The preposition *on* should not be used after the verb to *stress*, only after the noun. *E.g., He stressed the importance of doing...* But – *He laid stress on the importance of doing...*

**Beware!** In English *Roman Catholic* does NOT mean the same as the Arabic expression *Room Kathuleek*, which should be translated *as Greek (Melkite) Catholic*. Roman Catholic refers to any

community or individual in full formal and official communion with the Pope and See of Rome, whether of Western (Latin) or Eastern rite. British people use the expression *Roman Catholic* to distinguish themselves clearly from those “High Church” Anglicans (U.S. Episcopalians) who call themselves Anglo-Catholics. Official interpreters often make this mistake when translating documents.

K.J.M

## Night of the Ad Eaters

Advertising & Marketing students attend Night of the Ad Eaters

**“If anything is in existence today that only came into existence because of you – that’s a creative act.”**

- Pat James, Professor in Creativity, Jung Center Altamonte Springs, Florida

●● **Advertising and Marketing students** in the class of ADM 352 (Advertising Creativity and Copywriting) instructed by Ms. Sandra Younes were advised to watch and participate in the event taking place yearly in Lebanon, The Night of the Ad Eaters. This event aims at motivating students in developing a more creative and challenging spirit as is required in the real world of advertising.

Night of the Ad Eaters by Jean-Marie Boursicot was screened on November 11th at UNESCO Palace. This film is a compilation of creative commercials and advertisements from all over the world showing the best work from sixty different countries. The event gave Lebanese-based businesses an opportunity to present products ranging from food and beverages to newspapers. Two students from the class were chosen to profit from this great experience.

## Jerome Maalouf

On Saturday, November 7th, 2009, the opening took place at the UNESCO of the famous Lebanese event, *The Night of the Ad Eaters*. It was the first time that I had attended, so I was not a little excited. My friends and I prepared ourselves and met beforehand so as to go as a group, for we did not know our exact destination and wanted to leave home early in case we lost our way. In fact we did get lost, but not for long as we finally saw a poster which pointed out the direction of the event.

As we entered the hall I became aware of the vast number of people who were present. Furthermore, there were different

companies acting as sponsors and giving away samples of their products. Dunkin' Donuts for example were giving away free coffee with their donuts and Sky Vodka was giving out samples of its vodka.

At 8 p.m., after everybody had settled down, the show began. Up to this moment I had not really believed that I would ever see such a marathon of successful spot ads, something that I had never experienced before. Ads began to flow in from different countries for different products such as hair tonic, food-stuffs and clothes, while some treated questions such as global warming and child abuse.

Although most of the ads were creative and interesting, I recall two which had a real impact on me. One was about road safety in Lebanon and the other about global warming awareness. The first promoted Kunhadi's road safety campaign, showing a fast Mitsubishi car with slides giving information about the power of its engine and about its transmission, with finally the picture of an ass! It then said that irresponsible driving kills and showed the road mortality rate in Lebanon. I thought it effective because it showed us the real situation in Lebanon and the risks people really face on the roads due to reckless driving.

The second ad was about global warming and its effects on the environment, including its animals. The ad showed three animals, a monkey, a polar bear and a kangaroo, each in a different setting affected by global warming, the monkey in Africa sitting on a bleached and dying tree, the polar bear sitting on the ledge of an iceberg, and the kangaroo in Australia where the trees and general environment looked dead.. The monkey then committed suicide by hanging itself on the tree, the polar bear jumped off the cliff ledge to kill itself and the kangaroo jumped on the railway and waited for a train to run it over. At the end, the ad said that if we give up, they will give up; this means that if we give up trying to solve global warming, this will lead to the destruction

of the earth as we know it and even the animals will give up and tend to commit suicide. This had an impact on me because of the way that the ad was developed, its sad mood making me realize the effects of global warming on the earth if we do not deal with the problem.

I really enjoyed the experience; it was a most delightful one and I will definitely attend next year.

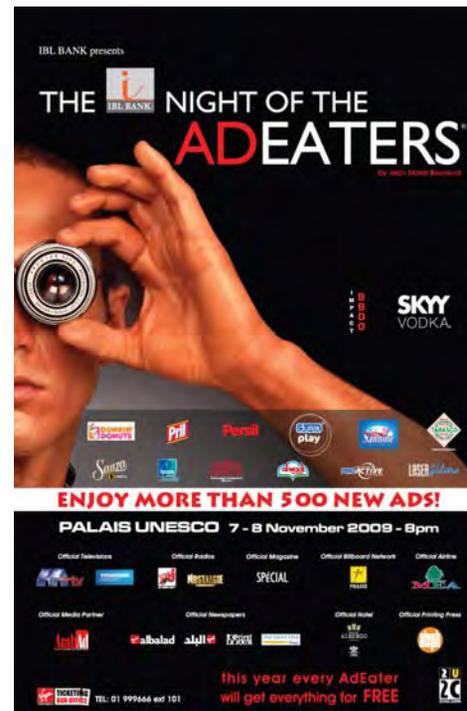
(Slightly edited. – K.J.M.)

## Amali Ayoubi

The night was in many ways a magical one, for it opened my eyes to the many different ways of communicating key messages about man's end, abuse of women, sexual abuse of children, freedom of speech and suchlike questions. It made everybody in the hall feel that their "voice" or signature could make a difference. For me personally, the event was an emotional roller-coaster, making me feel happy, sad, amused, sympathetic, angry and excited in turn.. I may surely say that it has changed the way I look at advertising and the presentation of everything from canned foods to human rights to the world as they affect my future career.

Kunto Sangmo showed highly effective use of non-verbal communication in a creative way. This ad deals with the question of the "humane" ending of life; a maid enters to clean the floor of a room and disturbs a dying woman who is speechless and motionless. The ad states that the last moment in life should be more beautiful and adds, "Donate now for a human end." With its display of a very sad situation, the ad really disturbed me and brought a new perspective to my way of thinking.

**Edited.- K.J.M. The above text about a film promoting mercy killing, euthanasia, shows how technical skill may be used with effect, but emotions should not cloud one's judgment.**



**The monotheistic religions unite in condemning the taking of human life except to defend one's own or that of others against an aggressor. Belief in a personal God leads to respect for the human person. One can easily imagine how a family tired of caring for an elderly member, or a public health service short of funds, might bring pressure to bear on an invalid to sign his or her own death warrant, particularly if the relatives are in debt and the patient rich!**

**Hard cases make bad laws. Abortion was originally proposed where there was a real threat to the mother's life. Now in certain American states there is "late term abortion"; this means doctors may kill a baby a few moments before its birth simply because the mother says she is not "emotionally prepared" to have the child. This is despite the fact that babies are proved to be aware of sounds long before the end of pregnancy as after birth their mother's voice is already familiar to them and reassuring. In Lebanon we have, thank God, doctors who generally respect the moral law but around the world not all scientists are immune to financial pressures. So beware of euthanasia!**

## A Press Release

# The English Translation of Ar-Rihaniyyaat



❖ Ameen Rihani in New York

The English Translation of Ameen Rihani's book **Ar-Rihaniyyaat** is published by Platform International, Washington, D.C., U.S.A. The translation is completed by Dr. Rula Zuheir Baalbaki, from the American

University of Beirut, English Department, and reviewed by Dr. Amal Saleeby Malek, from Notre Dame University-Louaize, Lebanon, Education, English and Translation Department. The book comes in 535 pages, with chamois paper and distinguished colored hard cover. This publication appeared in celebration of **Ar-Rihaniyyaat** Centennial, which includes several literary and intellectual events in Lebanon, Australia, Russia, and the United States of America.

In the introduction, the translator mentioned that "...[T]he difficulties of controlling the 'tempo of the style' of Rihani's writing were one feature of working on [this translation]. The range and cadences of the expressions used therein to flatter or criticize the looks or mannerisms of typical men and women in Arab society presented a problem in translating these expressions into English without 'craving' to generalize, summarize, and simplify..." In another part of the introduction Baalbaki says: "The timelessness of Rihani's ideas was [an incentive] for the translators to contend with developing a certain insight into what the final version of a certain text would look like."

One of the characteristics of this translation is the inclusion of specific footnotes relating **Ar-Rihaniyyaat** with other Arabic and English works of Rihani; it also include a thematic index categorizing the essays into their philosophic, literary, political, and social aspects. These factors enrich this publication, especially that they are included neither in the

Arabic editions of **Ar-Rihaniyyaat** nor in the other translations of this remarkable literary work.



❖ Luxury presentation of the book

The Centennial festivities of **Ar-Rihaniyyaat** during 2010 will include:

- 1- Publishing of the English translation of **Ar-Rihaniyyaat** under the title of **The Rihani Essays** by Platform International, Washington, D.C., February 2010.
- 2- Planting a Cedar tree in the Rihani Museum gardens, in Freike, Lebanon, February 20, 2010.
- 3- Inaugurating the exhibition on "**Ar-Rihaniyyaat in a Hundred Years**" on March 6, 2010, in the Rihani Museum Main Hall. The exhibition will remain open till September 30, 2010.
- 4- Literary-musical recital "World Genius of Romanticism" (Amin ar-Rihani - poet of prose), Maria Nikolaeva and Yelena Draginda, Pasternak Library, Moscow, March 26, 2010.
- 5- **Publishing of the book The Politics and Poetics of Ameen Rihani: The Humanist Ideology of an Arab-American Intellectual and Activist**, by Professor Nijmeh Hajjar. London: I. B. Tauris Publishers, April 2010.
- 6- Defending the Ph.D. dissertation presented by Mrs. Mariam Hashimi, under the supervision of Professor Wajih Fanous, by mid April, at the Islamic University, Beirut, Lebanon. The title of the Dissertation is: "The Great City in Rihani's work **Ar-Rihaniyyaat**".

7- A lecture by Professor Boris Chukov on Rihani and **Ar-Rihaniyyaat** at the Russian Education Academy in Moscow, May 21, 2010. This event will include selected readings from **Ar-Rihaniyyaat** in Arabic and Russian.

8- Publishing of Rihani's Arabic collection of essays that were printed in the migration newspapers of New York and other North and South American cities and were the prelude for **Ar-Rihaniyyaat**. The Book is entitled **Kashkoul-lul Khawater** (The Patchwork of Ideas); it is edited and introduced by Mr. Jean Dayeh, and will be issued in early October 2010.

9- An International Literary Conference about **Ar-Rihaniyyaat** that will be organized at St. Joseph University, Faculty of Letters and Humanities, in Beirut (USJ), October 22-23, 2010, with the participation of scholars from universities in Lebanon and overseas (the program of the conference will be announced in due time).

10- An International Symposium on Rihani and **Ar-Rihaniyyaat** that will take place at the University of Sydney, Australia, organized by the Faculty of Humanities. The Symposium opens on November 24th, Rihani's birthday, and closes on November 26, 2010. Scholars from Australia, Lebanon, U.K., Russia, and U.S.A. will participate in the symposium (the program of the symposium will be announced in due time).

11- A lecture/panel on Rihani and **Ar-Rihaniyyaat** at Maryland University in the United States of America, December 3, 2010. This activity is organized by the School of Social and Behavioral Sciences at the University.

12- "Rihani and **Ar-Rihaniyyaat**, Facts and Figures", a statistical power point on CD will be issued by the end of December 22, 2010, and will include the total Program of the Centennial events.

## Father Beshara Abou-Mrad

Another holy monk of Lebanon

Fadia el-Hage

Father Beshara Abou-Mrad's reputation for heroic sanctity rests on his life of total self-denial, strict monastic observance, prayer by day and all through the night, and his utter devotion to the faithful in his charge however remote and inaccessible their homes.



❖ Father Beshara Abou-Mrad



❖ Monastery of Our Lady, 45 minutes' walk from St. Savior's, where Father Beshara did his noviciate. Behind is the ravine of the river Awali.



❖ The Church of St. Savior's Monastery (17240, where Father Beshara is buried

**On May 1853**, Salim Jabbour Abou-Mrad was born in Zahleh, and was baptized on June 28 of the same year.

On September 5th, 1874, he went to St. Savior's Monastery, Joun (Shouf), and on November 4th, 1876, took monastic vows.

**On December 26th, 1883**, he was ordained by Bishop Bustros Hajjar, taking the name in religion of Beshara.

**1883-1890**, he was superior at the seminary at St. Savior's.

**1891-1922**, he was charged with the school at Deir Al-Qamar, and served the villages of the area for 31 years.

Between December 4th, 1922, and February 1st, 1927, he served as parish priest of Sidon.

**On February 2nd, 1927**, he went back to St. Savior's Monastery near Joun.

**On February 22nd, 1930**, at 6:30 a.m., he passed away and was buried in a special tomb in the great church of the monastery.

**On June 8th, 1983**, the Congregation of Saints in Rome authorized submission of the file of Father Beshara for the opening of his cause.

**On August 6th, 1984**, the cause of his beatification was opened in the Church of St. Savior.

**On November 26th, 1993**, his file was officially confirmed in the Sidon archdiocese.

**On December 2nd, 1993**, the file was sent to the Congregation for Saints' Causes, and on March 18, 1994, the previous procedure was admitted as correct..

**April 22, 1994**, Fr. Daniel Olse of the Order of Preachers (Dominicans) was assigned with Fr. Aftimos Skaff to prepare the cause of Fr. Beshara with particular reference to his sanctity, way of life and exercise of the theological and monastic virtues to a heroic degree.

**On May 6th, 1998**, the file was submitted to the Secretariat of the Congregation of Saints' Causes.

**During 2008-2009**, a film was produced by the Salvatorian Order about Fr. Beshara Abou-Mrad called Siraj Al-Wadi (The Light of the Valley) which was projected in public cinemas starting November 2009.

**On December 18th, 2009**, the cause of Father Beshara was accepted by the Vatican for him to be proclaimed Venerable. During his life and after his death, he performed several miracles.

**Further information may be obtained from St. Savior's Monastery, 07/975064 and 07/975065.**

## Lebanon

# Lebanon – A Country without a Nation?

Introduction to Political Science

Class of Dr. Dany Ghsoub,

Sonia Fahs

*A Nation is a body of people who share a real or imagined common history, culture, language or ethnic origin.*

From what I have read and from the thoughts I have shared with other students, Lebanon is of course a nation that fits the above description and definition. The point is whether Lebanon is a multi-national country or one nation. If the former, how many nations are there and according to what norm do they conform (or split)?

What is clear about Lebanon is that it is very politically and sectorily active, with many political nations. For there to be

a nation, there should be a government present, but its formation depends on how “distructed” that government is.

So there is a nation and there is a government – even though “distructed”, one does exist. And we certainly have at least two, if not more, political nations. If anything, so far as structure is concerned, Lebanon is not a country without a nation but a country of several political nations.

But when it comes to the basic elements such as food, language and cultural traditions, Lebanon is indeed one nation.

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## Lebanon: A History of Violence?

Class: History of Lebanon and M.E.,

Marina Chaghoury

Throughout its existence, Lebanon has suffered from a history packed with violence, civil wars, conflicts, invasions, revolutions, occupations and interference. But what are the reasons for all this violence? We can find a number of answers, such as the existence of different religious groups, lack of national agreement, wars of influence, ethnic groups with a feeling of being repressed, self-interest rather than public interest, political hierarchy, the possession of guns other than by the Army, multiplicity of political parties, and finally an Army too weak. With dialogue, tolerance and class interest, we might have avoided all this bloodshed.

But no matter what it was, we should always use our past to learn from our mistakes. To arrange things now, we should restore dialogue and diplomacy as ways to resolve conflicts, have educational reforms, disarm militias and adopt a new political system – some kind of liberal dictatorship? All we can hope for is that one day our grandchildren will open a history book and read that Lebanon finally came under the rule of Lebanon. Our liberty is our weapon and with it we can attain all our goals.

## From Hatred to Reconciliation

### The Work of UMAM in Lebanon

By Adriana Boudiwan, sophomore FPSPAD  
Francesca Hbayter, sophomore FPSPAD

After watching the movie **"The Imam & the Pastor"**, which illustrates the reconciliation process that took place between the two conflicting religious groups, Christians and Muslims in Nigeria, the idea of Lebanese reconciliation came to our mind. Although the 1975 Lebanese Civil War has ended, hatred is still present among the various conflicting parties and religions. This affects Lebanon negatively. The only way to move on is to undergo an effective reconciliation process. The question is how can Lebanon achieve such reconciliation after a bloody war?

In order to obtain a closer look on how reconciliation can be done, an interview was done with Dr. Sevag Kechichian, a member of the UMAM organization ([HYPERLINK "http://www.umam-dr.org/"](http://www.umam-dr.org/) <http://www.UMAM-dr.org/>). He is a staff researcher at this Lebanese NGO and teaches two courses at the FPSPAD on a regular basis. Assaad Chaftari, who spoke at *The Imam and the Pastor*, works closely with UMAM.

#### First, we asked what is UMAM, how did it start, and what does it focus on?

UMAM started as an organization with non-profit status in 2002-2003, and it became an official NGO in 2004-2005 after receiving its official recognition from the Ministry of the Interior. It is located in Haret Hreik, the southern part of Beirut. UMAM concentrates on the themes of collective memory and transitional justice by intentionally revisiting Lebanon's violent past since the strategy of "closing the files" has failed.

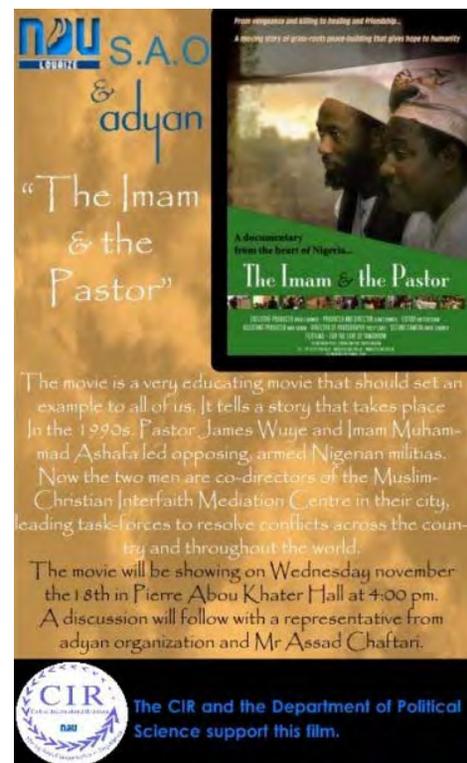
Today, Lebanon urgently needs to begin the tasks of truth-seeking and public truth-telling. UMAM works on cultural activities, such as exhibitions, workshops, and film screenings, which are followed by discussions. It is also an archival center that collects and makes accessible oral history, "grey literature" and rare manuscripts on the Lebanese

civil wars and on topics of relevance. It carries out fieldwork and does research into past events of violence and other similar contemporary events that have threatened the civil peace.

#### Second we asked, what does UMAM look for when researching and documenting?

UMAM researches civil war to accumulate and make accessible information not only about the past but also about the present. Transitional justice is one of the main themes that UMAM works on; it believes that there should be a process that deals with past violations including prosecution, for perpetrators providing reasons of accountability, not blame, since the culture of impunity in Lebanon leads to a divided society that reproduces the past. UMAM also believes there should be reparations for victims. Some of the other themes that UMAM works on are collective memory, identity, mass graves, the ones disappeared, and many similar issues that fall under the topic of transitional justice.

After the screening at NDU, Mr. Assaad Chaftari, one of the main participants in the 1975 war, who had previously publicly apologized for all his actions during the civil conflict, spoke about his experience. What Mr. Chaftari did is a step forward to achieve better, more honest reconciliation. His act of reconciliation is important to UMAM's work. We asked Dr. Kechichian about how UMAM is related to Mr. Chaftari. He said: "UMAM thinks that Mr. Assaad Chaftari has been a unique experience since he was the first to release a public apology, which was published in 2000 in *Al-Hayat*. He is active in civil society and is brave enough to sit with the families of his victims and ask for forgiveness. Mr. Chaftari is involved with UMAM in many projects, being an active member and participant in the workshops, follow-up committee, oral history projects and interviews.



He is also acts as a partner through the organizations he is involved with."

#### Finally, the last important question is, do the transition process and reconciliation help in stopping the young generation from going into another civil war?

Mr. Kechichian said: "UMAM provides people with in-depth and inclusive information about the past. Better knowledge doesn't necessarily imply the new generation will not use violence, but in the absence of it, violence will most probably reoccur."

At the end, remember, "Advancing is not by rectifying what has just already happened, but by moving on to what will occur next." (Saying of Gibran Khalil translated from Arabic)

For more information about UMAM, please contact Dr. Sevag Kechichian, [HYPERLINK "mailto:sevkech@gmail.com"](mailto:sevkech@gmail.com) [sevkech@gmail.com](mailto:sevkech@gmail.com) or visit [HYPERLINK "http://www.UMAM-dr.org"](http://www.UMAM-dr.org) [www.UMAM-dr.org](http://www.UMAM-dr.org) .



# The Initiative of Change

By Fadia Habib and Georges Ghaly, FPSPAD

An interview with Mr. Assaad Chaftari

Since the beginning of humanity, conflicts have risen between individuals and groups. Conflicts begin with the egoistic need to achieve personal aims. In the Old Testament, Cain killed his brother Abel out of jealousy. Many say that the focus of the story was really about the development of one form of civilization to another; about nomadic shepherding being overcome, so it could have been said as follows: "Now, children, today's lesson is about Cain killing Abel, a story which we can all relate to in our own time." This story is about how some people feel threatened or intimidated by the advance of civilization, and by being threatened, they intend to defend themselves through violence.

Organizations developed in order to prevent conflicts between civilizations and groups that resort to hostility as a personal defense or even to reach personal interest. One of the main international organizations in this field is The Initiative of Change (IoC), formerly known as Moral Re-Armament (MRA). It is an organization founded by American Christian leader Frank Buchman, who believed that conflicts, as well as individual problems, like alcoholism and drug addiction, can be solved individually through self-initiative to change.

The IoC (or MRA as it is still called in the Middle East) is a diverse global network, committed to building trust across the world's divides. It is composed by people of many cultures, nations, beliefs, and backgrounds who are committed to transforming society through changes within the individuals themselves, beginning in their own lives.

In Lebanon, between 1975 and 1990, a series of destructive civil wars divided the Lebanese society into two parties based on religion, Christians and Muslims.

Assaad Chaftari was a major officer in the Lebanese Forces, the main militia of the Christian group. Assaad Chaftari served as a senior intelligence official of the Christian militia, Chaftari was a close associate of [HYPERLINK "http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elie\\_Hobeika" \o "Elie Hobeika"](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elie_Hobeika) Elie Hobeika.

In February 2000, Chaftari went public and openly took responsibility for his actions

during the wars in Lebanon. He published an apology to all the Lebanese people, especially those whom he harmed, and visited some of their families.

An interview with Assaad Chaftari, was held after the screening of the movie *The Imam and the Pastor*. Chaftari claimed he was now realizing the danger of his former actions on this generation and society, after he noticed his son showing extremist characteristics. Chaftari knew that it was time for change. During the war, in his internal exile to Zahle, he joined Moral Re-Armament, through which he implemented his apology and forgiveness. Chaftari says that no one forced him to participate in the war; at the time everything seemed reasonable, right, and even necessary. Christians felt threatened by the Muslims and had to protect their rights as human beings and citizens. Due to external manipulation and the general atmosphere which was dominated by rancor and hatred, Christians found themselves acting violently in "self defense". At the time, it seemed the only possible way. Being a patriotic young man, Assaad Chaftari played a major part in the war and acted violently, but was not pressured to do so, as he points out. His aim was to protect. Today, he sees and admits the mistakes of his ways.

When asked about the way he implemented his apology and forgiveness, he answered that it is a very simple process that doesn't need any supernatural powers. The proverbial 1000 mile journey began with the first step, by personally visiting the "enemies" of the war and apologizing for the damage that he was a part of. He feels a large responsibility towards those people due to the fact that he played a very important role, directly and indirectly, as a leader in the killings and kidnappings of many victims, many of whom remain with an unknown destiny to this day as we speak.

Assaad Chaftari explained that the act of apology, though an individual act, is a very important step that contributes to the solution of the "Lebanese long-lasting problem". "Everyone should repent for their war crimes and atrocious actions. They should apologize to their victims and

to the Lebanese citizens. Also, they should on the other hand forgive those who offended them." When we asked about the reason behind the fact that no one has yet done a similar act he answered, "Unfortunately the situation in Lebanon is very chaotic. Everybody believes they were right and don't see a necessity for an apology. They believe what they did during the civil war was the right action, even a noble one."

Assaad Chaftari indicates that apology, forgiveness and this initiation of change, reformed the image of the Christians. After all, this action reflects the true Christian belief, principles, and life style. He adds that the inter-confessional dialogue is an important step to change, but it is not enough because the solution should be a human and moral change, not based on a cleric's or mufti's control. When he was asked about the difficulty he faced, he answered that the most difficult step was to convince himself that the initiative to change individually is a true noble act. The second difficult step is to convince his surroundings that it is an act of strength and not weakness.

He added, "every conflict, religious or ideological, even personal that we face can be solved in a calm reasonable way through dialogue and negotiations. After all, the key to general change is individual change."

Assaad Chaftari did what the bravest could not do. He apologized with a loud honest voice in front of the whole world. He admits his mistakes, and is working every day on compensation. It is one brave act of an individual to hold responsibility for a war that millions have engraved in Lebanese history. It is one step in the 1000 mile journey. Making a mistake is easy but admitting it and compensating for it is the hard part. Forgiveness and tolerance are necessary characteristics for every citizen to transform our society from a hostile environment to a peaceful one. After all, who can speak better about this than a man who was exposed to many attempts of assassinations by people close to him? In closing, Assaad Chaftari maintains: "Nothing is impossible and the solution is very simple: you have to be an honest loving person with non- egocentric, pure intentions."

<http://www.iofc.org/fuller-history>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Assaad\\_Chaftari](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Assaad_Chaftari)

## The Imam and the Pastor

Moral Re-Armament Visit NDU

Shereen Mahshi, FPSPAD

On Wednesday 18 November 2009, just two days before the NDU Student Union Elections, the Student Affairs Office (SAO) and Adyan ( [HYPERLINK "http://www.adyanvillage.net/"](http://www.adyanvillage.net/) <http://www.adyanvillage.net/>), with the support of the Club for International Relations (CIR), presented a movie by the name of The Imam and The Pastor. The movie tells a true story which took place in the 1990s in Kaduna, Nigeria, when there was a civil war between the Muslims led by Imam Muhammad Ashafa and the Christians led by Pastor James Wuye. The Pastor joined the Christian militia in the 80's and during the war he lost his hand. The Imam and the Pastor were invited to meet together to make truce and with time they became friends. Now the two men have become co-directors of the Muslim-Christian Interfaith Mediation Center in their city, leading task forces to resolve conflicts across the country and throughout the world. In their trips there is respect and trust between the Christians

and the Muslims. Praying times for both religions are respected and each group waits for the other. A peace declaration was signed on August 22, 2002.

After the viewing of the movie we met with Mr. Assad Chaftari, who fought with the Lebanese Forces during the civil war and was responsible for many killings and bombings. Not long ago he went on national Lebanese TV and apologized to all who fight in the war and he sought forgiveness. Mr. Chaftari shared his story with us, how he used to hold a gun and go to war and kill whoever was on the other side of the battlefield. He told us how he got involved in Moral Re-Armament (MRA), now called Initiatives of Change (IofC) during the civil wars in Lebanon. IofC is an organization that invites people to change their lives in order to become themselves a force of change in society.

When it was time for open questions and discussion, Dr. Mary Angela Willis, an

English Professor at NDU, spoke about her personal experience in the civil war, how her parents and she got caught in the wrong place at the wrong time back then and she was injured in her knee, which led to her leg not growing anymore. She related that her putting an identity to the people behind such events had helped her overcome this phase and come to peace with herself and situation. Later she was cured after several operations. This heart-touching experience was emotional and it showed us how the war could affect many innocent people. The movie itself encouraged the thought of a Christian-Muslim society living in peace and working together for a better world. This campaign led by "Initiatives of Change" should continue to raise awareness in hope that Nigeria, Lebanon, and other conflict-ridden countries around the globe can finally live in peace by the people in them first working on personal change themselves.

### Some very bad days...

There are some days, some very bad days,  
There are some days when birds refuse to chirp,  
Some days when the sun seems black,  
Some days when the air is thick,  
Days when it pains to smile...  
On days like that  
Your luck can change  
With laughing children  
Or giggling girls,  
Or, perhaps, the voice of a stranger...

Bad days are the worst of days,  
They come, they go, they leave their marks,  
But stay, don't leave yet, for you never know  
What it's like to get a break on days like that...

**Anonymous**  
Psychology Program

### How far to go?

A Good Friday thought

by Janet Bassil

At the end of the year we are probably more aware than ever of how quickly the minutes, days and years of our life flit past. The time remaining to us is shrinking continuously.

How long do we still have? None of us knows. Should that not be a spur for us to prepare for the solemn encounter with the Judge before whom we must give account for our lives? He himself urges us, "Prepare to meet your God."

How can we do so? It is through ensuring that we anticipate the Judgment by acknowledging before God that we are sinners and accepting his forgiveness. This is the salvation that Jesus Christ obtained for us by his Cross at Calvary.

## New Artist at NDU

12th February, 2010

Albert R. Semaan

●● Every now and then, we come across one of those exceptionally talented individuals aspiring to change the musical world. Every now and then, we are shocked to find out that our society is so rich in young talents which are hard to ignore or to repress despite the constant pressure that we all undergo. Here's my own experience with a unique person whom I have had the honor of befriending not so long ago.

I was recently invited by some of my friends to attend a concert at Notre-Dame University, entitled "Back to Oldies" (June 3, 2008). At first, I was skeptical especially that I, personally, cannot bear listening to amateurs murdering beautiful masterpieces and making their composers (dead or alive) turn in their graves. So I went there just for the sake of listening to those songs which we never seem to get bored with. As I stepped into the campus, I caught a glimpse of the poster which was original and really appealing; arresting colors, glossy black background with an abstract sort of picture showing random people dancing. It all reminded me of the 60s, 70s and 80s epoch which was rich in intense music, outstanding artists and high-end products. The music started and a tall young man in a suit appeared on stage. Each musician in the band seemed to be working in synchronization with his peers, thus creating a rich and appealing harmony of sounds. I was impressed but waited impatiently to hear the lead singer. And there it was, I couldn't believe my ears; old songs made new, a new voice so fluid and strong filled the stage vibrating the core of every attendee. Well, that's the least we can say about that young man and trust me, here is some information concerning the star of the show; Edwin Lattouf.

Obviously, his childhood was filled with music and singing for he had been part of the NDU choir since he was five years old, worked on his voice, extended his musical knowledge and implemented his not-so-limited comprehension of the mystery of music in order to gain the respect of his teachers. After the discovery of his talent, or better said "talents" (emphasizing the "s" of the plural form), he was musically educated by the elite teachers of the DCE's school of music (Division of Continuing Education) thus gaining a greater



knowledge and awareness of his potential as a musical individual. His acquaintance with great musical minds provided him with deep experiences and opened many prospects for the young artist to show off his talents; let's face it, "when you got it flaunt it" (Beyonce Knowles) and he has right to do so, since for almost an hour, he charmed his audience and swayed them into a state of near ecstasy solely using his tremendously strong vocal cords ranging almost three octaves and even able to reach higher notes covering the soprano register. Remembering what the list of songs was, I recall "My Way" for the great Frank Sinatra, "It's Now or Never" for the King of Rock and Roll Elvis Presley as well as other classic songs for Edith Piaf, Charles Aznavour, Fezzou, The Beatles, Dalida, and that's just one part of the great masterpiece that I have witnessed on the NDU campus. Note that this concert was his debut as a solo artist in the musical domain, so anyone who might have been there will surely be taken by Edwin's imposing presence on stage and his charisma, which show both generosity and commitment to the music business.

Edwin's musical achievements can only be paralleled by his academic ones and so we come to discuss his university life on the NDU campus as a graphics and animation student. Let's just say that he has graduated top of his 2009 class with honor and distinction in a fiercely competitive field. However, this story doesn't just stop here since the young artist integrated his graphic and animation skills to boost his musical career, making posters, flyers and suchlike to enhance his presence within his community, making his performances even more pleasurable with incredible high quality 3D animations. Therefore we can say that he belongs to the perfectionist type of artists who are totally dedicated to perfect themselves as they go along the tough road of performing arts; a single look at the poster, which he himself has designed, will tell you that he is an eclectic, free spirit seeking to perform on an ever expanding scale while keeping the same high standards just as others lower them down.

Edwin's activities are diverse and the rising star is always on the move, performing on



- Album cover by Edwin
- Edwin signing his Album

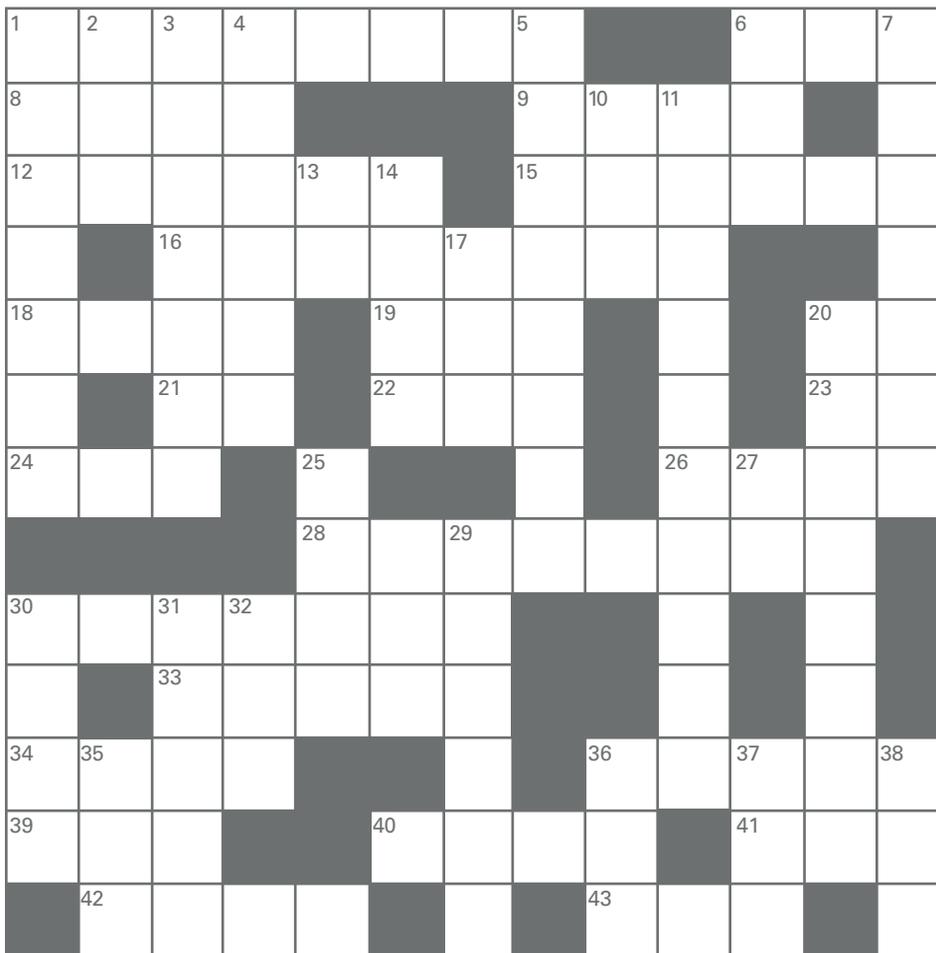


numerous occasions, taking part in contests such as karaoke competitions, achieving first place in the summer of 2007.

Throughout my days with Edwin, I have come to know him more and though most people would think my judgment subjective, I can assure you that I am being as objective as I can be since he is such an enjoyable person to be with, not only because he possesses intellect and humor, but because he's an active person both in his social and university life: ask any of his fellow students about his accomplishments on campus both as a student and later as President of the Scouts Club during the 2007-2008 scholastic years.

His latest news include the signature of his debut Christmas album entitled Gift For All, which took place on the NDU campus after a brief performance of some of the songs from the album. This great CD, which I have had the honor of acquiring, isn't the product of music amateurs, as a matter of fact; it joins together great names such as Joseph Khalife, Jihad Zeidan, Marc Bou Naoum and so on. So in a few words, you're getting a high quality and a high-end product from a very talented artist. Another important point to mention is that Edwin is his own producer and manager, so in many ways he's organizing his schedule, writing some songs, rendering 3D animations, designing covers and posters and working on a 3D video clip which, it is hoped, will be released very soon.

## Something for your Grey Matter



### Crossword

**Across:** 1. Scientific activity 6. Serpent with fangs 8. Even 9. Precious stone  
12. Well above ground 15. Beams from AUB 16. Dishonour 18. Muslim dignitary  
19. Light transport vehicle 20. Egyptian sun god 21. Californian town (initials)  
22. Before (poetic) 23. For example (initials) 24. State of matter 26. Comfort  
28. High-pitched male voice 30. Give new form 33. Loses colour 34. Integument  
36. Was sore, painful 39. Like a needle, but with a head instead of an eye  
40. Tax for use of a road or bridge 41. Poem 42. Small salamander 43. Sudden noise

**Down:** 1. Activity of a student 2. Night before 3. Stories continued weekly  
4. Unsolved mystery or problem 5. Sanctity 6. Beer 7. Corridor 10. Cooking utensil  
11. Lop-sided 13. Indefinite article 14. Deep affection 17. Spoil  
20. Decided; answered 25. Butchered intestines 27. Preposition 29. Wound  
30. Rough-surfaced tool for smoothing 31. Backbone 32. Ancient Chinese dynasty  
35. Relatives 36. Mountain pasture 37. Short jump 38. Animal's retreat

### Answers to crossword in issue 47

**Across:** 1. Crack 5. A.D. 6. Earliest  
10. Manner 13. Ant 14. Potentate  
16. Rig 17. Ur 18. Septic 19. Start  
22. Ear 23. Agar 25. Raptures 28. No 29.  
Hop 31. Lag 32. NGO 33. Pin  
34. Uganda 36. Taper 40. Lore  
41. Potential 42. Ask

**Down:** 1. Campuses 2. Aunt 3. Keen 4. Set  
5. Attic 7. Art 8. Late 9. Inept 11. Aorta  
12. Near 15. Asp 16. Ring 20. Arrogant 21.  
Tap 23. Ash 24. Aspires 26. Tuna 27. Riot  
28. Nag 30. Opera 31. Lump 35. Den 37.  
All 38. Po 39. Pi

### Vocabulary

Give the name for a group or large number of the following:  
Fish 2. Flying insects 3. Starlings 4. Geese  
5. Lions 6. wolves 7. Wales 8. cattle 9. Eggs  
10. Cups and saucers