

# ndu spirit

Issue 49

June 2010

*Given honesty, competence, and courage, promises pertaining to construction and development loudly voiced during the 2010 Municipality Elections can finally become a reality.*

*Patience, nurturing aspirations, and meeting challenges arouse our spirits to move forward and ignite the flame in the gardens of freedom and integrity. Undeniably, public service is twofold and, broadly speaking, comes under ministries and municipalities. The latter is responsible for providing all the needs of the public to ensure contentment. In fact, we are in dire need of revamping administration for genuine reforms, especially of making those changes that affect every choice, representation,*

*competence, and performance.*

*Perhaps we could then emerge from the dark caves of inheritance and tradition, and step out into the bright rolling expanses of hard work harnessing open minds, brave hearts, and strong hands capable of transforming barren lands into lush gardens.*

*Certainly, a solid democratic mechanism is necessary for a solid democratic condition, which ensures the appointment of competent individuals to the right administrative posts. Yet the reality resides in the fact that societies are but a reflection of their leaderships.*

*How can we liberate and develop our municipalities? This is the key issue in the process of restructuring the State's*

*constituents and bringing these up-to-date to comply with today's environment. It is the debt of a society with a conscience – but where and when will this process take place?*

*Editorial Staff*

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## The President's Message



### Celebrating success

At the end of every academic year we are witness to our students' excitement as they reach their goals and achieve their objectives. They have in reality succeeded in taking one more step on the long path of life. It means success, and success has to be always celebrated. Graduation remains the unforgettable celebration of one major step in one's life.

To our students I proudly say that although achievements in life may appear to be the fruit of individual effort, yet they cannot but be the result of joint multiple efforts. Thus, the joy of celebration is always shared by all those who struggled with you to reach this point in your life. Your parents, your professors, your friends, and maybe others, all of them are proud of you. Your University is proud of you and honored to celebrate with you. Be proud of yourself, but humble at the same time. Humility will lead you to further achievements. Be always faithful to your Alma Mater. There may have been difficult moments, but the value of the whole experience remains overwhelming. Along this line, Booker T. Washington wrote, "Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life... as by the obstacles which he has overcome while trying to succeed."

NDU has taught you how to become educated; it is up to you now to continue on this road. NDU has initiated you in the life-learning process; it is up to you now to keep progressing throughout the years. NDU has introduced you to the world of success and has given you the necessary tools to live in it; it is up to you now to remain successful. NDU has worked with you with dedication to make you always look for "the meaning".

Things have lost their meanings, humans have lost their meanings!  
My beloved students, seek the meaning!  
The meaning of things is the reason why they are out there, the reason of their existence. The meaning of actions, the meaning of gestures, the meaning of being, of existence, of beauty, of achieving, of giving... Simply seek the meaning in your life, know the meaning of your life, give a meaning to your life, and always remember, at the heart of these endeavors there is God and man.

Be yourself to contribute, don't be someone else. Find your uniqueness. Discover its value. Learn how to share it with others. Once again, find yourself locally giving yourself global dimension. Be "global".

My much-loved students, remember that "some people dream of success while others wake up and work hard at it."

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

## Visit to Turkey



On June 4, 2010, NDU President Father Walid Moussa was invited to speak at the International Congress on “The Search for the Future of Higher Education” hosted by Suleyman Demirel University, Isparta, Turkey. His speech, entitled “Mapping the Higher Education Landscape in the Middle East”, focused on reviewing the characteristic features of Higher Education in the Middle East and then providing suggestions for bringing the ‘chaotic, often untidy’ situation into order. He concluded that there is a need to ensure common understanding and compatibility among Higher Education institutions through classification and clear terminology in the Middle East, it being borne in mind that classification does not mean ranking.

Later that evening, Fr. Moussa participated at the Commencement Ceremony of Suleyman Demirel University, where he proceeded along with its President.

During the week of the visit, the NDU Campuses were the scene of a rich exchange of experiences related to the accreditation process and to academic development for students and faculty members, with the development of clear ideas and hopes for future plans related to the growth of the University in collaboration with NEASC in the United States.

## NEASC Visiting Team to NDU



The Accreditation Team’s visit took place at NDU from Monday, June 14 till Sunday, June 20, 2010. The Team was chaired by Dr. Patricia M. O’Brien, Deputy Director of the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC), Boston, Mass., accompanied by two members, Dr. David F. Finney, President of Champlain College in Vermont, and Prof. Orin Grossman, Academic Vice President at Fairfield College, Pennsylvania.

The meetings represented an opportunity to discuss, among other concerns, the faculty assessment procedures, student assessment, academic development, the significance of the American system of higher education, and how accreditation benefits faculty and curriculum development together with the on-going assessment process.

This should be built on measurable tools in order to elucidate the growth of the university as a center for the dissemination of knowledge at the physical, educational, moral, and intellectual levels.

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**European- Arab Universities' Meeting:**  
ADF's initiative to Launch an International Cooperation Network on  
Democracy Education in the MENA region  
**Notre Dame Universit, Lebanon, 29-30 April 2010**

## Universities from Europe and the Arab World Take First Steps towards more Democracy



Hosted by NDU and Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Ameen Rihani, universities from throughout the MENA region met on 29 and 30 April, 2010 to discuss coordinating their efforts in the study and propagation of democracy and rule of law. This event was organized by the Arab Democracy Foundation (ADF) and the European Inter-University Center in Human Rights and Democratization (EIUC). The universities from the Arab world included countries as far-flung as Qatar, UAE, Jordan, Palestine, Egypt, Lebanon, and Morocco. Europe was represented by Turkey, Italy, France, and Slovakia.

consortium of human rights departments and research centers. In order to do this a model must be found for jointly recognizing the predominate American credit system and the newly established European Credit Transfer System (ECTS), also known as the "Bologna" credit system.

The participants agreed to take practical steps in the coming months to prepare for next year's second European- Arab Universities' Meeting, at which the consortium should be launched. Such hand-on measures include developing democracy and human rights curriculum

for the MENA region, publishing teaching tools that either replace or augment the existing textbooks in the field, and creating a website and database for all universities in the region which offer courses and do research in the fields of democratic development and human rights.

**Eugene Sensenig-Dabbous FPSPAD**

With the backing of the International Institute of Humanitarian Law (IIHL) the conference set two main goals. First, the now highly successful EIUC will be taken as a template and role model for networking research and coordinating training between universities in the southern and eastern Mediterranean and Arab Gulf region in the fields of democracy and human rights. Secondly, the participants agreed to integrate their teaching approaches in order to ultimately facilitate student exchange between the member universities of a future



## Preparing for Accreditation



❖ Dr. Kamal Abouchedid, Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs.



❖ The audience of NDU administrators and students.



❖ Dr. Ameen Rihani, Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Guided by the visionary and purposeful leadership of President Fr. Walid Moussa, NDU has engaged unyieldingly over the years in the challenging, yet vivacious, preparation process of applying for institutional accreditation.

Indeed, the President's decision to engage the NDU's community in preparation for accreditation as enunciated in his inauguration speech of the academic year 2006-07, has culminated in a number of important reforms to accommodate for the emerging academic needs of the University and address quality standards set by the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education (CIHE) of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC).

Affiliating with NEASC will represent a historic achievement for NDU. In fact, NEASC is the oldest accrediting association in the USA, serving more than 2,000 public and independent schools, colleges and universities. Further, it is recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education as a reliable authority on the quality of education for the institutions it accredits.

Moreover, the Commission is also recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), affirming that its standards and processes are consistent with the quality, improvement,

and accountability expectations that CHEA has established.

Following NDU's official submission of the Eligibility Report to NEASC on January 19, 2010, the CIHE-NEASC assessment visit to NDU will take place on June 14-19, 2010 as part of the process outlined in the Commission's program of Candidacy for Accreditation for Free-Standing Institutions Abroad.

This visit will provide numerous exciting opportunities for exploring the University's academic performance-quality nexus in greater depth and bring inspiration, vision, and a renewed commitment to excellence in teaching and learning at NDU.

In preparation for the forthcoming assessment visit, the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs has launched seventeen presentations totaling 26 hours extending over a period of one month-and-a-half addressed to MMO monks at NDU, faculty members, and students.

The presentations addressed to the monks focused on the meaning, background and demonstrable benefits of institutional accreditation. In addition, the presentations addressed to all faculty members flagged up the 24 Eligibility

Requirements and how NDU addressed each requirement. As for students, they were made aware of the meaning of accreditation, the nature of the team-visit and their role in it. These topics included the academic significance of accreditation, the mission of the University, and the importance of integrity as an essential component for the accreditation standards.

The presentations offered a podium for discussion regarding NDU's current status pertaining to meeting the requirements of candidacy, a status of affiliation which indicates that an institution has met the Commission's Criteria for Candidacy and is progressing toward accreditation.

Also, the presentations provided opportunities to reflect on the self-study that takes place after an institution has been granted the status of candidacy.

**Dr. Kamal Abouchedid**  
Assistant Vice President  
for Academic Affairs

## Visit to University of Bahrain (UOB)



During their one day visit to the University of Bahrain (UOB), on April 11, 2010. Fr. Walid Moussa, President, Dr. Assaad Eid, Vice President for Sponsored Research and Development, and Mr. Suheil Matar, Director General of Public Relations, have met with UOB President and his senior staff. The purpose of the visit was to support the development of ongoing links between NDU and UOB. During the meeting, a number of initiatives were discussed. They were built around the possibilities of exchanges of

students and faculty members, as well as academic and research cooperation. NDU's delegation did present a framework for cooperation in the form of suggestions (Please see attached) which could be carried forward through visits in both directions, workshops, seminars and lecture programs. Collaborative research, joint publications, training and/or professional development activities for both faculty and students were explored and approved by both parties.

## Among ten AUB Authors Professor Ameen Albert Rihani Honored at the American University of Beirut



1. Prof. Rihani addressing the audience at AUB, West Hall.

2. From left to right: Prof. Peter Dorman President of A.U.B., Ambassador Khalil Makkawi President of the World Alumni Association, and Prof. Ameen Albert Rihani receiving his award.

Beirut World Book Capital for 2009-2010, AUB and the World Alumni Association of AUB organized the Alumni Literary Festival 2010 on March 25-26. The program included a ceremony honoring the ten following AUB alumni authors: Sadiq Jalal Al-Azm, Ameen Albert Rihani, Ghada Al-Samman, Samir Khalaf, Elias Khoury, Sami Makarem, Marwan Muasher, Emily Nasrallah, Kamal Suleiman Salibi and Ghassan Tueni. The plaque offered to Prof. Rihani stated the following:

**To Prof. Ameen Albert Rihani**

**In recognition of your outstanding contributions to the literary world from the AUB World Alumni Association**

In his address Prof. Rihani drew the attention of the audience to the fact that he was the student of distinguished scholars and thinkers at AUB such as Professors Charles Malik, Walid Al-Khalidi, Fayez Sayegh, Richard Scott, Huntington Bliss, Antoun Ghattas Karam, and Anis Freiha. One of the major lessons he learned while a student at AUB was that truth is relative and seeking truth is seeking the meaning of relativity. This is after all what makes us tolerant, and ready to accept other ideas, and other people and cultures.

The book exhibition in West Hall included special stands for the ten AUB authors who were honored, highlighting their literary work in different editions and languages. The festival booklet included biographies introducing each of the ten distinguished scholars.

## LERC Activities

### TV's MBC 1 documents LERC

**Monday 1st March 2010, LERC, NDU**

Reported by Elie Nabhan



1. Mrs. L. Haddad with Mrs. M. Sarkis at the LEAD offices

2. Filming at the Museum: Ms. B. Abdel Khalek (middle left) with the MBC 1 team

The pan-Arab news and entertainment satellite TV station, MBC 1, based in Dubai's Media City, with an estimated audience of around 130 million Arabic speakers, visited the Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) at Notre Dame University – Louaize (NDU) to film an episode for its morning program, *Sabah el kheir, Ya Arab*. The show's reporter, Mrs. Mirna Sarkis, interviewed Ms. Basma Abdel Khalek, LERC's Project Manager, who introduced the Center and answered her questions. Ms. Abdel Khalek explained to Mrs. Sarkis about the operations within LERC and gave a presentation of LERC's current projects.

The camera was then turned onto Mrs. Liliane Haddad, Chief Indexer and Archivist at LERC, who explained the operations of the Lebanese Emigration Archives and Database and the variety of academic, historical and cultural material collected by the Center.

### Luis Fayad from Colombia

**Tuesday 3rd March 2010, NDU**

In the framework of the Beirut World Book Capital, "*Foire de Littérature Ibéro-Américaine*" running at St. Joseph's University in Beirut from the 4th to 6th of March, under the auspices of H.E. Rida Mariette Kuri Salame, the Ambassador of Colombia, and Fr. Walid Moussa, President of Notre Dame University, in cooperation with the Lebanese Emigration Research Center, Mr. Luis Fayad, a Colombian writer, with Lebanese origins, was invited to deliver a lecture at NDU.

Those present at the lecture, *Writers of Lebanese Origins: Their Role and Functions in Latin America*, included H.E. Rida Mariette Kuri Salame, the Ambassador of Colombia; Ambassador Fouad Turk; Fr. Walid Moussa, President of NDU; author Luis Fayad and his wife; Mr. Suheil Matar, Director General Public Relations and Information at NDU; Dr. George Abdelnour, NDU's resident Fulbright Fellow, who acted as translator; LERC Latin American Liaison Officer Mr. Roberto Khatlab; Colombian Embassy staff, students from NDU, Friends of LERC and LERC staff.





1. H.E. the Ambassador of Colombia, Mrs. Kuri Salame at the podium.

2. A view of the audience at the auditorium

H. E. Mrs. Salame then explained migration as the theme of “Foire de Littérature Ibéro-Américaine” in coordination with Latin American governments and Spain, starting at NDU. The accord to be signed with NDU will pave the way for a flow of Colombian students to study in Lebanon and even to graduate from here.

The Dean of the Faculty of Humanities at NDU, Dr. Carol Kfoury, confirmed Mr. Fayad as a writer of the highest order, a scholar in literature and art history, a journalist and translator, who has graced many universities, including Berlin. To end the event, an exchange of awards then took place, with Father Moussa presenting an award to the writer, Mr. Fayad, and Mr. Souheil Matar presenting an award to H.E. Mrs. Kuri Salame, the Ambassador of Colombia.

## Migration and Literature: Round Table at the Ibero-American Book Fair at SJU

Reported by Basma Abdel Khalek



Mr. Milton Hatoum, Brazilian writer of Lebanese origin with Dr. George Abdelnour posing before the panel.

The Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) at Notre Dame University-Louaize participated in the activities of the Ibero-American Book Fair at Saint Joseph’s University in Beirut from the 4th to 6th March, 2010.

The Latin American embassies in Lebanon as well as the embassy of Spain exhibited the literary work of their respective writers.

At a round table organized to discuss migration and literature, those present included the Ambassadors of Mexico, Venezuela, Uruguay, and Cuba, and their staff. LERC was represented by Liaison Officer for Latin America Mr. Roberto Khatlab and Project Manager Ms. Basma Abdel Khalek, who attended the session and met with the writers of Lebanese origin, Mr. Luis Fayad (Colombia) and Mr. Milton Hatoum (Brazil).

## Social Media and NGO Training Workshop

March 5th-7th, 2010, Division of Continuing Education, NDU

Reported by Elias Sfeir



Mr. Amin Nehme (left) with Dr. Marlyn Tadros (middle) awarding Mr. Elias Sfeir

The Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) at Notre Dame University-Louaize, represented by IT Support Mr. Elias Sfeir, participated in the workshop entitled Social Media & NGOs, organized by the Lebanese Development Network (LDN) and Virtual Activism – USA.

The workshop was attended by many nongovernmental organizations, such as LADE, Blue Mission Organization, ALEF, Lebanon Development Union, Safadi Foundation, Lebanese Civic Media Initiative, Naji Cherfan Foundation, Arab Thought Foundation, INJAZ LEBANON, SESOBEL, Amel Association, Lebanese Scout Association, AMIDEAST/ Lebanon, Rafic Hariri Foundation, Community Association for Student Support, AFDC, Aie-serve, Roteract, Center for Development, and Democracy & Governance.

Dr. Tadros showed the participants some tools used in strategizing any project, such as Mindomo and Ether Pad. She continued by showing the group how to create blogs, which means creating an online presence for the NGO's.

Dr. Tadros emphasized the subject of Privacy and Security online, and demonstrated how an organization should keep its privacy.

Dr. Tadros closed the session with Mr. Amin Nehme by distributing certificates to participants.

## Non-Palestinian Refugees

Reported by Melkar el Khoury, LERC

Mr. Melkar el Khoury, LERC Research Affiliate and Consultant, represented the Center at a session held at the Lebanese Parliament on Thursday 11th March 2010 to discuss the rights of Non-Palestinian refugees in Lebanon.

The session was hosted by the Working Group of the Lebanese Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights and was attended by MPs Michel Moussa (Chairperson), Ghassan Mokhaiber (Vice-Chair) and Samy Gemayel, Nawaf Moussaoui and Hikmat Dib (members). Representatives of the UNHCR Office in Beirut, the Lebanese General Security, civil society and human rights NGOs including Human Rights Watch and the Foundation for Human and Humanitarian Rights/Lebanon were also present.

Discussions focused on the non-existence of a specific body of rules and regulations within Lebanese legislations to deal with the case of refugees and the need to adopt such a law.

At present, the status of refugees in Lebanon is being governed by the 1962 Law Regulating the Entry and Stay of Foreigners in Lebanon and their Exit from the Country.

## German professors and students from Erlangen visit LERC

Wednesday 31st March 2010, LERC, NDU  
Reported by Elie Nabhan



❖ View of the German university group in assembly at the auditorium

A team of German professors and students from the Institute of Geography at the University of Erlangen, close to Nuremberg in Southern Germany, led by Prof. Dr. Georg Glasze, Chair of Cultural Geography at the Institute, and Mr. Florian Benning arrived at the Lebanese Emigration Research Center to learn more about Lebanese emigration and to visit the Lebanon and Migration Museum at NDU.



❖ Mr. E. Nabhan (left) explains a LERC collection as Prof. Dr. Georg Glasze (middle) and others look on

This follows the earlier visit to the Center in February of 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), and guided by Mr. Andreas Wischnat, a Research Affiliate at LERC.

## LERC at the CMRS Research Conference

Reported by Basma Abdel Khalek,  
LERC Project Manager



❖ Dr. Jureidini and Ms. Abdel Khalek pictured at the conference

The Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) of NDU participated in the Center of Migration and Refugee Studies (CMRS) Research Conference on Migration and Refugee in the Middle East Region at the American University in Cairo, Egypt, on May 8th and 9th 2010.

Ms. Basma Abdel Khalek, Project Manager and Research Assistant at LERC, presented a paper entitled The Global Financial Crisis: Impact on the Lebanese Expatriates in the Gulf, authored by Ms. Guita Hourani, Director of LERC. Ms. Suzanne Menhem, PhD candidate at Université de Poitiers, who had assisted Ms. Hourani along with Ms. Abdel Khalek in this study, was also present at the conference.

The Research Conference was attended by various researchers and scholars from Egypt, Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, Turkey, Sudan, and Ethiopia. The Conference was opened by Dr. Ray Jureidini, Director of the CMRS, and Dr. Nabil Fahmy, Dean of the School of Global Affairs and Public Policy at AUC.

**Kindly note that all LERC reports have been shortened for publication in NDU Spirit. The full text may be found at :**

[www.ndu.edu.lb/lerc](http://www.ndu.edu.lb/lerc)

## FAAD

## Jazz Workshop

FAAD, Department of Music



April 14 – May 7. The students of the Department of Music enjoyed a three-week workshop with the Jazz Master Christopher Michael. The workshop was for promotion of the Jazz Music Program. The students enjoyed learning the theory and interpretation of Jazz with its rhythms and scales as well as learning about the history and styles of certain composers. They practiced on percussion and gained a broad idea of how to analyze this music.

## Jazz Concert



May 12, 2010, the Department of Music at the Faculty of Architecture, Art & Design organized a Jazz Concert featuring Christopher Michael Jazz Quartet: Daniele Camarda (Sicily) bass, Raed El-Khazen (Lebanon) guitar, Jeremy Chapman (UK) saxophone and Christopher Michael (USA) drums. For over an hour, the small crowd enjoyed the music that the four musicians made look so easy.

Christopher Michael leading the group with his beautiful and tricky syncopation complemented the music with his relaxed smile. The bass player added to traditional bass scores some of his skills, unusual rhythms enhancing the groove of the music. The guitar player and the saxophone player answered with some well synchronized melodies. The band played surprisingly mellow blues music, with a couple of songs leaving a pleasant impact of elaborated improvised music. The acoustic transmitted all the subtleties of the music with clarity. Jazz music deserves appreciation and Lebanese society is quite trained to this music.

Christian Sakr

## From Books to Manuscripts

80 Years of Bibliotheca Islamica in the FAAD



NDU hosted, as the first university in Lebanon, the exhibit highlighting the German Orient Institute's 100-year-and-more tradition of printing as books Arabic handwritten manuscripts.

Bibliotheca Islamica covers pre-modern works in the fields of Islamic theology and Arabic language and literature, many Christian texts, and historical studies.

One can find the *Diwan* by the Abbasid poet Abu Nuwas (vol. 20), as well as the chronicle by the Egyptian historian Ibn Iyas (vol. 5), and also treatises by the mystic at-Tirmidhi (vol. 35). The major aim of this series is to realize a high standard for editions of classical Arabic texts using all available manuscripts and providing the reader with a critical apparatus.

Our illustration shows Dr. Ameen Rihani and Dean Habib Melki with Björn Zimprich representing the German Orient Institute of Beirut.

Note that exhibits included Christian as well as Islamic publications. Culture unites.



## Pikasso World's Best Poster 2009



**1. From left to right:** Carmen Abou Chacra, Jerome Maalouf, Mr. Alain Weill and Ms. Sandra Younes.

**2. From left to right:** Natasha Namroud, Ms. Sandra Younes, Jerome Maalouf and advertising personalities.

Les Affichages Pikasso, sal., leader in outdoor advertising in Lebanon since 1986, has conceived a continuous system of product development and distribution. With more than 4,200 advertising faces located in 202 cities and towns, Pikasso covers the whole Lebanese territory. In addition, Pikasso operates in Jordan, Iraq and Algeria. The Pikasso d'Or has been rewarding the best poster advertisement during the past few years in Lebanon, according to international standards. Thus, on February 17th, 2010, Mr. Alain Weill, President of the jury of the Pikasso d'Or and internationally renowned expert in

contemporary graphic arts and advertising, gave a presentation of the latest and best poster advertising in the world for the year 2009, at which all advertising agencies and professionals were represented. Mr. Alain Weill first introduced the worldwide economic crisis and stressed that although fear in the advertising sector was rising, the situation was not quite as was feared; rather, the advertising sector was still doing well. Three outstanding NDU students from the Advertising Creativity & Copywriting course, Carmen Abou Chacra, Natasha Namroud, and Jerome Maalouf, took

part in this event, so obtaining a wider view of advertising creativity and copywriting as well as of effective advertising worldwide. They had the opportunity of meeting Mr. Alain Weill as well as other advertising professionals; moreover, they were the only students present during this exclusive presentation for professionals.

In short, after viewing more than fifty of the world's best creative poster advertisements for the year 2009, the students were really enthusiastic about this opportunity.

## HORECA Triumph



It was with great pleasure that NDU Spirit received the following communication from the Department of Hospitality and Tourism Management. It wishes to congratulate the Department and the student winners. Our illustrations show the winning tables and Nour and Tamar in the middle of the contestants. –KJM.



**From:** Ghassan Beyrouthy  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 28, 2010 10:03 AM  
**To:** All Members; All Students  
**Subject:** **GOLD MEDAL at HORECA**

Good Day To You All,  
 It is indeed a good day.

It gives me great pleasure, pride and honor to inform all faculty, staff and students that the students' and DHTM's hard work has paid off.

Two of our HTM students (NOUR MAZRAANI & TAMAR GUDECHIAN) were awarded the GOLD MEDAL in "the junior table setting competition" at the HORECA exhibition at BIEL.



Please join me in congratulating them and encouraging our remaining contestants.  
 GOD BLESS!

**Ghassan Beyrouthy (Ph.D. abd)**

Chairperson  
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On May 3rd Dr. Beyrouthy sent the following complete results:

It is with great pride and sense of achievement that the Department of Hospitality and Tourism Management (DHTM) announces that six students, out of nine competing, received awards at the HORECA Exhibition competitions.

<b>Junior Table Setting Competition:</b>	Nour Nazraani	Gold Medal
	Tamar Gudechian	Gold Medal

<b>Junior Cold Sandwich Competition:</b>	Christel Makhoulouf	Silver Medal
	Ibrahim Jomaa	Bronze Medal

<b>Junior Live Chef Cooking Competition:</b>	Louis Zakhia	Bronze Medal
	Antoun Aoun	Bronze Medal

The DHTM would like to point out that even with its limited means and limited practical training courses, its students were able to achieve honorable results, and so promoted the name of NDU in the Professional Hotel, Restaurant and Catering industries.

Congratulations to Dr. Beyrouthy, instructors and students from NDU Spirit.

On May 26th Dr. Ghassan Beyrouthy further announced that student Tarek Khalil had gained the overall Silver Medal at the annual competition of the Académie libanaise de la gastronomie, with first prize in Innovation and US\$400 in cash, distributed at a ceremony held at Al Bustan Hotel on May 20th.



## Dr. Hasham and Prentice-Hall

Dr. Elham S. Hasham, Associate Professor, Department of Management & Marketing, Faculty of Business Administration and Economics has been contacted the publishers Pearson Prentice-Hall. They have initiated a pioneer project to publish Arab World Editions of all text books and they have started with business subjects. As an expert and reference in the field, Dr. Hasham has been approached to become a member of this project.

After a proposal, table of contents and sample chapter for a textbook on Organizational Behavior/Arab World Edition underwent blind review by eight university professors from Arab countries, Dr. Hasham was commissioned to author the first Arab World Edition of Organizational Behavior expected to be ready for use in classrooms by Spring 2012. The material will address both undergraduate and graduate students.

The Acquisitions Editor and Program Development Manager From the Pearson's UK offices came to Lebanon and met with Dr. Hasham to discuss all details.

Dr. Hasham to discuss all details. Dr. Hasham says she is very proud to be authoring such a textbook and particularly proud because of her affiliation with Notre Dame University. Moreover, Dr. Elham Hasham has also written case studies for the Global Editions that Prentice-Hall published in March, 2010: There are other titles that Dr. Hasham is writing case studies for and that will be published for the coming academic year. The NDU family will be pleased that Dr. Elham Hasham is being associated with one of the top publishing houses in the world – Pearson Prentice-Hall.

*"If you judge people, you have no time to love them."*

**Mother Teresa**

*"A man's friendships are one of the best measures of his worth."*

**Charles Darwin**

## New Master Programs

*You need heavyweight arguments in the Business World!*



Notre Dame University (NDU)  
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Bordeaux Management School (BEM)

Introduces its NEW  
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### Program highlights

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For additional information, contact NDU's Graduate Division:  
Tel: +961 9 218950 ext. 2466  
gdfbae@ndu.edu.lb



## Aeronautics Achievement

The following communication was received from Dr. Michel Hayek, Chairperson of Mechanical Engineering. NDU Spirit warmly congratulates the Department and its alumni.

Good Morning,

The ME Department is proud of the achievements of NDU students and alumni at both regional and international scales.

1) Two NDU Engineering Alumni (Nadim Zgheib and Michel Akiki) won AIAA (American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics) Awards. For more details please check:

[http://www.utsi.edu/news/News\\_2010/release4-26-10studentswinawards-iaaawards.htm](http://www.utsi.edu/news/News_2010/release4-26-10studentswinawards-iaaawards.htm)

or  
<http://www.utk.edu/tntoday/2010/04/29/utsi-students-win-awards/>

or

<http://lwpolive.tullahomanews.com/Olive/ODE/Tullahoma/LandingPage/LandingPage.aspx?href=VE5HLzlwMTAvMDQvMjg.&pageno=NQ..&entity=QXlwMDUwMw..&view=ZW50aXR5>

2) After the success of last year's conference, the second regional ASME (American Society of Mechanical Engineers) Student Professional Development

Conference was held on Friday 7th and Saturday 8th of May at NDU.

Congratulations to the winners/organizers and looking forward for more.

**Michel Hayek, Chairperson**  
Mechanical Engineering Department  
Notre Dame University - Louaize,  
Lebanon  
[www.ndu.edu.lb](http://www.ndu.edu.lb)

## NDU Annual GIS Day

Sponsored by Copytech and IBRA.HADDAD et fils.



❖ Mr. Moatasem Zahra shows maps.



❖ Mr. Elie Abi Rizk of GIS Transport (leaning forward in the middle).



❖ Mr. Abdallah Bsaibes (second from left) and Dr. Fouad Chedid (NDU, fourth) with students.

The Computer Science Department and the Computer Science Club held their Annual GIS Day on March 3, 2010. Five companies took part in this event. In particular, we had Mr. Abdallah Bsaibes from ESRI Lebanon, Mr. Assem Daaboul from Dar Al-Handassah, Mr. Mrad Bou Habib from Al-Mourad and TopCon, Mr. Moatasem Zahra from Fugro Geospatial Services, and Mr. Elie Abi Rizk from GIS Transport.

The following objectives were set forth for this event:

- I- To create more GIS awareness among the students of NDU.
- II- To give our GIS students the chance to hear first-hand from companies' representatives about the kind of skills GIS-related companies are looking for in new employees.

The event began at 9:00a in the Exhibition Hall, where each participating firm had enough space to display its posters and computers. From 9:00 am to 12:00 pm, students were free to walk in at will and chat with firms' representatives on an informal basis. From 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm, a panel discussion was held, when representatives were each given a 5-minute time slot to introduce their firm and describe in brief their main line of business. Then, the floor was open for questions and answers.

The entire event was well attended, especially the panel discussion session.

# Second Middle East – Africa Student Professional Development Conference

District J, May 2010

ASME Middle East – Africa SPDC 2010

May 7 - 9, 2010

Notre Dame University

LEBANON

Lebanon was the host nation for the second Middle East - Africa SPDC after consultation with the ASME, since more than fifty percent of the student members in the District belong to Lebanon. Lebanon's small area meant that transportation was simple for the SPDC's participants. Logistically, it was the best possible venue.

After the success of last year's Student Professional Development Conference, the ASME – Notre Dame University Student Section was given the privilege of hosting the district's second SPDC. The Student Professional Development Conference is a yearly conference (within each district) where student section members from each district get to meet, compete and develop their professional skills.

At the opening ceremony, speeches emphasized NDU's support to student activities, the committee's outstanding job in hosting this SPDC and ASME's involvement with students and academic life. Fr. Salim el-Rajji, director of the Student Activities Office, Dr. Ghazi Asmar, ASME student section advisor, and Dr. Najib Metni, Student Section Committee representative (SSC Rep), opened with speeches. Ms. Jocelyne Issa, Sponsorship coordinator at NDU, thanked Mr. Bassel Baaklini, General Manager of Contra International, for his generous support and contribution to the success of the SPDC. Rodrigue Chemali, Chair of the SPDC Executive Committee, welcomed all participants.

The Student Professional Development Conference gathered students from local universities: American University of Beirut, Lebanese American University, and Beirut Arab University and from international ones as well: Texas A&M University at Qatar, Kuwait University and Cairo University.



## Old Guard Oral Competition

The Old Guard Oral Competition is one of the major competitions that are held at the SPDC. It requires the competitor to give a presentation related to an engineering topic in a period consisting of twenty minutes maximum divided into fifteen minutes presentation time and five minutes Questions & Answers. The competition was held on the 7th of May at 10:00 a.m. and the competitors were as follows: Mireille Hantouche, Notre Dame University, presenting Biomedical Engineering; Rami Rouhana, Notre Dame University, presenting Maglev Trains; Mostafa Shaaban, American University of Beirut, presenting Self Energizing Mechanically Actuated Hydraulic Brake. Mrs. Mireille Hantouche was ranked first, Mr. Mostafa Shaaban second, also winning for the best technical content, and Mr. Rami Rouhana third.

One should note that the 1st winner receives \$500 and a trip to compete in the final competition at ASME's International Mechanical Engineering Congress and Exposition, IMECE, Vancouver, the 2nd receives \$150, the 3rd \$100, and the one with best technical content \$50.

## Old Guard Technical Poster Competition

This year's competition had two entries: "Nanorobots in medicine" by our colleague Joan Ishak from Notre Dame University, and "Self-energized mechanically actuated hydraulic brake" by Mahdi Zahreddine, a student from

the American University of Beirut, who was this year's winner. The posters were hung in the Friends' Hall, where most of the conference took place. This setting provided all participants plenty of time to check out the participating posters. The winner received a certificate and a \$200 prize.

## Student Design Contest

The third competition of the SPDC was the so-called Student Design Contest. The purpose of this competition is to design, build, and test a system capable of rapidly and accurately sorting four waste materials (namely glass, plastic, ferrous and non-ferrous metals) into distinct waste containers. Ten teams participated of which one was from NDU, two from AUB and seven from LAU. Mr. Bassel Baaklini, Mr. Ralph Saab, Mr. Ralph Saade and Mr. Roy Hanna were judges and Dr. Najib Metni was moderator. The first prize went to the LAU team for correctly sorting six materials. The team won \$1000 and a travel allowance to compete in the finals of ASME's IMECE in Vancouver. Another LAU team won the second prize of \$750 and a third team from LAU won the third prize of \$500. Awards were given to the winners at the Grand Dinner on Saturday May 8.

## Mechatronics Competition

The Mechatronics Competition is an innovation of ASME NDU Student Section. It requires the engineer to build a circuit having a specific function using the least



components possible and being time efficient. Sixteen students took part in this competition, of whom Pierrot Antoun, a Notre Dame University Student, won the first prize of \$200.

#### Impromptu Challenge

The purpose of this challenge is to design and build a hand-launched glider aircraft using cans, gums (as glue) and sheets of paper.

#### Patenting Seminar

Mr. Youssef Kousaifi, Production Plant Manager at Century Fence, shared his own experience with the audience and

conducted a seminar about patenting. Mr. Kousaifi explained the standards to follow to acquire a patent and revealed the procedures to follow to obtain a patent.

#### Green Technology Seminar

Mr. Bassel Baaklini, General Manager of Contra International and main sponsor of SPDC 2010 as stated before, along with Ms. Yvonne El-Hajj, conducted a seminar/workshop entitled "Green Technology".

#### Grand Dinner Award Ceremony

The SPDC concluded with a formal dinner



at Deir El Kalaa Country Club, Beit Mery. The dinner included the eagerly-awaited award ceremony. SDOB representatives and the present mechanical engineering professors at NDU presented certificates to competitions' winners.

#### Rodrigue Chemali

Senior, Notre Dame University  
Chair, SPDC Executive Committee  
Vice Chair, SDOB District J  
Email.: rodrigue.c@hotmail.com

#### Rami Zeinaty

Senior, Notre Dame University  
Vice Chair, SPDC Executive Committee  
Email.: rami\_zeinaty@hotmail.com

## FH



## Ounadika play

News from Sam Lahoud,  
Audio-Visual Facilities

Those who watched Ounadika on Saturday and Sunday March 6th and 7th and subsequent Saturdays and Sundays enjoyed a unique artistic and spiritual unique experience. Ounadika is a musical about the Passion of Jesus Christ in an artistic and humanistic frame, produced by the Audio Visual Facilities at NDU and involving faculty members, staff, and students from the Faculty of Humanities and The Faculty of Architecture Art and Design.

The Composer, Jihad Zeidan, is a music instructor in the Department of Music. The writer, director and technical and production team were from the Faculty of Humanities. The costume designer

was a student majoring in Fashion Design and the set designer and his assistants were Design students. Actors were from the faculties of Business, Engineering and Sciences.

In addition to the creative work of students, the music and the artistic and technical mise en scene, the voice and acting of Nicolas al Osta added a touch of beauty to the whole work.

## NDU and Film Festivals, International Participation.

The achievements of his students in international film festivals cannot fail to be a source of satisfaction not only for Mr. Sam Lahoud, Head of NDU Audio Visual Facilities, but also for the Faculty of Humanities and all the NDU family. On March 26th Mr. Lahoud announced that in March student Naji Bechara had won the Best Film Award at the Zayed University Film Festival in Abu Dhabi. His film, *Talk to the Brain*, competed with seventy-five other entries from around the Arab world.

George Tarabay, Ingrid Bawwab and Dimah Tawk (and the NDU Audio-visual Department of the Faculty of Humanities) are to be congratulated for having won all first three awards at the Syndicate of Cinematographers Film Festival during the week starting March 16th. Dimah, who presented *To Peel the Unknown*, and Ingrid, who presented *Le Printemps ailleurs*, were participating in a festival for the first time. George, with his *Civil but not Civilised*, had already participated in the NDU Film Festival, the European Film Festival, the Monaco Festival 2009, and the Clermont-Ferrand Festival in France.

Mr. Lahoud announced that this year's delegation to Monaco, May 5th to 12th, was to include the following who have been accepted:

**Naji Bechara**, winner as above at Abu Dhabi, with *Talk to the Brain*.

**Jessica Younes**, winner of BOB Distinguished Young Female Director at the the NDU Film Festival of 2009, with *L'yes*.

**Dimah Tawk**, winner as above at Beirut Syndicate of Cinematographers Film Festival of 2010, with *To Peel the Unknown*.

**Ingrid Bawwab**, winner as above at Beirut Syndicate of Cinematographers Film Festival of 2010, with *Le Printemps ailleurs*.

Mr. Lahoud wishes to point out that the NDU Student Film Festival has now an exclusive agreement with the Monaco Film Festival to be its representative in Lebanon, so that every Lebanese film proposed for participation in the Monaco Festival will pass through NDU Student Film Festival. This year two awarded films will be presented in Monaco under the name of the NDU Student Film Festival, for the Best International Short Film and for the Best Documentary.

## Cannes Festival Participation

On April 20th, the following announcement was made by Mr. Sam Lahoud.

For the first time in NDU history we have films participating in the CANNES FILM FESTIVAL. It is a premiere for the RTV major in the Mass Communication department.

In the last couple of months I have been updating you with our news and achievements, from Monaco Film Festival to Zayed University film festival in Abu Dhabi, where we received the first award with the film of our student Naji Bechara, also the participation of Georges Tarabay's film in the world's most important festival for short films in Clermont-Ferrand in France, to the three awards we took in the cinematographers festival in Beirut...

But CANNES is something different and very difficult to reach... and yet our student Georges Tarabay did it again and his graduation film *Civil but not Civilized*, a comedy about the war, was accepted in the Short Film Corner in Cannes Film Festival together with an independent short film from our RTV graduate Bassem Charanek, these being the only Lebanese films accepted in Cannes so far for this year J

In response to the suggestion of many NDU faculty and staff, after coming back from Monaco Festival we shall organize a midday event to screen those shorts and give all the NDU community an opportunity to see them

This is an achievement we can all be proud of; it shows how much our students can achieve with their creativity, and it makes us more certain about our academic choices in the RTV major in the Mass Communication Department and in the Audio Visual Facilities.

For this I thank the NDU administration for trusting our judgment and choices, our Dean Dr. Carol Kfoury and our Chair Dr. Joseph Ajami for their support and academic directions, all our personnel members and faculty members in the Audio Visual Facilities for their dedication, and our students for their creativity and hard work.

Best regards  
**Sam Lahoud, MA**  
Lecturer  
Head of Audio Visual Facilities

**The following was received from Mr. Sam Lahoud on Monday, May 17th**

Dear NDU Family

It is with great pleasure that I announce to you that our Student Jessica Younes won the Grand Jury Award in the Monaco Film Festival for her film "L'yes" for the Students Short Films category.

This is the second award for Jessica after the "Best Distinguished Female Director Award" she received in the 3rd NDU Student Film Festival last November. Jessica graduated from NDU last spring with an MA in Communication Arts /RTV and she is currently pursuing a second degree in Psychology. Please join me in wishing Jessica Younes continuous success in her future career.

We had a distinguished participation in Monaco, our films were well received and warmly applauded by the audience, and we received a lot of positive feedback from international directors and producers, from the States, Spain, Mexico, France, Korea, Kazakhstan, and others.

Moreover, we had a record this year in national and international festivals, NDU ended with three participations in the CANNES film festival. Georges Tarabay with his film "Civil But Not Civilized", Dimah Taouk "To Peel the Unknown", and Ingrid Bawab "Le Printemps Ailleurs". Those three films were accepted to be screened in the Short Film Corner at Cannes Festival, which is a great achievement for the students and for NDU. We also wish Georges, Dimah and Ingrid great success.

We will be having a special screening for those films as soon as our students come back from Cannes, we will screen 5 films:

*L'yes* by Jessica Younes

*Talk to the Brain* by Naji Bechara

*Civil but Not Civilized* by Georges Tarabay

*To Peel the Unknown* by Dimah Taouk

*Le Printemps Ailleurs* by Ingrid Bawab

We will inform you later with the date and place of the screening, meanwhile let's cross fingers for our students in Cannes.

Thank you and best regards

**Sam Lahoud, MA**

Lecturer

Head of Audio Visual Facilities

## Wushu Champ from NDU

The Department of English, Translation and Education – Physical Education and Sports Major - is proud to announce that our student Elias El Rayess won the first position in the World Wushu (Kung-fu) Championship, held in Perugia, Italy. I am sure the NDU family would like to wish Elias the best of luck in his future sports endeavors.

**Dr. Sami K. Samra**

Chair, Department of English, Translation and Education

Faculty of Humanities

Notre Dame University-Louaize

## Office of University International Affairs

On March 19th, 2010, internationally celebrated cartoonist Kevin Kallaugher gave a lecture and a power point presentation at NDU main campus. APAO Jennifer Williams introduced Mr. Kallaugher to the NDU students, who came from various faculties. The NDU Vice presidents and faculty members also attended. Mr. Kallaugher began with cartoons which included political criticism and reflected ideas related to world political and social affairs. Discussion followed, when many students raised various questions leading to a debate over the issues raised by Kevin's cartoons.

"Kal" displayed his skill by making some on-the-spot sketches.

The U.S Embassy sponsored the visit to Lebanon of Mr. Kallaugher, which lasted from March 17th to 23rd, 2010. University presentations were organized in the country in order for Mr. Kallaugher to share his experience with Political Science, International Affairs and Mass Communications students and faculty.

After graduating from Harvard College with honors in 1977, Kevin drew caricatures of tourists in Trafalgar Square

and on Brighton Pier. In March 1978, the Economist recruited him to become the first resident cartoonist in their 145-year history. He spent the next ten years working in London as a cartoonist for such publications as the *Observer*, the *Sunday Telegraph*, *Today*, and the *Mail on Sunday*. He has been honored with major national and international awards and was for a time President of the American Association of American Editorial Cartoonists.

## FPSPAD



## Human trafficking- ALERT!

The Council for Research in Values and Philosophy and John Hopkins University

Under the auspices of the UN, the Palermo Protocol, which entered into force only after 2003, identified human trafficking as the crime of transport of persons for the purpose of exploitation such as forced or consensual labor or prostitution. Vulnerable groups – orphan children and women – are the major target of trafficking for the simple reason they are easily deceived and exploited due to lack of protection. In spring 2010, NDU hosted Dr. Mohamed Y. Mattar, a specialist in international human rights and trafficking in persons from Johns Hopkins University. He pointed to forced child labor and prostitution as mainly involved in human trafficking. Child trafficking is very common amongst the Eastern Asian countries and in the Arabian Gulf.

Prostitute trafficking differs from legal prostitution, permitted by certain European countries (i.e. Germany, The Netherlands) when it meets labor standards. It takes place when a third party gets in line and transports females, very often

young girls, to record a personal benefit. Summer and pleasure marriages in a number of Arab countries do not fall under this category. In this respect, U.S. President George W. Bush, banned marriage by catalogue. In Europe trafficking most often passes from poor Eastern European countries to the "West".

A UNECE (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe) report (2004) published in Vienna estimates the total revenues of prostitute traffickers in Europe alone as ranging between USD 50 billion and 90 billion. Surprisingly, to face these unjust and hideous crimes, Lebanon is one of the few countries in the region with no law to fight Human Trafficking.

For this reason, as Dr. Mattar concluded, the sign of ALERT should be turned on to tackle these crimes. ALERT stands for Accountability, Legislation, Education, Relation and Technology.



## A New Approach to Human Rights

Tarek Edmond Khairallah

FPSPAD



Human Rights took on a new character at NDU this year with a unique approach to teaching this innovative GER course focusing on both theory and implementation. It covered many questions of human rights, concerning women, children, development, disabilities, torture and international justice. Students had the opportunity to investigate real-life cases and have first-hand contact with NGOs concerned with human rights,

education, advocacy and protection, taking into consideration the Lebanese reality, challenges and achievements that are involved in the NGOs' work.

A human rights course can open your eyes. I had the opportunity to participate in a project led by ANERA, a NGO which is currently working on reconstruction and rehabilitation in the Nahr El Bared Palestinian refugee camp. My group and I went to the Nahr El Bared Palestinian refugee camp in the North.

After seeing all the devastation resulting from the war, we participated in training activities organized by ANERA. We had the opportunity to interview both Palestinian and Lebanese individuals living inside and outside the camp.

At the end of the semester, for the occasion of the International Day for Human Rights on December 10th, we participated with our respective partner NGOs and the NGOs that visited us in class. With us was Dr. Elie El-Hindy, the instructor of the course responsible for organizing a Forum at the University for us to share our work with the rest of the NDU community. This activity was an enlightening experience. We understood the progress we had achieved by then simply by realizing the lack of Human Rights culture in our society and the role each one of us can play to make a tangible difference. Although what we did through these projects was a baby step into the world of Human Rights advocacy, it made us feel very proud and involved in the process.

## Lebanon: A Classless Society?

Elizabeth Dordulian

FPSPAD

The renowned progressive Lebanese Prof. Fawaz Traboulsi was not reflecting on some utopian future Cedar People's Republic, but rather on how the Lebanese see themselves today when on January 14 the Sociology Café at T-Marbouta in Hamra, downtown Bierut, met to discover whether social classes really do exist in Lebanon. Informal discussion between students and professors on critical issues was made possible by the cozy, armchair atmosphere typical of this café. Over ten NDU political science students were in the audience.

Professor Traboulsi, author of *A Modern History of Lebanon*, first considered the argument that there were never social

classes in Lebanon, but merely family clans and religious sects and the counter-argument that social classes existed in pre-war Lebanon, but no longer do. He introduced factors which shed light on the non-existence of traditional social classes but highlight the issue of poverty. Traboulsi added that the UN did not focus on social classes anymore, preferring to deal with affluence and poverty. He provided insight into the role of religious authorities in covering the income (wages, salaries, property ownership, rent) divisions in Lebanon. Income remains a major determinant. Furthermore, in Lebanon, almost all political discourse is colored by the fact that we do not have a functioning state.

NDU professor, Eugene Sensenig-Dabous raised the question of a theory to prove the existence of traditional social classes based on ownership of the means of production. Traboulsi responded that in the past "classes were the roots of the people related to the position of the production process." However, "from the 40's onwards, the Lebanese domestic market was pushed to produce for the external market which shows that the Lebanese economy was truly globalized. We have capitalist, medium and large land-owners, but we abolished small landowners, so people migrated." In conclusion the majority of the participants in this discussion agreed that in a traditional sense "there are no social classes in Lebanon."

Dr. Fawaz Traboulsi

## Uniting Lebanon in a Day

Maritta Sislian  
FPSPAD

After two years of lobbying, the Council of Ministers approved a decree officially announcing that this year, on March 25, 2010, Annunciation Day would be celebrated as a common Christian-Muslim national holiday. The decision was also accepted at a meeting between Pope Benedict XVI and Prime Minister Saad Hariri at the Vatican. The new national holiday drew the attention of the Senior Study Students in the FPSPAD, who are currently taking a course on The Politics of Abrahamic Religions. With the active support of Father Abdo Antoun, of the Marian Studies Center (MSC) at NDU, an attempt was made to map this new inter-confessional phenomenon. Annunciation Day (Eid el Bechara/ عيد البشارة) commemorates the moment when the Virgin Mary was told by the angel Gabriel that she would become the mother of Christ. Its announcement as a national holiday was warmly welcomed by both Christian and Muslim religious leaders. As Hafid Ouardiri, the former spokesman for the Geneva



the former spokesman for the Geneva mosque and director of the Entre-Connnaissance Foundation in the Swiss city has said, Annunciation Day facilitates a "dialogue of faiths". Several days before Annunciation Day, many billboards were placed to draw attention to Lebanese citizens about the new national holiday.

On March 24, 2010, all governmental institutions, banks, schools and universities were officially closed. On the spiritual level, Masses were celebrated and Christian and Muslim religious figures explained the day from a religious

point of view. Father Akram Khoury from NDU said this new national holiday was a great event for both Muslims and Christians as they both honor the Virgin Mary.

Annunciation Day is celebrated by Christians because it symbolizes the virgin birth of Jesus. For Muslims it is also a feast as according to the Quran Mary is above all women. May this day be an everlasting sign of unity and blessing among all the Lebanese, a hope in agreement with the words of Pope John Paul II: "Lebanon must be the symbol of unity and pluralism as well as tolerance between Christians and Muslims."

## P.S. Students and Accreditation

Elizabeth Dordulian, Adriana Boudiwan  
FPSPAD

## ACCREDITATION IS NOT A DESTINATION, IT IS A JOURNEY!!

-Dr. Rihani

What can the students of the FPSPAD do to help NDU live up to its goal of becoming a truly American system university? On April 15, 2010 we finally got the answer. Over 70 students turned out for a workshop introducing the concept of accreditation based on the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC).

The purpose of this workshop was to introduce the basic process and the preparation being done for the NEASC accreditation which NDU is currently engaged in. The workshop was led by NDU's Vice- President of Academic Affairs Dr. Ameen Rihani and his Assistant Vice President, Dr. Kamal Abou Chedid, with the support of Dean of the Faculty of

Political Science, Public Administration, and Diplomacy; Dr. Chahine Ghais.





The accreditation process involves several steps.

They are as follows: eligibility (which has several requirements to be fulfilled), candidacy, self study, planning, accreditation and re-accreditation.

As of today, 64 % of the preparations have been completed by NDU and the remaining 36% are in progress. They concern self study and planning.

The speakers stressed the importance of the students contribution and involvement in the accreditation process through organizing events that involve student participation and highlight the NDU mission statement.

Dr. Rihani challenged the FPSPAD students to push for accreditation in their Faculty and prepare a project and presentation for the NEASC committee this June.

Currently students are working on a survey of the so-called "Schools of Aspiration" in the United States and Lebanon in order to study their diversity programs and suggests steps to be taken at NDU in the coming years.

## UNDP: Lebanon Live on Campus

Elizabeth Dordulian, Francheska Hbayter, Avo-Sevag Garabed  
FPSPAD

What can NDU students do to serve their home community, support the university, and become better students at the same time?

On April 14, 2010 the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) helped answer this question. Live Lebanon project assistant Ms. Kareen Baydoun and communication officer Mr. Kassem Kaouk visited Main Campus to inform the students about their project, its objectives and strategies. As reported in the last issue of the Spirit, the UNDP supports the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) such as eliminating extreme poverty and hunger, reducing child mortality, achieving universal primary education, and developing a global partnership for development under which Lebanon falls. Last semester FPSPAD students visited the Live Lebanon exhibit. Now Live Lebanon is taking its message directly to the university campuses across the country.

One of Live Lebanon's main objectives is to help university students connect Lebanese expatriates with their local

communities in Lebanon in support of development in the underdeveloped areas of Lebanon. Their projects include restoring a drinking water network, constructing water reservoirs, and providing electricity. The three main objectives are to link Lebanese expatriates back to Lebanon, eliminate regional disparities in Lebanon, and strengthen local civil society in the decision-making structure.

Live Lebanon's program falls under the banner of UNDP and is guided by the statistics gathered on Lebanese emigrants around the world. 10 million Lebanese emigrants live all around the world. In 2008, the total amount of remittances from Lebanese expatriates was estimated at \$6 billion USD, which accounts for 20% of the national yearly GDP.

What Live Lebanon does in this respect is quite simple; it attempts to create channels between the expatriates and their country of origin by encouraging them to invest in the development of their communities and by committing part of their remittances to funding



projects of public interest such as building hospitals and educational institutions. Live Lebanon's success from inception (November 2009) until today is shown by the launching of nearly 30 projects equitably all over the country, five of which are fully funded by Live Lebanon.

If you are interested in contributing your time or finances to Live Lebanon simply Click, Commit, Change! Visit their online web-page ([www.livelebanon.net](http://www.livelebanon.net)) or join their group on Facebook or Twitter! Transform the Lebanese rural areas into pleasant developing regions by a simple click!

## FPSPAD's International Conference on The Role of Arab Universities In the Education, Practice and Promotion of Human Rights

The Faculty of Political Science Public Administration and Diplomacy (FPSPAD) organized an International Conference on The Role of Arab Universities in the Education, Practice and Promotion of Human Rights, held on the 21st and 22nd of May, 2010. The main objective of the conference was to initiate a long-overdue dialogue among different Arab Universities in cooperation with international experts, scholars and academicians, on the important role that these universities should play in spreading the culture of Human Rights and contributing to the peace, social stability and development of their respective societies.

The conference was divided into a theoretical track and a practitioners' track, with participants coming from Lebanon, Austria, Sweden, Tunisia, Morocco, Iraq, Jordan, Sudan, Palestine, and Qatar, including university professors, UN officials, NGO leaders, members of parliament, university administrators, and students. They discussed the issue of Human Rights from the three aspects of Education, Practice and Promotion.

The first day included the opening ceremony, the keynote speech and the two theoretical panels on "Status, Realities and Conceptual Challenges for Human Rights in the Arab World" (chaired by Mr. Renaud Detalle, Director of the regional OHCHR Office) and "The Role of Arab Universities in Spreading Human Rights Values" (chaired by Mr. Ahmed Karaoud, Director of the regional Amnesty International office).

The second day covered the practical aspect of the Human Rights with three panels on the three dimensions of Education, Practice and Promotion of Human Rights in Arab Universities (chaired respectively by Dr. Eugene Sensenig-Dabbous Chair of the Political Science Department at NDU; Fr. Salim Rajji –



Director of the Student Affairs Office at NDU, and MP Ghassan Mukheiber, rapporteur of the Lebanese Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights). Participants then headed to separate working groups, each discussing one of the dimensions and coming up with follow-up recommendations. The conference ended with a closing session where group work was reported in plenary, in addition to further discussion and final comments.

Recommendation on the level of human rights education included cooperation among universities at the national level; networking between Arab Universities; cooperation between universities and the civil society, developing informal ways of teaching, introducing human rights as a general education course, making human rights appealing and relevant to students from the different majors, learning from successful existing experiences, connecting and exchanging Human Rights students.

Recommendations on the level of practicing human rights inside the universities included respecting diversity (gender, religion, ideology, etc...), equipping rooms and passages with suitable appliances for people with special needs, training staff, faculty and students on how to deal with such people, respecting migrant workers and integrating them in the life on campus, having the rights and duties of students clearly specified for them,

having a teacher-student mutual respect relationship, introducing a yearly prize for the respect of human rights, allowing student to practice democracy through student elections, minimizing external political interference in student elections; involving the students in the decision making process, creating a peer conflict resolution body, and promoting academic freedom.

Recommendations on the level of promoting human rights through collaboration of universities with civil society organizations included engaging students and teachers in promoting and marketing values of human rights each through his own field of specialization, organizing field trips to promote awareness, organizing internships and voluntary work with various NGOs, encouraging the establishment of human rights Clubs and Cine Clubs, and organizing a human rights Day where NGOs can be invited on campus to raise awareness on key issues.

Finally, this conference was a benchmark in the FPSPAD. It further clarified the focus the faculty intends to have on critical issues like human rights, and emphasized the necessity to approach human right in all its three dimension equally not only educating our students on human rights but also practicing it within our universities and promoting it in our societies. The conference greatly increased the awareness and interest of FPSPAD's students in human rights and an initiative to create a Human Rights club is already on the way.

## FNAS

**Dr. Mohammad Jawad Khalifeh,**  
Minister of Health

## “An Overview of the Health System in Lebanon”

**By Dr Ramez Maalouf**

Coordinator, Ad-hoc Committee for Annual Scientific Lectures Series

Chairperson, Department of Mathematics and Statistics

Faculty of Natural and Applied Sciences



On Friday, 19th March, 2010, NDU received His Excellency Dr. Mohammad Jawad Khalifeh, the Lebanese Minister of Health, who gave a public lecture on the state of the health system in Lebanon. The lecture was attended by the President of NDU, Fr. Walid Moussa, and by the Dean of the Faculty of Sciences, Dr. George M. Eid, who welcomed Dr. Khalifeh. The Hall was packed with interested faculty members and students.

Dr. Khalifeh started by presenting general statistics that compared health-related issues in Lebanon with those in the countries of the MENA region. They included life expectancy, population growth, maternal and infant mortality rates, death rates from road crashes, smoking, physicians and hospital beds per 1000 population, ratio of hospital beds in the public sector to the total number of beds available (public and private), per

capita GDP, and health expenses per capita. The statistics clearly demonstrated that Lebanon enjoys one of the best health service systems in the region.

Dr. Khalifeh then stated some basic issues of concern for the public health system in Lebanon, particularly health conditions responsible for a high proportion of the health deficit, ones largely affecting the poor. A detailed scheme for improvement would have to face major challenges such as political instability, internal conflicts, weak ambulatory services, budgeting not based on scientific data, lack of data base, need for gradual reforms, etc.

The Minister then presented a large number of health reform priorities. He took a closer look at the health system in Lebanon, with a consideration of demography, a distribution

of the population over 65 years of age, a poverty profile, the net public debt, political profile, and consequences of the July 2006 Israeli war on Lebanon. Dr. Khalifeh then discussed issues related to the Ministry of Health, such as the services provided by the Ministry, including hospitalization, expensive medications, national immunization plan, primary health care services, national health programs, support of NGO's work on health, and maternal care.

After the lecture Dr. Khalifeh was invited to lunch at the NDU cafeteria.

## Dealing with Waste

Reported by: **Dr. Robert Dib**  
(Ph.D. Biochemistry)



On Monday, March 29, 2010, Dr. Jamil Rima, Professor of Chemistry at the Faculty of Sciences II of the Lebanese University, gave a lecture on a new technology to carbonize solid organic waste. Dr. Rima earned a Ph.D. in Chemistry in 1982 from the University of Bordeaux (Bordeaux, France). He was visiting professor and research advisor at several prestigious international universities. He is the author of a substantial number of research papers in the field of applied chemistry and has three USA patents. Dr. Rima occupied the position of Director of the French-Lebanese program (CE-DRE) for the academic year 1997-1998.

The new technology he invented and entitled RPC (Rapid Pulse Carbonization)

describes a quick and efficient carbonization method that converts organic solid waste, such as municipalities' solid waste, hospital solid waste and expired drugs into Bio-fuel. Using a graphite catalyst, the reaction process takes place in only 15 minutes under conditions of high temperature and pressure. This innovative approach for treating organic wastes is economical and at the same time environmentally friendly, since it does not generate waste products such as carbon dioxide and toxic gases. Dr. Rima suggested in his talk a "zero-waste" technology as a substitute for the traditional methods of organic waste treatment such as land-filling, incineration, or composting. In the RPC method, basically, everything

organic from sewage sludge, banana skins, vegetables and coconuts to drugs, textiles, meat and chicken bones is carbonized and transformed into charcoal which can be used as a bio-fuel. The RPC can also be used to treat waste-water, the output of which is the transformation of sludge into charcoal and waste-water into clean irrigation water without generation of any bad odors. The creative invention of Dr. Jamil Rima is definitely a breakthrough in the eco-friendly technologies that should revolutionize the treatment methods of organic wastes and hence make our environment a cleaner, more livable habitat.

## FNHS

### Autism Seminar

April 20, 2010

**Doris Jaalouk**, Chairperson, Department of Nursing & Health Sciences

On World Autism Awareness Day (WAAD), April 2nd, the Faculty of Nursing and Health Sciences organized a seminar Autism: Past, Present, and Future, with guest speakers Dr. Mohamad Itani and Mrs. Christina Bellos Diab.

Dr. Mohamad Itani, International Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Assistant Professor of Clinical Pediatrics at the American University Hospital, and executive member of the Lebanese Autism Society, reviewed autism, defining epidemiology, etiology, disease diagnosis, and management. Below is a synopsis of his presentation.

*Autism was first coined in 1943 to describe children who like to play isolated from their peers with characteristic stereotyped patterns of interests.*

*Autism affects the social interaction and communication of the child, and is associated with stereotyped movements and limited fields of interest. Recently a new terminology is being used, Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), in which it is enough to have a disturbance in social interaction, in language as used in social*

*communication, or in behavior presenting as stereotyped repetitive behaviors and impaired symbolic imaginative play, prior to age three to say that the child has ASD.*

*Affected individuals display hyperactivity, aggressiveness, abdominal discomfort and immunological dysfunctions. Early diagnosis is recommended and is done by the pediatrician. A major breakthrough in autism management came with the early introduction of intensive*

*Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA). Therapy and some medications were approved for treatment of autism. Off-label therapies should always be given under the supervision of trained physicians to avoid possible adverse effects.*

Mrs. Christina Bellos Diab, coordinator of CDIP (Centre de Diagnostique et d'intervention précoce) and educational consultant of CCA-en (Classes for Children with Autism- English Section), Lebanese Autism Society (LAS), presented the experience of the LAS, its profile, mission, scope of work, and projects.

She introduced LAS as follows:

*The Lebanese Autism Society (LAS) is a non-governmental organization founded in 1999 by parents of children with autism and professionals. Its mission covers the development of specialized educational programs tailored to the individual needs of children with autism, the promotion and support of the social integration of children and teenagers with autism, supporting and expanding the professional capabilities of personnel and institutions providing services to children with autism in Lebanon, and spreading public awareness.*

## Weight Loss Surgery

Maya Abou Jaoude



1



2

1. Dr. Ayman Harakchi.

2. The audience.

On 26th March, 2010, the Faculty of Nursing and Health Sciences organized a lecture in the Abou Khater Auditorium under the title Weight Loss Surgeries and Dietary Approaches to Morbid Obesity, featuring Dr. Ayman Harakchi and Miss Mirella Khater. Dr. Harakchi, President of the Lebanese Laparoscopic Surgery Society and Fellow of the American College of Surgeons, spoke of prevalent surgical procedures to treat morbid

obesity, carried out with reference to the patient's profile and potential complications, illustrating his talk with cases he had treated.

Miss Mirella Khater, licensed dietician working at the Sacre-Coeur Hospital, explained the dietary approach used after weight-loss surgery and the dietary behavior changes to be adopted by the patient.

NDU faculty staff and undergraduate and graduate students of dietetics and nutrition followed the presentations with keen interest and took part in a vigorous question-and-answer session.

# Nutrition and Mental Health

Maya Abou Jaoude



❖ Dr. Antoine Farhat.



❖ Dr. Michel Soufia.



❖ Dr. Michel Nawfal.

The Faculty of Nursing and Health Sciences at NDU-Louaize, in collaboration with the Nutrition and Health Club, organized a conference on Nutrition and Mental Health on Wednesday, May 12, 2010, held in the Abou Khater Auditorium. Taking part were highly successful professionals in the field of nutrition, endocrinology and psychiatry, and students from other universities (AUB, USEK). The Chairperson of the NDU Nursing and Health Sciences Department, Dr. Doris Jaalouk, welcomed all those attending and introduced the speakers and their topics.

Dr. Michel Soufia, MD, Psychiatrist, discussed the co-morbidities between Metabolic and Psychiatric diseases. He showed how the metabolic syndrome is associated with psychiatric disorders and psychotropic drugs. Dr. Soufia concluded that in order to prevent the metabolic risk factors, a healthy life style is required, in addition to primary intervention and treatment with a dietitian.

Dr. Yousra Hawli, MD, Metabolic Endocrinologist, elaborated on metabolic syndrome in Mental Disorders. Dr. Hawli explained that in order to diagnose metabolic syndrome at least three of the following risk factors should be present:



❖ Dr. Yousra Hawli.

abdominal obesity, hypertriglyceridemia, or low HDL, hypertension, and insulin resistance. She said studies showed that the metabolic syndrome is seen more in patients with psychiatric disorders. Treatment should include education, behavioral modification, physical activity, healthy diet, and pharmacotherapy.

Dr. Michel Nawfal, MD, MA, Clinical Psychologist, discussed brain activity during exercise and its implication in Mental Health. Dr. Nawfal explored the process through which exercise (running) is beneficial to psychological health by an experiment that he carried out.

Dr. Antoine Farhat, PhD, Nutritionist and Acting Dean of the FNHS, discussed intake of nutrients implicated in mental

health. Since Lebanon is among the first five countries with prevalence of depression, he assessed the intake of the nutrients in 759 Lebanese subjects from 19 to 70 years of age. Dr. Farhat concluded that this issue is disregarded in our country and should be taken into consideration.

Rana Zayek, MS., Clinical Psychologist, defined eating disorders as a life-threatening illness that requires professional help. Eating disorders are characterized by abnormal eating habits. She classified eating disorders as Anorexia Nervosa, Bulimia Nervosa and Eating Disorders Not Otherwise Specified (NOS). She gave useful tips on how to help a person suffering from an eating disorder.

The conference ended with Dr. Michel Nawfal thanking all the guests present. Feedback from the audience was extremely positive and encouraging. The Faculty of Nursing and Health Sciences would like to thank all those who contributed to the outstanding success of the conference.

## Lebanese Diaspora Art Exhibition

Reported by Elie Nabhan (LERC)  
and Roula Majdalani (FAAD).

The Faculty of Architecture, Art and Design, in collaboration with the Lebanese Emigration Research Center at Notre Dame University, Louaize, and under the auspices of the Lebanese Minister of Culture, H.E. Mr. Salim Wardy, inaugurated the Lebanese Diaspora collective art exhibition at the Dome City Center in downtown Beirut on Wednesday, 17th March, 2010.

The purpose of the exhibition was to promote the work of Lebanese artists around the world and of non-Lebanese interested in Lebanon and its Diaspora. It was a call to

interaction between artists and viewers about migration and emigrations. It also aimed at the creation of a Diaspora Art Gallery at NDU through artists donating their work. Visuals treated the themes of memory, origin, values, identity, nation, sociology, return, anthropology, pains and joys. The organizing committee was composed of Danielle Zaccour as Chairperson, Noel Nasr, John Kortbaoui, Graziella Dghfal and Roula Majdalani. It took one-and-a-half years of hard work to prepare and finally 83 works in several categories by 54 artists were chosen by a jury composed of

eminent specialists Joseph Tarrab, Sylvie Ajemian, Samir Sayegh, Maha Sultan and Gregory Buchakjian. The NDU Administration offered awards through a competition to freely promote art and encourage arts without any commercial interest of revenue from sales. At the distribution of prizes, Third Prize of US\$1000 went to Rania Matar for her photograph, Barbie Girl, Haret Hreik, Beirut, 2006; Second Prize of US\$ 3000 went to Alfred Tarazi for his collage, Hijra 1; the First Prize of US\$ 5000 was awarded by Fr. Walid Moussa to Flavia Codsi for her acrylic and oil painting I Love Lebanon.



✦ Cutting the inauguration ribbon:  
from left to right: Fr. W. Moussa, Mr. S. Matar with H.E. Mr. S. Wardy

✦ 1974 (fire), by Noel Nasr, Lecturer at Notre Dame University- Louaize



1. First Prize: *I love Lebanon*.  
2. Second Prize: *Hijra I*.  
2. Third Prize: *Haret Hreik*.

## Communio

On Friday, April 9th, the *Communio* group once again met in the fine old building of the German Institute in the centre of Beirut to hear Dr. Richard Khuri of LAU terminate his study of the article in the *Communio* review by Alexander Shmemann on Alexander Solzhenitsyn, the nonconformist Soviet author.

The key sentences of the article were, "His truth exposes the lie of Soviet literature, but because he is totally a 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." The author also declares, "If, in the expression of St. Paul, there are "celestial bodies and terrestrial bodies" (Cor. 15:40), then Russian saints are the creators of the 'celestial body' of Russia, in which all that is merely cultural, and therefore mortal, is consumed and transfigured ... Russia's writers and her great literature, however, are the creators of the 'terrestrial body' of Russia – that image, calling and content by which, despite all her "terrible sons" (Khomiatkov), Russia is absolved and made worthy of pure love and loyalty."

After an introductory moment of silence for prayer and the chanting of **المسيح قام** by *Communio* animator Dr. Edward Alam, Dr. Khuri explained that Solzhenitsyn used Soviet language for literature, so forming a new generation of Russian literature. With only one possible exception, there is nobody yet outstanding in post-Soviet literature. Schmemann wants to show how Solzhenitsyn differs as a result of being born into Communism, in 1918, without inheriting from the previous age. Pasternak, of Dr. Zhivago fame, is often claimed as a Communist writer, but born in 1890 he shows earlier influence.

Dr. Khuri remarked that Schmemann's emphasis on literature has led him to neglect the Russian painters, musical composers and film-makers, who also shared the intensity to be found in the

Russian icons, even Marc Chagall who was influenced by the icons although he was a Jew. The folk art of Russia and Chagall alike are notable for their use of brilliant colour.

His listeners were surprised to learn from Dr. Khuri that Joseph Stalin (not his real name), a strangely complex character, had much more artistic taste than is generally realised, allowing under-currents to emerge, for example in music, that were not entirely conformist. The massive square architectural horrors so often illustrated were in fact products of the Khrushchev-Brezhnev era, whereas there are some quite elegant constructions from Stalin's time.

There was prolonged discussion after the presentation involving those attending, who included as well as the two mentioned above Dr. Thomas Scheffle of the German Oriental Institute of Beirut, Dr. Habib Charles Malik, Dr. Eugene Sensenig Dabbous, NDU, LAU, Fr. Martin McDermott S.J. of USJ, Dr. Yussef Zgheib, NDU, Björn Zimprich and Oleg Dik of the Oriental Institute, Mr. George Trad, and Mr. K. Mortimer, NDU.

**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 religion.

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/>

## SPORTS OFFICE

### NDU scores in Basket!

Both NDU Men and Women Basketball teams won at the International Universities Sports Festival that took place in Turkey recently!

They were playing against French, Romanian, Hungarian, Bulgarian and Turkish Universities!



CONGRATULATIONS!!!!

## SAO-CSO

### Commemoration and Aid

On Friday, March 19th, 2010, Mr. Majed Bou Hadir, Community Service Officer, reported on the results of the participation of the Student Union and clubs to aid the victims of the Haiti and Chile earthquakes and the families of those who lost their lives in the Ethiopian Airlines crash.

During the week March 8th to 12th, there were daily fund-raising activities organized by the student clubs, which invited personalities from different sectors such as the media and the arts, and these congratulated the students on their wide visions for NDU and their solidarity with their brethren around the world. The various activities raised a sum of L.p. 10,000,000, which was forwarded to the Council of Catholic Patriarchs and Bishops.

The campaign ended with a Mass attended by representatives of all Lebanon's religious communities, in a spirit of unity of heart and soul. One message were read by a member of the Ethiopian community in Lebanon and Umm (Mother) of Yasser Mehdi thanked NDU authorities, staff, faculty and students in deeply moving terms for their act of spiritual remembrance. The Alumni Affairs Office offered a cedar seedling that was planted in memory of the events.

There was wide media coverage; in particular the Mass was broadcast by MTV on the morning of Sunday, March 21st, following a report given during the news bulletin of the previous evening. Mr. Suheil Matar, Public Relations Officer, had earlier been a guest at the Saturday After News program and had spoken on the solidarity shown by the NDU community with victims of disaster worldwide.





1. The requiem for victims of disaster, attended by Lebanese of all rites.
2. The congregation.
3. The face of mourning.
4. Ethiopia speaks.
5. Speaking for all Lebanese.
6. Sana Nasr supports the clubs.
7. Tony Baroud.
8. Raymond Saliba.
9. Chady Maroun.
10. George Khabbaz.

## NDU Awareness Week



The consequences of twenty years of war are far from being eliminated; in fact young Lebanese carry the heavy burden of a period when diseases, drugs, corruption and loss of values proliferate at an uncontrollable pace. In this perspective, Student Affairs Office (SAO) with the Student Union (09-10) organized a Week of Awareness at NDU's Exhibition Hall during all lunch breaks. During five days (from 3 to 7 April) students from all faculties attended five conferences animated by experts and testimonies.

### Say No To Drugs:

Drugs and its consequences for Lebanese society were the subject of the first conference. Jeunesse Anti-Drug (JAD), with its President Mr. Elie Lahoud, focused on the increasing dangers of drug addiction since the population exposed to this risk continues to grow. One of the main causes of the "Lebanese drug boom" is ignorance and the dissemination of wrong ideas: "Most children and young people are convinced that cannabis use can't lead to addiction." Dealers, in many tricky ways, take advantage of this lack of knowledge to attract young people. A one-time addict shared his experience of almost fourteen years of addiction, and concluded that the solution arises from inner decision.

### Say No To Corruption:

The second day discussed on corruption. Ex-Minister Abdallah Farhat initiated this conference, which dealt mainly with corruption in Lebanon. The Lebanese Association against Corruption tried to find out why corruption expands in every domain, especially in the public sector. The causes behind corruption in Lebanon are various and include the following: 1- leaders can control the Justice and the Army, 2- society is based on confessional doctrines, and 3- weak legal framework. The effects of corruption are tremendous and can be classified as political costs, financial disorder and socio-economic costs.

### Say No To Abortion:

The third day was about abortion, an issue that evokes, on all sides, very strong feeling and judgments and very heated recrimination. Dr. Aline Sleiman emphasized the psychological and physical problems that women could face from abortion. Furthermore, Mr. Jean Naccouzi, President of *Rassemblement chrétien pour la justice*, was very anxious to know how the government could pass laws for the protection of eggs of fish, when there was no law for to protect human embryos. Following Dr. Sleiman and Mr. Naccouzi, Fr. Fadi Bou Shebel explained the opinion of the Church, namely that abortion is a crime and not a solution. Moreover, the speakers showed that abortion in Lebanon can be more dangerous since no laws control this issue.

### Say No To AIDS:

AIDS was the subject for the fourth day. The biological and medical aspects of this disease were explained by representatives of the association *Anwar el-Mahaba* but the emotional element in this conference was dealt with through the experience of actual sufferers. Their suffering came not only from the disease itself, but also from society's rejection caused by prejudices and taboos incorrectly associated with AIDS.

### Say YES To Life:

The last conference was held by YASA and Kun Hadi with the presence of our colleague Jean Dahdah (FE), who was victim of a car accident and endured three months of coma. The speakers endeavored to convince the audience by rational and emotional arguments. They proved that speed offers no advantages and showed that the parents are the first to suffer. They also confirmed that alcohol consumption is the main cause of car accidents and repeated their slogan: "Don't drink and drive!"

Stephanie T. Hannoun, F.E.

## Job Fair



The Public Relations Department and Placement Office organized their annual Job Fair on the 29th and 30th of April 2010 under the patronage of H.E Boutros Harb, Minister of Labor, held in Friends Hall, where Minister Boutros Harb, NDU President Father Walid Moussa, Mr. Souheil Matar, NDU Director General of Public Relations, and Ms. Nathalie Chelala, Placement Officer, spoke on the employment rate, labor and the graduating students' current situation vis-a-vis employment.

Afterwards, the Fair was held in Exam Halls I & II for two consecutive days, with high-profile companies exhibiting in order to meet with our NDU students and offer them careers for their future.

Below is the list of Companies who joined NDU Job Fair 2010.

- ABC,**
- Abniah Engineering Contracting,**
- Acteos,**
- American Life Insurance Company – ALICO,**
- Azadea Group,**
- Bank Of Beirut,**
- Banque Audi,**
- Banque libano-française**
- Société Nouvelle de la Banque de Syrie et du Liban s.a.l.,**
- BLOM Bank,**
- Bank Byblos,**
- Consolidated Contracting Company – CCC,**
- Crêpaway,**
- Cyberia,**
- Data Quest,**
- Expeditors,**
- Formatech,**
- Hotel Le Royal,**
- Hospital St. George – Ajaltoun,**
- Indevco,**
- Ipsos,**
- International Recruiters & Consultants – IRC,**
- LBC,**
- Lahoud Engineering,**
- Malia Group ,**
- Matta et Associés,**
- Petrofac,**
- Retail Group,**
- Sakr Group,**
- Sodexo Service Liban,**
- Soft Solution,**
- Tecman Industry,**
- Zaatar W Zeit.**



## NORTH LEBANON CAMPUS

### HACCP session in NDU-Barsa



In line with the Continuing Education Program at the University of Notre Dame, the Department of Nursing and Health Sciences at NDU-Barsa arranged a HACCP training session. This training was conducted by Boecker, one of the largest Middle East food safety consulting and training companies, whose certifications are endorsed from the Royal Institute of Public Health in the United Kingdom.

Twenty-four participants attended this training, coming from NDU-NLC, NDU Main Campus and Balamand University. The training extended over two full days, plus a third for a two-hour exam, and was presented by Ms. Hala Makhoul, Boecker's regional Food Safety Manager.

The coordinator of the Nutrition Program at NDU-NLC, Ms. Alia Makhoul, stressed the importance of such certification for the students' future professional life, especially those heading for careers in food management, food production, food quality assurance and hotel management, as hygiene officers, executive chefs and dieticians.

Those who attended this training session reported their great satisfaction, having found this educational experience to be greatly relevant to their future work.

### Barsa Photo Competition



On March 4, at 4 p.m., a photography competition promoted by the FAAD animated Barsa campus. Mrs Dina Nashar Baroud, coordinator of the FAAD, organised the event. The exhibition ran till March 6th.

### Spiritual Reunion



On March 13th there was a spiritual reunion at Barsa bringing together representatives of all three NDU campuses.

## Poetry at Barsa



On March 19 at 16:00 a poetry competition took place at Barsa. Eight secondary schools participated in the event. A Jury composed of three Doctors from the main campus and one from Barsa delivered the first three awards to the winners. The event promoted by the Faculty of Humanities was under the supervision of North Campus Director Fr. Samir Ghsoub.

## Mothers' Day, NLC



At 7 p.m. on March 24th, eve of the Feast of the Annunciation 19:00, an event honouring all the mothers and in particular Mrs Melanie Sfeir Bridi, vice-president of Patriarch Sfeir Foundation, took place at Barsa. The famous Tripoli Choir enchanted the audience with its beautiful singing. To end with, a duo of students from the Music Club sang modern songs, namely Cecile Chehadeh and Bob Moura. A very special cocktail was offered for the occasion.

## Abdallah Bsaibes on GSI

At midday on Monday, March 29th a presentation about Geographic Information Systems was given by Mr. Abdallah Bsaibes in the conference Hall at Barsa Campus, NDU. Mr. Abdallah Bsaibes is the deputy Operations Manager at ESRI Lebanon within Khatib and Alami Consolidated Engineering Company S.A.L.

The presentation began with a short profile about ESRI Lebanon and Khatib and Alami. Then Mr. Bsaibes moved on to introduce GIS concepts such as ArcGIS, in addition to the components and functions of GIS. Afterwards, he introduced the extensive areas where GIS can be of service, such as electricity, water / wastewater/storm water, transportation, energy, municipalities, urban development, real estate, facility management, telecom, mobile solutions, health, education, tourism, and business.



Mr. Walid Zakhem,  
Dr. Chadi Makari,  
Mr. Abdallah Bsaibes,  
Dr. Marie Khair, Mrs  
Dina Nashar Baroud, Dr.  
Dorinne Mattar Haddad.

In addition to the full-time and part-time instructors of NDU Barsa Campus, the audience included NDU students belonging to several majors, who expressed their gratitude and their keen interest in the excellent and informative presentation.

## NLC Open Doors



Around one thousand students from official and private schools visited NDU Barsa Campus (NLC) on Open Doors Day, Friday, April 23rd, to be received by Faculty, Administration, staff and student clubs. The day ended with a meeting in the gymnasium at 17.00, when Campus Director Father Samir Ghsoub distributed trophies to the first three winning teams of the finals of a soccer tournament for secondary schools of the region.

## Barsa Alumni First



The first reunion of NLC alumni took place on Saturday, May 1st, 2010, at Barsa Campus. Present at the gathering were Father Walid Moussa, NDU President, Father Samir Ghsoub, Barsa Director, ex-Directors and many alumni.

## Private Schools



Dr. Assaad Eid, Father Marwan Tabet, Mr. Fadi Yarack, Father Samir Ghsoub, M.P. Nidal Tohmeh and Mr. Imad el-Achkar.

PROBLEMS AND DIFFICULTIES OF THE PRIVATE SCHOOLS IN LEBANON was the topic of the seminar on Friday, April the 16th at Barsa. Represented were most of the private schools in North Lebanon, Mr. Fadi Yarack, Director General of the Ministry of Education, Mr. Imad El Achkar, Director of Private Sector Teaching in Lebanon, Father Marwan Tabet, General Secretary of Catholic Schools in Lebanon, Dr. Assaad Eid representing the President of NDU Father Walid Moussa, and the Right Honorable Nidal Tohmeh, M.P..

## Koura Poets



In cooperation with the Lebanese Social Movements, on Saturday, March 27th a seminar on poets from Al-Koura region took place in Barsa. It was attended by leading personalities from North Lebanon, particularly from Al-Koura

## Art for English



To promote English language skills, on May 1st North Lebanon Campus held a workshop for "Teaching Language through Art". Many university students came from North Lebanon to attend the training, particularly those of the Lebanese University. Mr. Michel Hajj, Coordinator of the Faculty of Humanities, monitored the event.

## SHOUF CAMPUS

### Engineering Club Movie



On Monday, March 8, 2010, Mel Gibson's "The Edge of Darkness" movie was projected during the Lunch Break.

The thriller-action movie was attended by around 25 to 30 students, and Dr. Charbel Zgheib was there to support the Engineering Club in their activities, as he always does.

The ticket price was 3,000 L.L, including popcorn home-made by the members of the club.

The students who attended the event enjoyed the show, admired the idea and encouraged the organizing club to keep on planning fun activities in the future.

### Accreditation Update Workshop at NDU-SC



Dr. Ameen Rihani, Vice President for Academic Affairs, and Dr. Kamal Abouchedid, Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs, visited NDU-SC on April 13, 2010 to acquaint the Shouf Campus family with the latest accreditation process news particularly concerning NDU-Louaize's application to the New England Association for Schools and Colleges (N.E.A.S.C). Faculty members were told of the upcoming visit of the accreditation committee to Lebanon (to all three campuses) between June 14 and 18, 2010, whose main purpose was to substantiate the information reported in the documents compiled for that purpose.

## CEDARCOM Seminar



On April 30, 2010, guest engineers from CEDARCOM presented Be Smart, Go Broadband to the NDU-SC community. This presentation was arranged by Dr. Charbel Zgheib, Coordinator of the Faculty of Engineering at NDU-SC.

Ms. Ola Helal, Sales Engineer and NDU-SC Alumni, gave a synopsis about CEDARCOM, its services, management,

clients and future projects. Mr. Hussein Kais, RF Engineer & NDU-SC Alumnus, talked about the "Mobi technology", its use and network infrastructure.

Mr. Mark Nakhle explained the MPLS and corporate interconnectivity. Mr. Nakhle is a Network Engineer at CEDARCOM. The guests were given a certificate of appreciation from the Shouf Campus Administration.

## Annual Picnic at NDU-SC



On Saturday, May 8, 2010, the NDU-SC family spent a beautiful long day on campus. The program of the day included Mass at 10:00 a.m., a faculty meeting at 11:00, an outdoor seated catered lunch, and games and competitions from 12:00 noon till 5 p.m.

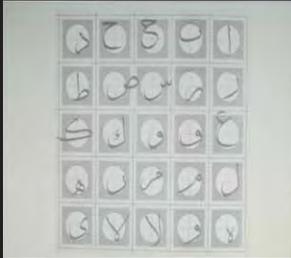
The Mass was dedicated to the memory of the two NDU-SC students who passed away in unfortunate accidents during the past years, to the current students, to the faculty and staff members, to the administrators and to the families of all. Fr. Boutros Bou Nassif's sermon was about the history of the Mar Abda Monastery and of the University in Shouf, both bought and built with love, sacrifice and devotion and deserving care.

A meeting followed that was attended by faculty members and chaired by the Director of the Shouf Campus, Fr. Bou Nassif. The Coordinators were ready to answer any questions or concerns.

Fr. Bou Nassif highlighted his personal convictions, the beliefs that govern the way he sees NDU-SC best administered. First, every teacher is valuable, chosen carefully, and trusted. Second, there must be focus on the "human" aspect of every teacher and student. Third, teachers must excel and make maximum effort. Fourth, "love of life" must shine through everything. Fifth, each one must truly belong to the family by supporting other members, being open-minded to others, believing that being different is beautiful and adds variety, loving his/her place of work, and, most importantly, always having a positive outlook. Sixth, the fruit of belongingness to the University are reaped in terms of peace, joy and flexibility. A special welcome was then extended to the new full-time faculty member at NDU-SC, Dr. Rasha Barbary.

Special Shouf Campus caps and key chains had been prepared for the outdoor part of the day. The day ended with the distribution of cups and certificates to the winners of the activities.

## Cultural Connectives



On April 12, 2010, Ms. Rana Abou Rjeily, invited by Mr. John Kortbawi, Coordinator of the Faculty of Architecture, Art and Design at NDU-SC, gave a lecture on Cultural Connectives. The first part of the lecture was used to introduce Arabic Typeface design for non-Arabic speakers targeting children and adults. Two typeface designs were presented, Moubassat and Jamil.

Secondly, Ms. Abou Rjeily gave an introduction to the book *Cultural Connectives* which is to be published soon. The book explains and presents to non-Arabic speakers basic differences between languages. The Maghribi Font Design, an attempt to design for different Arabic societies, was presented in part three of the lecture, followed by visuals on logo adaptation from Latin to Arabic and vice versa.

## The 2nd Career Counseling Seminar

Tuesday, April 27, 2010



The second Career Counseling seminar discussed writing professional business letters for the job search. The letters discussed were: cover letter, thank you letter (after job interview), informational interview letter, acceptance letter, declining a job offer letter, and response to a rejection letter. The main theme of the seminar was "making a good impression" and "highlighting the communication skills" of applicants in any business letter they write. In addition, it was emphasized that an applicant does not want to "burn the bridges" with potential employers who send him/her a rejection letter. Instead, being professional and addressing the employer in a positive manner is always the best policy because "you never know when your paths may cross again!"

The informational interview letter was the highlight of the seminar since it was a new topic to all participants. This letter is used to request an informational interview from someone within your industry of interest who might help you pinpoint your area of interest; moreover, he/she can answer any question you might have about a particular job. This practice is highly recommended for fresh graduates and senior students because it helps them spot their specific areas of interest within an industry, which is in turn what employers usually look for.

## Cisco Presentation

A presentation was held at NDU-SC by the Skill Point Training Center on April 28, 2010. Invited by Dr. Charbel Zgheib, Coordinator, Faculty of Engineering, Mr. Zaher Mosleh and Mr. Mostafa Tannir took turns to introduce Cisco Networking to the eager students. Mrs. Pamela Doumit introduced the speakers:

Mr. Zaher Mosleh: LMC (legal main contact) for Skill Point Cisco Academy, Curriculum Lead for CCNP at LAU, and Cisco Certificate Instructor.

Mr. Mostafa Tannir: Head of Training Department at Ogero Telecom.

Mr. Mosleh gave an overview of the Cisco Networking Academy program and the different levels of Cisco certifications: CCNA, CCNA Security, and CCNP. Moreover, he discussed the differences between Cisco Discovery and Exploration. Mr.



Mostafa stressed that Cisco is becoming an integral part of the daily life of any IT professional. At the end of the presentation, everyone who attended got a 25% discount on CCNA 1 course, and six lucky winners out of the large audience got a 50% discount on CCNA 1.

## Enterprise Mobility Solutions

### Dr. Amine Souaidy



Dr. Amine Souaidy explaining

The Faculty of Natural and Applied Sciences at the Shouf Campus invited Dr. Amine Souaidy on March 26, 2010 to deliver a lecture on Enterprise Mobility Solutions. The importance of this topic stems from the fact that enterprises need to make data instantly available to all authorized people wherever they are on the globe.

Dr. Souaidy illustrated to the attendees a real-time Tracking System. Dr. Souaidy added that BMB provides location services to medium and large fleets, using in-vehicle locator hardware, and to mobile devices (Motorola, Intermec or other handhelds). Using Google Earth, he showed detailed street-level maps, with English and Arabic labels, set to show special landmarks and buildings. Dr. Souaidy illustrated Enterprise Asset Management using a very interesting movie. All the attendees were active participants, exchanging Q&A with the speaker in a highly interactive atmosphere. The event was concluded with the speaker receiving curricula vitae from the attendees.

## Central Bank Visit



On April 16, 2010, the Faculty of Business Administration and Economics at NDU- Shouf Campus invited Dr. Makram Bou Nassar, Deputy Director of the Foreign Affairs Department at the Central Bank of Lebanon, to deliver a lecture on the recent measures taken by the Central Bank to encourage lending to new projects, environment friendly projects, student loans, and housing loans. He spoke of Lebanon's high economic growth in 2009, expatriate remittances at USD 7 billion, a balance of payments surplus of 8 billion and bank deposits of 103 billion, three times Lebanon's GDP, following an annual growth of more than 24%. Banque du Liban foreign assets reached a record USD 30 billion, plus 10 billion in gold.

At the end of the event, Dr. Bou Nassar was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation from the NDU-SC Administration.

## THE OPEN DOORS EVENT- NDU-SC



The annual Open Doors Event at NDU-SC took place this year on April 9, 2010, to welcome high school students from all over the Shouf and Saida, with their teachers, administrators and even their parents.

Faculty, staff, and students representing each of the five faculties available at NDU-SC were ready to answer all the questions about the different programs and services.





All the academic areas and University support services and student clubs were represented with displays, live bands and activities open to all.



Students acted as tour guides who had plenty to tell about their own experiences at NDU-SC. Twenty-one schools, around 750 students, participated despite the cold weather, which did not prevent students and guests from sharing a long line of dabke together under the drizzling rain!



## Health and Engineering



On Wednesday, March 24, 2010, the Faculty of Engineering at NDU-SC invited Mr. Nader Hammoud, Head of the Biomedical Engineering Department at Rafic Hariri University Hospital (RHUH), to introduce the Computer and Communication Engineering (CCE) students to The Role & Importance of CCE Technology in the Healthcare Sector.

Mr. Hammoud summarized the history of medicine throughout history up until the recent need for computer communication

engineers, integral to any hospital. He then presented a quick review of the most recent biomedical services.

As a token of gratitude for such an informative seminar, NDU-SC awarded Mr. Hammoud an Appreciation Certificate from the Shouf Campus Administration.

## ESU Speech Competition



The 10th Annual National Speech Competition was scheduled to take place at LAU, Beirut on April 17, 2010. This year's theme was Speculations on the Future. The two students to win this competition were to be sent to London by the ESU to represent Lebanon in the International Speech Competition on May 19, 2010.

NDU-SC students, as usual, showed extreme enthusiasm and four of them, Rawan Abi Ghanem, Rania Abi Ziki, Nancy Reman and Petra Narch, were practiced in speech delivery by Communication Arts instructor, Ms. Stephanie

Farah. At Main Campus Petra Narch and Rania Abi Ziki were chosen by a jury composed of Dr. Carol Kfoury, Dr. Mary-Angela Willis and Dr. Paul Jahshan to represent NDU, all campuses.

On April 17, 2010, the two students delivered their speeches again in front of the ESU jury; both were commended by the jury members and the audience.

Although not chosen to represent Lebanon in London, they were still very happy to have earned such valuable experience.

## Social

### Obituaries

#### Saad Philippe Kabrita

On May 4th the Faculty of Natural and Applied Sciences announced with deep regret the passing away of Saad Philippe Kabrita, father of Dr. Colette Kabrita Bou Serhal (FNAS) on Monday, May 2nd, 2019.

The Requiem took place in the Greek Catholic Church of Our Lady of the Plain, Jal ad-Deeb, on Wednesday, May 4th.

The editorial staff of NDU Spirit express their sympathy to all the bereaved.

### Births



The Human Resources Department, happily announces the birth of Baby **Simon Gabriel**, son of Christine Abi Khalil Gabriel (Recruitment & PAS Officer - Main Campus), on Monday, April 26, 2010 At 8:30 a.m.

*.....Mother and Baby are in good health.....*

## Why Raising Taxes in Lebanon is Unacceptable

By Dr. Louis Hobeika



The Ministry of Finance is currently preparing the budget for 2010 (March 2010 – Ed.) The task is especially difficult as we have been living for a number of years without approved budgets. The task is however of extreme importance as no government can function without a modern, logical and sustainable budget. The Ministry of Finance seems to recommend the introduction of new taxes and/or increases in some tax rates, specifically raising the VAT rate from 10 to 15% and the tax on interests from 5% to 7%. We understand that the Government needs resources, but it will be unfortunate and unjust to do anything about taxes before undertaking some reforms in administration and in its expenditure system and structure. It will be futile to add new taxes or increase tax rates in the current political and administrative environment.

In any case, the history of tax-rate increases shows globally that they seldom produce much revenue, especially in times of crisis. History shows that the ability to extract higher revenues from the rich is limited. Higher rates simply cause the rich to shift their income from taxable forms to non-taxable forms or to forms that are taxed at a lower rate. Who ends paying the new taxes or the higher tax rates? Obviously, the Middle and Poor Classes of society who are not able to do the necessary local or international shifting of income or expenditure.

Because of the current international financial crisis, many governments are incurring large fiscal deficits. The case of Greece is well known and the country is likely to be supervised soon by the IMF. The United States is living beyond its means due mainly to increasing expenditures as a result of fiscal inter-

vention in the economy, and because of the need to finance the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Between 2007 and 2009, the French budget deficit increased from 2.7% of GDP to 8.3%, therefore increasing its public debt from 64% of GDP in 2007 to 76% in 2009. According to the Maastricht Convention which preceded the European Monetary Union, no country should have a deficit above 3% of GDP and a debt above 60% of the same GDP. We understand therefore the effort that needs to be done on the part of these countries which have misaligned themselves.

When countries are in a fiscal mess, they usually have four ways to deal with it in periods of financial crisis: First, years of austerity, which is what the Obama administration is doing by freezing some expenditures and cancelling others. Second, governments can create inflation directly by over-spending and indirectly by a cooperating central bank which increases the money supply. This will increase nominal revenues and therefore reduce the deficit. Third, countries can devalue their currency in a fixed exchange-rate system or let it depreciate in the market if the system is flexible. Fourth, the government can declare default or implement a debt restructuring plan to be able to pay it back. In the case of Lebanon, to maintain social and political order, only the first policy can be applied and the Lebanese government should do so. To preserve international recognition and help, the Lebanese government should implement a policy of austerity which should be accompanied by some reform of the administrative structure. It is not acceptable to raise taxes when the current government is not even able to appoint senior officials, including the members

of the important banking control commission.

In any case, before adding new taxes or increasing tax rates, the Lebanese government should review the design of the taxation system so that it achieves the three known objectives: to produce the desired level of taxation, to collect it from the target groups of taxpayers within society given its preferences about equality and inequality and to collect the revenue using tax instruments that will minimize the loss in economic efficiency. Joseph Stiglitz, Nobel Prize winner, said that "the optimal tax structure is the one that maximizes society's welfare in which the choice between equity and efficiency best reflects society's attitudes towards these competing goals." Is the Lebanese government undertaking this approach before proposing any increase in taxes?

Finally, to enhance local and international confidence building measures, the Lebanese government should set its priorities in the right order, leaving tax increases to a later date.

## Doit on avoir peur de notre Dette Publique?

By Dr. Louis Hobeika

Professeur d'Economie et de Finance à la NDU

La dette publique libanaise s'élève à plus de 150% du PIB, quelque soient les calculs ou critères adoptés. C'est une dette élevée aux sens absolus et relatifs, étant donnée la conjoncture économique actuelle ainsi que les moyens potentiels du pays à pouvoir la rembourser. Le Liban doit certainement la rembourser moyennant des politiques de rationalisation des dépenses, des réformes administrative et fiscale limitant la corruption, et plus tard à travers une privatisation intelligente et transparente. Le gouvernement libanais ne peut procéder à une augmentation des taux d'imposition avant de montrer au Libanais sa capacité de nommer des fonctionnaires publics, dont les membres de la Commission de Contrôle des Banques, et de prendre des mesures de base limitant les dépenses publiques jugées excessives par les organismes internes et internationaux.

Les problèmes de la dette publique ne sont pas limités au Liban. Les cas récents des Etats Unis d'Amérique et de la Grèce sont très connus. En effet, Le ratio de la dette au PIB s'élevait en 2009 à 67% en Espagne, 72% aux Etats Unis, 83% en Allemagne, 89% au Royaume Uni, et 127% en Grèce, mais tous bien inférieurs à notre taux libanais. La dette provient du cumul des déficits annuels budgétaires continus reflétant un contrôle financier insuffisant ou inadéquat. La dette publique française est passée par exemple de 64% du PIB en 2007 à 76% en 2009 suite aux actions requises pour faire face à la crise financière internationale. Le dernier grand emprunt de la France, bien qu'il s'ajoute évidemment au montant de la dette, a été très bien formulé pour améliorer la productivité du travail tout en investissant dans l'éducation et la recherche. Le grand problème des emprunts publics libanais

c'est qu'ils financent la consommation et non l'investissement, et par conséquent sont néfastes et font rentrer l'état dans un cercle vicieux.

La dette publique provient initialement des déficits budgétaires qui s'élevaient en 2009 à 3% en Chine, 4,5% en Italie, 8% en Inde et 10% aux Etats Unis. Mais la Chine a par ailleurs 2000 milliards de dollars de réserves monétaires et investit 45% de ses recettes publiques dans l'infrastructure, ce qui n'est pas le cas de tout le monde. Entre 2007 et 2009, le déficit public de la France est passé de 2,7% du PIB à 8,3%. Les déficits budgétaires ainsi que la dette publique sont devenus des problèmes mondiaux suite à la crise nécessitant une action commune sous la coordination des institutions internationales telles que la Banque mondiale.

Pour faire face à la crise en 2009 et en milliards de dollars, les Etats Unis ont injecté \$800 dans l'économie à travers les dépenses et les réductions d'impôts, le Japon \$112, l'Allemagne \$106, le Royaume Uni \$28, la Chine \$586 et l'Inde 4,1. Ce sont des dépenses extraordinaires dues à la crise et ne sont pas liées aux structures économiques défailtantes des pays.

Doit-on avoir peur de la dette? La peur constitue une menace plus sérieuse que la dette elle-même. Ce serait une grave erreur de vouloir réabsorber la dette à toute force. Le taux de la dette libanaise doit être réduit par rapport au PIB. La réduction ne peut se faire uniquement à travers le dénominateur, c'est à dire à travers la croissance économique dans une région pleine d'incertitude. Un grand effort est demandé de la part du gouvernement pour re-évaluer

le système et le contenu des dépenses publiques. On ne peut laisser notre administration publique si improductive alors que les taches qu'on lui demande augmentent avec le temps. La réforme fiscale est requise, c'est à dire transformant notre système du régressif actuel au progressif comme c'est le cas des pays émergents modernes et développés. Seule une vision logique des réformes permettrait aux investissements productifs de retourner au pays. C'est très bien d'attirer les dépôts bancaires, quitte à les utiliser pour financer les investissements des petites et moyennes entreprises. Une meilleure gestion de l'état est ainsi requise avant de recourir à une augmentation même minime des taux d'imposition. Le but de la nouvelle vision gouvernementale est de renforcer la confiance des citoyens dans les actions de l'état. Il faut transformer la situation actuelle de méfiance à une situation de confiance permettant d'assainir le dialogue entre le gouvernement libanais d'une part, le secteur privé et la société civile d'autre part. Faut-il avoir peur de la dette? Non, mais il faut bien suivre son évolution pour éviter tout dérapage possible et dangereux.

# Quakes in Lebanon?

By Dr. Layla Khalaf Kairouz

With the recent geoenvironmental hazards that we are witnessing in the world today, a common question hits us: Do we have earthquakes in Lebanon? Will the country be hit by a tsunami? When will this take place??? To answer these questions one should understand the concept of plate tectonics and see what is the share of Lebanon from these plates. The world consists of crustal plates that dynamically move along defined directions. This movement is behind the seismic and volcanic activities in the world. It is along plate boundaries or margins that earthquakes and volcanoes occur. In the Middle East, two major tectonic movements are taking place:

1- The African plate is moving northwards towards Europe, which explains why the Mediterranean has earthquake activity.

2- The Arabian Plate is moving North-East, converging with the Eurasian plate, creating the Taurus-Zagros Mountains from Iran to Turkey. As a result the Dead Sea is opening and forming a Fault System that is a transform margin between the Arabian Plate and the Levantine part of the African Plate. Both are moving northwards but the Arabian plate is moving faster, Figure 1.

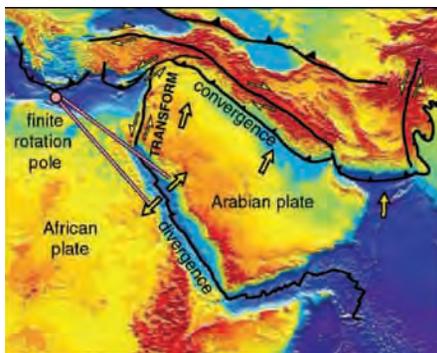


Figure 1- Middle East plates.

Those movements affected the structure of Lebanon and caused an extensive faults system. The faults are potential sites for earthquakes and indeed the historical earthquakes in the country had their epicenters on these faults.

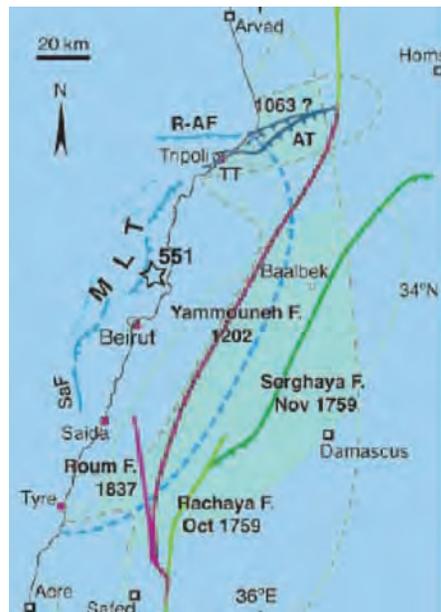


Figure 2- Major faults of Lebanon with indication to the historic earthquakes. In reference to Elias Ata, 2007.

Figure 2, illustrates the most important faults with indication of the reported earthquakes:

- The Yammouneh fault, which is the extension of The Dead Sea Rift System, cuts across the country from South to North: Earthquake year 1202, Bekaa Valley, destruction at Tripoli, Homs and Baalbeck.

- The Rachaya-Sorghaya Fault, another major strike slip fault that roughly parallels the Yammouneh fault: 2 Earthquakes in 1759, magnitudes 6.6 and 7.5 respectively, thousands of deaths, destruction in Beirut and Damascus.

- The Roum Fault, which runs from near Marjayoun towards Beirut, and is believed to be a probable site of the present plate tectonic motion: Earthquake 1837, and the last recent earthquake, 1956, magnitude 6, 6000 homes destroyed and 17000 needing repair and causing a political crisis in the country.

- Submarine Mount Lebanon Thrust Fault. Earthquake 551, moment magnitude 7.5, probably the most devastating

earthquake in the Eastern Mediterranean; a tsunami followed devastating most of the Lebanese coastal cities.

- Moreover, tsunamis can be produced due to tectonic movements in the Mediterranean, since around 525 BC till 1856 AD, tsunamis hitting the shores of Lebanon have been repeatedly recorded.

All the above not only satisfies our curiosity about the occurrence of earthquakes in the country, but more importantly warns of strong to major earthquakes and tsunamis. The fear then leads us to wonder when these destructive events will happen? Would the present scientific knowledge and all of this technological advancement help in predicting earthquakes and enable us to save lives and avoid property damage???

The answer to this is Yes and No....Long-term predictions are only based on probability of recurrence. The Yammouneh fault produces major earthquakes about every 1,000 years; the Mount Lebanon Thrust every 1,500 to 1,750 years. Does this mean that an earthquake and a tsunami are now overdue? It might be in 40 years from now or in 240 years and that is not of a small interval...Besides a seismic event can occur any time...So the Yes is to the fact that we are now certain where an earthquake can take place and our share in the area is quite considerable, But the No is to the short term prediction as to precisely determining when the earthquake will hit. In this respect how can science be of service to society???

Let's get prepared: have a good network of seismic stations that can determine the active faults, determine the zones in Lebanon that are most vulnerable to seismicity and tsunami devastations, prepare risk assessment maps and accordingly develop building codes, enforcing them along with safe land-use planning, plan for disasters and raise public awareness.

The seismic code in Lebanon was implemented since the year 2004, but what about the older buildings? These need to be reinforced too. We are a member of the Mediterranean tsunami detection system; lives can be saved, but we need to protect the coastal structures. Efforts have started, but they are little so

far; we need more vigorous research and expertise in the field, regulations and preparedness are a must. It is a national and institutional as well as an individual responsibility. Lessons from around the world are showing us that earthquake science is saving lives and property in the most actively seismic areas on the

planet, but when they are disregarded great death tolls and destruction follow. It took Beirut more than 1000 years to emerge from the catastrophe of the 551 earthquake and tsunami, Beirut that was known to be the jewel of the Phoenician cities. Do we need another test of time???

## Where I am!

Jonathon Moor Naar

The road took me. I did not take the road, it took me! It brought me here and I forget where I started; all I know is that I am here and am still pushing and going forward. That's usually the case in this world. We do things, our chores or our studies, which for the first time, when they are new, we find rather hard. However, after a while they become a routine by which we live. Events may pass us by as easily as a cool breeze and we find ourselves in a place we know not how we got there.

Well, now I am here trying to recollect bits and pieces of what has happened in the last few years. But my attempts are of no avail. In fact, it is no use thinking about what was, and how it was and why it was. Simply, we should never use track of the essential things in our life, family, friends, education, religion and

all our loved ones. They all affect us, making us who we are and who we become. We are constantly changing and it is the sum of all that is essential in our experience that makes us what we are. Life is a complicated thing, but it is what you make it. It may seem complicated if you look at it in a complicated way but it may be simple. We the human inhabitants of this world complicate matters for ourselves. Some may see this complication as necessary for us to evolve and to prosper in life while others would prefer a simple train of events. There are "pros" and "cons" in everything. We learn the hard way that nothing is perfect for there is always a downside, loss as well as gain, but what we learn keeps us going.

You may, fall, tumble and land in the deepest pit, but, if you analyze your

situation and think calmly and rationally, you will find your way out. However, if you give too much importance to your fall rather than thinking about how to get out, then in the pit you will remain. A grave mistake and or a terrible accident that comes out of the blue may change a person's life. He may blame it on bad luck, other people or even God, but playing the blame game is entirely useless. For those who truly believe in God and hold to their religion, prayer is a power. Prayer, calm nerves, patience and a strong ensure that one can survive any disaster. Ultimately, the world is the way it is thanks to human beings. Some things appear pleasant and others unpleasant, some things appear easy and others hard, but this often depends on the eye of the beholder. What we must do is to adapt and evolve.

## A Client is a Unique Encounter

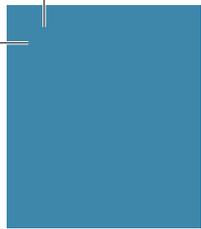
Hani Zarrini,  
Psychology Programme

What can we make of humanity, nowadays in a fragile state of being, living a life without purpose and without regard for others or even for oneself. What can we make out of ingenuity and innovation when all that surrounds us reflects boredom, disgust and anger?

In this century human beings are withdrawing more and more into despair, because they have forgotten the values that make us human, such as tolerance, patience, forgiveness and the cardinal virtues. If there is an increase in psychological disorders in this world, one may

safely conclude that it stems from our loneliness and disappointment.

In Counselling Psychology, the area for exploration of the human being is vast, even limitless. Its techniques vary, but all pursue one objective, a better quality



of life, a better living. Such quality is essential in order to care for and to preserve the human being, so that he or she may be able to preserve others around.

Thus every client is a unique encounter. Every client is a possibility for hope, hope that humanity may again be healed from its instinctual habits and re-integrate itself into the world of ethics, values and mutual respect. Counselling Psychology then brings many revelations to the client; in therapy, the client accepts mortality and his or her weak condition, and faces reality with robust feeling and with the readiness that the counselling tries to prepare him for.

All human beings have to face up to the realities before them, and it is failure to do so that provokes psychological disorders. This condition has been described by psychologists Erich Fromm, Alfred Adler, Carl Jung and many others who have promoted psychology and endowed it with the various techniques that allow people to be more connected with their inner selves and to better understand their identity and potential. Indeed, each individual is different, so what applies for one person does not apply for the next. The era of specialisation and individualism has made all that perfectly clear; we must all learn that difference in a certain sense unites us as human beings and gives meaning to our lives.

Clients submitting themselves to Counselling Psychology understand that the choice they have made in taking this road will lead them to a point where they will have to face everything that made them what they are. "Tis then," according to Alfred Lord Tennyson, "I am part of all that I have met," so we can really associate ourselves with the events that marked us in our lives and made us the people we are.

Such is the client, an ordinary human being with a particular background, differing through the events encountered along one particular path in life. Ordinary people live with problems just

as psychologists do, so the implication is clear; in psychology there are no boundaries for revelations and explorations, but always constant interpretation and analysis, all of which brings forth a conglomerate understanding that life must be dealt with, storms must be weathered and fears faced up to so the client can achieve harmony with reality. Clients under counselling come from very varied backgrounds; these may be multicultural, with language barriers, or ones exposing to traumas and shocks. Clients may come from small and fanatic religious communities or from the loneliness of metropolitan cities. Clients with problems and difficulties arising from race, creed or colour are all welcome to a therapy whose approach is multicultural.

Every client has a particular story to tell when engaged in conversation and dialogue with the therapist, each is haunted by a particular picture, image of history. There are many tragedies in life as well as joys, but in times of joy we are carefree, while sorrow draws us closer into ourselves. By its very nature, Counselling Psychology deals with human problems, and humanity is ever-changing with its varying traditions, customs, values and norms, so it must evolve with humanity and enlarge its understanding of the human being. It accepts human beings from everywhere, whatever their condition, with their trauma and disappointments, whether they be black or white, male or female, homosexual or heterosexual.

It is by embracing difference that we become human; if we were all homogeneous, we would have nothing to share, nothing to think of or create, all belonging in the wilderness. It is thought and reflection that make us human beings, not the material things that we may possess or acquire.

Every client is indeed an encounter. Some clients tell a story too familiar to us therapists, a story of sorrow, neglect, loneliness, struggles to belong and to feel loved and cared for. As ordinary

human beings whose profession it is to actively listen, we also have some personal experience of these stories and the emotions they entail.

Exploring a client's problem is no easy task; each client has a burden, an ache, a feeling of despair, and it is important to know how to communicate and to help the client elaborate, for as different as clients may be, as strange as they may seem, all want to openly voice their worries, casting out their fears. They want to externalise their emotions in a healthy manner that provides security, wellbeing and comfort, for themselves and for those around them. It is up to the psychologist to choose the appropriate therapy and techniques and to actively listen and communicate. It is important to consider the many different types of people, and to respect and embrace their diversity.

This will help us to be truly good practising psychologists.

Finally, clients will always have their different views and opinions that are the results of their upbringing, childhood, adolescence and environment. These will affect their thoughts and cognition, which may not seem right to us, but we are as human as they are and as such we must never judge, label or categorise them.

They deserve our respect for their human side, no matter what atrocities they may have been guilty of, no matter how strange they may seem; we must preserve in them a sense of having a higher status, of belonging to humanity.

## Something for your Grey Matter

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				36			37			
38						39				

### Crossword

**Across:** 1. hot vapour 4. magical incantation 7. enthusiasm 8. reserve piece 11. twelve 12. dealing with 14. indicator 16. in the morning 19. popular game 23. wander (Byron stopped doing this at night.) 24. decay 25. particle 27. for every country 30. beer 31. it captures waves 34. buy for the house 36. pinch 37. woody vegetation 38. reduction on price 39. employ

**Down:** 1. place for World Cup 2010 (two words 5/5) 2. prop for artists 3. aquatic defence 4. unhappy 5. schemer 6. long fast 7. Eleatic philosopher 9. Pennsylvania 10. tear 13. US soldier 15. show, expose 17. satellite 16. abnormal, not true to type 20. riverside mammal 21. prevaricator 22. piece of land property 26. dark spells 28. back of the neck 29. smallest 32. universal mother 33. untruth 35. mineral

**Question:** Which way do the hands of a clock turn?

### Answers to Issue 48:

#### Crossword

**Across:** 1. research. 6. asp 8. even 9. opal 12. aerial 15. lasers 16. ignominy 18. imam 19. van 20. Ra 21. L.A. 22. ere 23. e.g. 24. gas 26. ease 28. falsetto 30. reshape 33. pales 34. skin 36. ached 39. pin 40. toll 41. ode 42. newt 43. pop

**Down:** 1. reading 2. eve 3. serials 4. enigma 5. holiness 6. ale 7. passage 10. pan 11. asymmetric 13. an 14. love 17. mar 20. resolved 25. of(f)al 27. at (ape) 29. lesion 30. rasp 31. spine 32. Han 35. kin 36. alp 37. hop 38. den

#### Vocabulary

1. School of fish 2. Swarm of insects 3. Flock of starlings 4. Gaggle of geese (or flock) 5. Pride of lions 6. Pack of wolves 7. Pod of whales 8. Herd of cattle 9. Clutch of eggs 10. Set/ service of cups and saucers

**Question:** The hands of a clock turn in an anti-clockwise direction. If you do not believe this, imagine you are a clock and turn your arms like the hands of a clock. For the hours 10, 11, 12, 1, 2, your arm will pass over your head from right to left!

**Down:** 1. South Africa 2. easel 3. moat 4. sad 5. plot-moon 18. aberrant 20. otter 21. liar 22. lot 26. nights 28. nape 29. least 32. Eve 33. lie 35. ore

**Across:** 1. steam 4. spell 7. zeal 8. spare 11. dozen 12. treating 14. pointer (also hunting dog that points to wild-fowl) 16. A.M. 19 football 23. rove (Lord Byron: "...so I'll go no more a-roving so late into the night...") 24. rot 25. ion 27. international 30. ale 31. aerial 34. shop 36. nip 37. trees 38. rebate 39. use

#### Crossword

#### Answers to Issue 49