

The Kozhaya and Nora Akiki Internship Grant Awarded to Shereen Mahshi

November 2011

LERC has always been active in providing internships for interested local and international students since the day it was established. Because of the close connection that Ms. Hourani and the Akiki family share, Mr. Kozhaya Akiki offered to contribute funds to establish a grant for LERC's internship program.

Mr. Kozhaya Akiki has been a friend of, and believer in, LERC since the first time he visited the Center. His annual visits to Lebanon from Tupper Lake in New York with his late wife included a stopover at LERC.

His commitment to LERC's mission of being the collective memory of the Lebanese emigration led him to share his family migration story by donating to the Lebanese Emigration Archives and Database (LEAD) family photos, a book of memories he lovingly put together in memory of his late wife, a sample of her obituaries, and press articles that trace the Akiki family accomplishments. The materials donated are assembled in the Kozhaya Akiki Collection at the Museum in NDU.

Inspired by his own warm feelings, he has established the grant that aims to assist students who are following an internship at LERC. The Kozhaya and Nora Akiki Internship Grant will provide some financial assistance for local Lebanese students to intern at LERC during the transition period between graduating and finding a job.

Following a public announcement, LERC received tens of applications. The committee that reviewed the application unanimously awarded Shereen Mahshi the \$1,000 grant in November 2011.

Shereen Mahshi holds a B.A. in International Affairs and Diplomacy from the Faculty of Political Science, Public Administration and Diplomacy of Notre Dame University. Ms. Mahshi was involved in the Club of International Relations (CIR) as treasurer in the academic year 2009-2010 and as Vice President in 2010-2011. She previously worked as intern in the Honorary

General Consulate of Ghana in Lebanon as the consulate's assistant. In the summer of 2011, Shereen went to Switzerland to participate in the interns program at the Initiatives of Change organization. She is also active in local Non-Governmental Organizations such as Moral Re-armament Lebanon and Lebanese Association for Democratic Elections. Shereen has volunteered with UNDP/UNV during the "2nd Meeting for Member State Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions" in September 2011 as operations assistant in coordination with the Lebanese Mine Action Center and also with UNESCO Regional Bureau for "The Regional Expert Meeting on Youth Civic Engagement".

Shereen will intern at LERC for three months, during which she will work as a research assistant, project manager and office coordinator, hoping that this will not be the last collaboration with LERC. Ms. Mahshi is grateful to the Akiki family for this invaluable opportunity and hopes that others will follow suit.