

***Student and former member Julie Issa visits LERC***

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2011, LERC, NDU

Reported by Elie Nabhan

The Lebanese Emigration Research Center welcomed to its premises, Ms. Julie Issa, a US citizen of Lebanese descent, with a Lebanese father and French mother. Ms. Issa is currently taking a Masters degree in Anthropology at the University of Sussex, in England, with her thesis focusing on the Maronites in Lebanon and the role of the Church in the formation of their identity.

As a former member of LERC, Ms. Issa carried out a few months of research before being evacuated at the height of the Israeli-Lebanese War in 2006. After a year in the United States, she took a job in Spain, where she worked for three years.

Miss Issa took the opportunity of being back in Lebanon to visit LERC and to see how the Center has progressed. After being shown LERC's electronic archives Ms. Issa was given a tour of the Lebanon Migration Nucleus Museum at NDU, where she showed an intense interest in all the materials displayed.



Ms. J. Issa pictured at the Lebanon Migration Nucleus Museum at NDU (July 2011).

LERC's Director Ms. Guita Hourani discussed with Ms. Issa matters relating to her thesis subject and provided her with material on Maronite identity formation among emigrants, the mysticism of land in the Maronite identity, and other material related to her topic.

Upon leaving, Ms. Issa commended LERC for the importance of its work. “This is indeed an inspiration for continued research into our roots,” she said while promising to maintain links with the Center and to contribute in any way possible.