

Director of the Learning to CARE Institute and three interns seek out LERC

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Reported by Shereen Mahshi

Director of the Learning to CARE Institute, Dr. Patricia Nabti along with three interns, working with her on developing a program for descendents of Lebanese emigrants, visited the Lebanese Emigration Research Center to re-establish contact with Director Hourani on all aspects of the Center's work.

Dr. Patricia Nabti has a PhD in Cultural Anthropology from the University of California, Berkeley, with a focus on the Arab World. Dr. Nabti also holds a BA in Political Science and MA in Education from Stanford University. Her thesis *International Emigration from a Lebanese Village: Bishmizzinis on Six Continents* studied Lebanese migration over a 100-year period, taking the village of Bishmizzine, al-Kourah in Lebanon as a case study. She is the Regional Representative to the Arab Nations for the International Association for Volunteer Effort (IAVE).

Learning to CARE Institute is a social venture that provides consulting and training on all aspects of volunteerism, as well as providing quality EcoVolunTours of Lebanon, particularly for those of Lebanese heritage. They are currently working on developing a 'Heritage Volunteer Program' that offers college students and graduates of Lebanese and other Arab heritage to come to Lebanon for 3-4 weeks to learn, volunteer, tour the country, and have a great time.

Dr. Nabti is also conducting a research that is a sequel to the research which was published as a doctoral thesis in 1989. As a LERC associate, she will be working on the genealogy of the people of Bishmizzine and the project will consist of entering the 1989 data into modern genealogical software and making the data more complete both back in time, through reviewing government records, and forward in time, through the help of people in the village. This will allow for more advanced analysis of kinship, patterns of migration and return, and the extent that those in the Lebanese diaspora keep contact with Lebanon and maintain their official registration and citizenship, again using Bishmizzine as a case study.

Dr. Nabti and her three interns met with Director Hourani and LERC's Chief Indexer and Archivist Mrs. Haddad, who introduced them to LERC's work and archived data.