

## *Sociedad Los Hijos de Darbeshtar at LERC*

*Jasmin Lilian Diab, LERC*

*August 12, 2014*

The Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) Lebanese Emigration and Research Center (LERC) Liaison Officer to Latin America Mr. Roberto Khatlab invited to the LERC Mr. Juan José Reyes, President of the Uruguayan Sociedad Los Hijos de Darbeshtar (Society of the Sons of Darbeshtar) and Director of Centro de Estudios e Culturas da América Latina (CECAL), on his first-ever visit to Lebanon, along with Ambassador of Uruguay to Lebanon Dr. Marta Ines Pizzanelli.

The LERC Chief Indexer and Archivist Ms. Liliane Haddad gave Mr. Reyes a tour of the Center's archival database and the Center's museum, before discussing his family history with her and the attendees at the gathering. Mr. Reyes's great-great-grandfather, Mr. Youssef Rizk Hammoura, migrated to Uruguay in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, and the family has lived there ever since. This is his first visit to Lebanon; he decided to visit the Center to which he has been donating a monthly publication of his society titled, *Los Hijos Dabershtar*. Mr. Reyes is from the area of Darbeshtar, Lebanon, and he visited the area for the first time on this trip.



*(from left )Ms. Haddad, Dr. Pizzanelli, Mr. Reyes, Ms. Elsa Brambillasca Apud (member of Los Hijos de Darbeshtar), and Mr. Khatlab at the LERC (August 12, 2014)*

Mr. Reyes praised the LERC's efforts in its quest to immortalize Lebanese migration, and stated that it was one of the highlights of his trip. He also donated and established a personal collection in his name, which he promises to expand in the years to come.