



P.O. Box 72 Zouk Michael
Zouk Mosbeh, Lebanon
Phone 961 9 218 950 Ext. 2462 - 2135
Fax 961 9 224803
www.ndu.edu.lb
aarihani@ndu.edu.lb

Message from the President

In a continuously changing world it is essential to clarify our thematic priorities in higher education.

Several major ideas could be highlighted in this context. Sustainable development became an upfront issue as a follow-up to the Johannesburg World Summit (August 26 – September 4, 2002) as did possible contribution of the universities around the planet to global higher education and sustainable partnership. This requires, among other things, an electronic information scheme, knowledge of life support systems, and the cross-cultural cooperation between university students of developing countries and their counterparts in developed and industrialized countries.

Globalization is another priority. It is becoming imperative to accept the impact of international factors on the cultural backgrounds and the intellectual capacities of individuals as well as of local, regional and global institutions and industrial firms around the world.

This whole spectrum ranges between more defined issues such as world trade, migration movements, transnational education, and other less defined issues like international affairs, conflict resolution, world diplomacy, cultural dialogue and others.

One of the objectives of NDU Chronicle is to reach out to all our friends in the five continents and try to start a limited, but effective, dialogue starting with our news and concerns and comments and observations that eventually will create the expected healthy dialogue.

Your reactions to this first issue of the NDU Chronicle will be welcome.

Rev. Fr. Boutros Tarabay, President
Notre Dame University
Lebanon

Ray LaHood Guest Speaker

Congressman Ray LaHood paid a three-day visit to NDU for three days, July 08-10, 2004, where he was the guest speaker for the graduation ceremony on Friday, July 9. The audience exceeded 4000 people, and the event was fully covered by the media. Congressman LaHood made the tour of the campus and had several meetings with the President of the University, Vice Presidents, Deans of Faculties, and faculty and staff members.

Following is part of his speech:

"...Civility means knowing that raising the level of your voice doesn't raise the level of the discussion. Civility means realizing that paths of common courtesy can reach peaks of uncommon progress. Civility means being witty without being mean, being clever without being malicious, and being principled without being fanatical. Civility means believing in the power of reason to influence public debate, while still well aware of the power of irrationality in public life.

"Democracy, at its best, is a system in which ideas are fiercely debated but in which individuals are respected. Or, as the old saying has it, we can disagree without becoming disagreeable. But it means to me, public debate has degenerated in recent years into name calling, questioning of motives, self-righteousness, and a kind of formalized bitterness.

"Anger has replaced reason as our reigning public ideal. Anger seems to some Americans to be a legitimizing factor allowing them to treat opponents with disrespect and suspicion. They seem to say: 'I am angry; therefore, I am entitled to disregard rules of common courtesy. Why should I bother with the hypocrisy of politeness? I am right. Everyone who disagrees with me is not only wrong, but evil.' That attitude, I fear, is becoming more and more prevalent, but mutual respect in public affairs isn't hypocrisy. It is the result of a reasoned judgment, based on centuries of experience, that in a democracy we cannot cooperate for the common good if we will not participate in common decency.

"Civility is the public embodiment of the Golden Rule: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." ...

NDU in USA

From a Report by Dr. Ameen Rihani,
NDU Vice President for Research
and Development



01



02

Washington D.C

NDU participated in the Annual Conference for Catholic Universities (ACCU) with a paper on Identity and Mission. The paper focused on the three dimensions of NDU's identity, namely: the Catholic Maronite heritage with its Oriental spiritual background in the Middle East; the Lebanese social and intellectual components with their national sense of commitment; and the American dimension through the adoption and implementation of the curriculum based on the standards and values that characterize the American system of higher education.

Several meetings took place with NDU lawyer Mr. Albert Mokhaiber to discuss other strategies for the fundraising campaign. A series of meetings was held with people with a strong background and expertise in the field. Ms. Tania Rahhal, (the sister of Senator Nick Rahhal), visited the NDU Office in DC, and expressed her willingness to cooperate and help building our connection network. For three consecutive days, meetings took place with Mr. Michael Saba, who at our request sent us a proposal on a fundraising strategy. A fourth meeting took place with Mr. Rick Swartz, President of the Public Strategies Group (PSG). The DC Office Administrator, Mr. Ray Richards, was also asked to provide us with a list of fundraising agencies.

A series of meetings took place at Georgetown University, particularly with Dr. Theodore Moran, Director of the Program in International Business Diplomacy, and Dr. Michael Hudson, Professor of International Relations at the Center for Contemporary Arab Studies. Meetings took place also at the American University specifically with Dr. Samih Farsoun, who was recently appointed as the Dean of Arts and Science at the newly established American University in Kuwait; Professor Louis Goodman, Dean of the School of International Service, and Dr. James Lee, the Associate Director for the Center of Teaching Excellence.

Pittsburgh

Two meetings with interested friends of NDU took place in Pittsburgh, one at the residence of Father Jim Root and the other at that of Dr. Tom and Mrs. Martha Michael. Ms. Theresa Michael was instrumental in following up on the matter. It was decided that before the end of February a first official meeting will take place to select the Executive Committee and that the new Chapter of American Friends of NDU (AFNDU) will be announced in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Several meetings took place with administrators in the two major universities in Pittsburgh, namely Carnegie Mellon University and the University of Pittsburgh. At Carnegie Mellon, meetings were held with Dr. Indira Nair, Vice Provost for Education, who introduced us to Dr. David Dzombak at the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, and Dr. John Mather, Executive Director of the Masters Programs at the Graduate School of Industrial Administration.

With Ms. Theresa Michael joining the NDU delegation, a meeting took place at the University of Pittsburgh with Dr. William Brustein, Director of University Center for International Studies, Dr. Helen Linn, Committee Relations Coordinator, and Dr. Annagene Yucas, Director of the Study Abroad Office.

01 The members of Washington DC Chapter of the American Friends of NDU.

02 Members of Pittsburgh Chapter of the American Friends of NDU.

NDU in USA (continued)

Detroit

Together with Dr. Nabil Chalhoub, the NDU delegation had several meetings with administrators at Wayne State University. The meetings were held with Dr. Steven Salley, Associate Dean for the Graduate School, Dr. Ralph Kummeler, Interim Dean for the College of Engineering, and Dr. Kenneth Kline, Chair of the Department of Mechanical Engineering.

The discussions resulted in proposing a memorandum of understanding between the two universities. A draft has been prepared by Wayne State University for NDU to review before the signing of the document by both universities.

A meeting of AFNDU in Detroit was held at the NDU Office in Ann Arbor, in the presence of Dr. A. Rihani, Fr. Samir Ghsoub and Fr. Ziad Antoun. The members present were about fifteen in number, including new members of the Association.

Paris

The NDU delegation, including Dr. A. Rihani, Fr. S. Ghsoub and Dr. Simon Haddad, met with Professor Jean-Robert Pitte, President of l'Université de Paris-Sorbonne, Professor Jean-Claude Redonnet, Head of International Relations, Dr. Suk-Ki Hong, Responsible for Communication, and Dr. Lakhdar Sally, Professor of Geo-Politics.

As a result of the discussions and proposals for areas of collaboration, specifically in the areas of research and masters of Geo-Politics, it was suggested that NDU should send a proposal determining its needs with the cooperation expected from the Sorbonne.



03

Agreement with CCSU

NDU and Central Connecticut State University sign agreement

A university cooperation agreement has been signed between NDU and Central Connecticut State University (CCSU), USA.

The President of NDU, Father Boutros Tarabay, and Vice-President Dr. Ameen A. Riahni, paid a visit to CCSU in November 2003, when the agreement was signed between the two universities. Later, during March 2004, NDU received the visit of Dr. Richard Judd, Dr. Karen Beyard, and Dr. Ghassan El-Eid from CCSU.



04

03 Members of the Michigan Chapter of the American Friends of NDU.

04 Left to right:
Dr. Ghassan El Eid, CCSU,
Fr. Boutros Tarabay, President of NDU,
Dr. Richard Judd, President of CCSU
Dr. Ameen Rihani, VP, NDU
Dr. Chahine Ghais, PSPAD, NDU

NDU Office in Washington DC

December 1st, 2003 marked a decisive step forward in the development of NDU with the opening of NDU Office in Washington DC, after it had been earlier blessed by NDU President Father Boutros Tarabay during his visit to the US capital. Father Roger Chicri played an important role as well.

This office, which may be considered one of the most attractive executive office suites in DC, is located on 1717 K street, Suite 600. It is foreseen that all the faculties and departments of the University will contribute towards making the Office a centre of vital activity.

Among its various functions will be the following:

1. Following up on contacts and projects already discussed between NDU and universities in USA.
2. Receiving book orders from NDU and publishing ads. for teaching vacancies.
3. Following up with research institutions already contacted by research centres of NDU.
4. Contacting with the three Chapters of the American Friends of NDU, namely Washington DC, Michigan and Connecticut.

The address is as follows:

NDU Office, Suite 600, 1717 K street, N.W., Washington DC 20036.

Tel. (202) 349-1705

Fax (202) 331-3759

e-mail dc-office@ndu.edu.lb

If an email is sent to the DC Office and there is need for the Office of Research and Development to follow up, the appropriate email should be transmitted to the latter Office (cc).

06 Fr. Boutros Tarabay at the entrance of the NDU office in Washington D.C.

07 Left to right: Fr. Samir Ghsoub, Professor Theodore Moran, Director of the International Business Diplomacy at Georgetown University; and Dr. Ameen Rihani



06



07

WEERC Initiative

The Water Energy and Environment Center (WEERC) of Notre Dame University held a training course for Lebanese and Syrian delegates on negotiations and dispute resolution concerning water resources. This was in collaboration with the Ministry of Electricity and Water and the Economic and Social Commission of West Asia (ESCWA).

The first half of the proceedings took place at the ESCWA premises in Beirut on Wednesday, 22nd October and Thursday morning 23rd, and the second half at the NDU campus on Thursday afternoon and during Friday, 24th October.

The participants were welcomed by NDU President Father Boutros Tarabay; they included the following experts:

- Engineer Kais El-Asad**, Director General of Irrigation for the Orontes Basin,
- Engineer Tarek Ibrahim**, Director General of Irrigation for the Sahel (Naher El-Kabir Basin),
- Engineer Ibrahim Shhadat**, Director General of Irrigation for the Yarmouk Basin.
- Engineer Fadia Abdelnour**, Director of Water Resources.

Also:

- Dr. John Martin Trondalen**, Norwegian expert at the UN and Chairman of COMPASS, arrived from Switzerland,
- Dr. Fadi Comair**, Director of the Lebanese Ministry of Energy and Water (MEW) and Director of the WEERC,
- Mr. Nazir Bandak** from Jordan, and the Engineers of MEW, including all the lecturers.

Father Tarabay recalled that the aim of the Center was to investigate water and energy resources and the state of the environment in Lebanon and the MENA region under its various aspects. Its role was to develop appropriate strategies and to provide training for the proper optimisation and integrated management of water and energy, for a prosperous environment.



05 Left to right:
French Ambassador Philippe Lecourtier,
Fr. Boutros Tarabay, Dr. Fadi Comair,
ex-Minister Adel Cortas,
and Mr. Souheil Matar.

Role of WEERC

On Monday, January 8th, 2004, the NDU Water, Energy and Environment Center (WEERC) organised a talk and discussion, with Doctor Berj Hatjian, Director General of the Ministry of Environment, as speaker. The audience consisted of NDU faculty members, administrators, staff and students.

The guest speaker was first welcomed by Doctor Fadi Comair, Director General of the Ministry of Water and Electricity Resources and Director of the NDU WEERC. Doctor Hatjian then spoke about the work of his ministry in the fields of water resources, reforestation and conservation of the nature reserves, and about the results of its support for NGOs in Lebanon. He stressed the importance of the WEERC in Notre Dame University because of the participation in its work of specialists in various fields, which allowed it to have a general view through its research and fact-finding.

Doctor Hatjian detailed the projects being undertaken together with NGOs, in particular those resulting from cooperation with the United Nations in order to teach farmers how to use substitutes for methyl bromide. He referred to government decree 8006 fixing public health institutions and their operation.

NDU-Microsoft .Net Club

On December 17th, 2003, Microsoft Eastern Mediterranean launched the .Net Club at NDU, in collaboration with the University and with the presence of NDU President, Father Boutros Tarabay.

The .Net Club programme will help connect up IT students with the IT industry through student clubs that will develop relations with Microsoft and local partners and opportunities for practical experience. To support the NDU clubs, Microsoft aims at enabling graduate students to find jobs and to fit into the workforce much more easily.

Mr. Charbel Fakhoury, General Manager for Microsoft Eastern Mediterranean, declared that Microsoft .Net Clubs aimed at facilitating peer networking among university students, local industry partners and Microsoft. Most students graduated from NDU with minimal work experience, but the .Net Club was there to help them realise their full potential.



08 Left to right:
Dr. Ameen Rihani, NDU VP,
Research and Development
Dr. Richard Judd, CCSU President
Fr. Boutros Tarabay, NDU President

CCSU Delegation visits NDU

On March 8, 2004, Dr. Richard Judd, President of Central Connecticut State University (CCSU), held a press conference during his visit to NDU. We remind readers that during the visit to the United States of NDU President Fr. Boutros Tarabay and Dr. Ameen Rihani in November 2003, an agreement was signed between the two universities

Dr. Judd assured his audience that NDU was well placed academically, having highly estimable faculties with multinational characteristics.

Dr. Ghassan el-Eid assured that the new agreement would certainly bring benefits for both universities and have a positive impact on the students at undergraduate and graduate levels.

LERC Forum

The Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) is an ambitious new center of Notre Dame University, which under the active direction of Ms. Guita Haurani, emigration specialist, comes to fill a need at a time when there is a realisation that there are more Lebanese outside Lebanon than in their homeland itself.

The LERC first of all intends to document and to contact Lebanese in positions of influence abroad, starting with university scholars and those in positions of Lebanese community leadership, irrespective, needless to say, of religious affiliation. To bring attention to its activities the Center held a forum in Friends Hall, NDU Main Campus, on Friday, June 27th, 2003 entitled Lebanese Emigration: Impact and Capitalization.

Speakers included:

NDU Director of Public Relations Mr. Suheil Matar,

The Very Reverend Father Boutros Tarabay,
NDU President,

Bishop Munjid Al-Hashem,

Mr. Haytham Jum'aa, The Director General of
Emigrant Affairs,

Dr. Boulos Sarru', NDU Dean of Humanities,

Professor Ameen A. Rihani, NDU Vice President for
Sponsored Research and Development,

Mr. Chadi Mas'ad,

Mrs. Stephanie Shwabsky, Australian Ambassador,

Ambassador Puente Ortega of Mexico dealing with
Lebanese emigration to Africa,

Ambassador Fawzi Salloukh,

Doctor Georges Labaki, NDU Associate Professor,

Mr. Samir Kreidiyeh who surveyed the Arab World,

Doctor Marco Aurélio Machado de Oliveira, Associate
Professor of the History and Humanities Department
at Mato Grosso do Sul Federal University in Brazil.

Dr. Mosbah al-Ahdab, Member of Parliament,

Doctor Elie Yashui', Dean of Business Administration
and Economics, NDU,

Dr. Boutros Labaki, Lebanese University,

Doctor Amal Saleeby Malek, NDU,

Mr. Elie Saab, Chateau Kefraya,

Ambassador Fouad El-Turk,

Ex-minister Doctor Riyadh Tabbara,

Doctor Farid El-Khazen, AUB,

Doctor Latif Abul-Husn, Lebanese University,

Member of Parliament Mr. Dreid Yaghi, and
Ms. Guita Hourani, LERC, NDU.

LERC News

The Whiteness of the Lebanese Emigrants

LERC's researcher Ms. Guita G. Hourani presented a paper at The Eleventh International Congress of the Asociación Latinoamericana de Estudios de Asia y África on Integración y Diversidad: Asia Y Africa En Transformación (Integration and Diversity: Asia and Africa in Transformation) in Mexico, October 2003.

In her paper, Ms. Guita G. Hourani, discussed how Syrian and Lebanese emigrants have undergone different types of classification and different levels of treatment in various countries.

During her visit to Mexico, with the assistance of Mr. Joseph Fares, NDU International Academic Affairs Office, Ms. Hourani conducted meetings for cooperation in the field of emigration studies with His Excellency George Abi Younes, Maronite Bishop of Mexico, and counterparts in the Colegio de Mexico, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, the Centro Lebanese and the Instituto Cultural Mexicano Libanés among others.

Establishing the Friends of LERC

Part of the operational plan of LERC for its second year was to establish its presence and value in the University and the larger civic sphere by developing as many public programs and establishing as many working community partnerships as possible in migration and related fields. University commitment and support is helping LERC in this launching of the Friends of LERC initiative.

LERC Scholarship Fund

LERC was able to secure two Master's awards of Thesis Research Grants for its scholarship fund. Two awards of \$500 US dollars per year will be granted to the best two proposals for MA/MS theses dealing with Lebanese migration. These grants are worthy gifts to encourage MA/MS students to conduct their research in the field of Lebanese migration.

Two members of the Friends of LERC contributed the Feghali Fund and The Sawan Fund. The funds will be available for the academic year of 2005 as of September 2004. NDU students from all fields of studies interested in applying for these funds are encouraged to present themselves at the LERC office to Ms. Guita G. Hourani by July 2004.



09



10

09 Left to right:
Dr. Eugene Sensening-Dabbous and
Mr. Nassib Ghobril - Lecture on April
21, 2004.
Subject: Expatriates' Remittances
and the Lebanese Economy.

10 Audience during the lecture
on Wednesday, April 21, 2004.

The Center's Associated Researchers

The Center is enjoying the benefit of the expertise and knowledge of the following Associated Researchers who are currently associated with LERC:

- Dr. Sarah Gualtieri, Assistant Professor, Loyola University, New Orleans, USA.
- Dr. Johan Garde, Associate Professor and Director of the Institute for Social Religious and Civil Society Studies (ISORCS), Notre Dame University, Lebanon.
- Dr. Eugene Richard Sensenig-Dabbous, Assistant Professor, Political Science Department, Notre Dame University, Lebanon.
- Dr. Paul Tabar, Senior Researcher, The Institute for Cultural Research, University of Western Sydney, Nepean, Australia.

LERC News (continue)

Immigrant's Patriotism

"Wrapping Yourself in the Flag: Immigrant Patriotism in Times of Crisis" was the title of the discussion session organized at NDU by the LERC and the Friends of LERC. The discussion was moderated by Dr. Dima Dabbous-Sensenig, professor of Media Studies at LAU, Byblos, and Dr. Eugene Sensenig-Dabbous, professor of Political Science at NDU and an Affiliate Researcher at LERC, in the presence of the President of NDU Father Boutros Tarabay, deans, professors, students and interested parties.

After an introduction by the Coordinator of the Friends of LERC, Mr. Ameen Nehmé, excerpts from the movie "The Siege" starring the Lebanese-American actor Tony Shalhoub were projected. The projection was followed by a presentation by Dr. Dima Dabbous-Sensenig in which she tackled the concept of Arab stereotyping in Western media and considered that "Arabs are stereotyped in general, but the picture that the movie reflected of Arabs, through the person of Shalhoub, who played the role of a Lebanese-Shiite FBI agent, was positive and showed that this Arab-American was upholding the constitution despite the inner struggle he was living due to the imprisonment of his son for the fact of being an Arab."

For his part, Dr. Eugene Sensenig-Dabbous talked at length and in detail about the immigrants, the minorities, the indigenous people and the marginalized groups such as women, the handicapped and others and about how they used their patriotism as a means to fight against the discrimination that was practiced on them and to achieve their inalienable and intrinsic rights according the Charter of Human Rights.

Dr. Sensenig-Dabbous referred to the different epochs in modern American history when the claws of discrimination and stereotyping targeted Native Americans, African Americans, Jews, Japanese and Hispanics; and, today, these same claws are directed towards Arabs in general.

Expatriates' Remittances

On Wednesday, 21st April, 2004, under the auspices of NDU LERC and the Friends of LERC, Mr. Nassib Ghobril, head of research at the Saradar Investment House SAL, gave a talk at the NDU Auditorium under the title 'Expatriates' Remittances and the Lebanese Economy: Brain Drain or Economic Gain?'

The lecture was attended by NDU President, Father Boutros Tarabay, NDU Vice President for Research and Development Dr. Ameen Rihani, LERC Responsible Researcher Ms. Guita Hourani, US Ambassador H.E. Vincent Battle, First Secretaries of the Australian, Mexican and Japanese Embassies, Ms. Julia Dixon, Mr. Tonatihu Romero, and Mr. Keisuke Yamanaka respectively, and Mr. Abdo Jeffi, Vice Chairman of Saradar Bank.

IBER Best Paper Award (USA)

Won by Dr. Viviane Y. Naïmy of NDU

The International Business and Economics Research Conference, (IBER), organised by the accredited academic journal. The International Business and Economics Research Journal, listed in Cabell's, was held in Nevada, USA, from October 6-10, 2003.

Thirty-six countries were represented at this conference. Most of the front-line researchers and academicians were from USA, Canada, Korea, Germany, the United Kingdom and Lebanon.

NDU was represented by Dr. Viviane Y. Naïmy, faculty member at the Faculty of Business Administration and Economics, who won the Best Paper Award in the field of Finance.

Fulbright for FAAD Student

Mr. Joseph Chartouni, Architecture graduate of the Faculty of Architecture, Art and Design (FAAD), NDU, received a letter dated 25.09.2003 from Elizabeth Wharton, Cultural Affairs Officer of the United States Embassy in Beirut, congratulating him on his nomination for the Fulbright student scholarship for the academic years 2004-2006.

The letter pointed out that while the nomination was not itself a guarantee, it was rare for the Foreign Scholarship Board in the US to overrule such a nomination. This nomination was subsequently confirmed.

NDU Graduates in American Universities

NDU graduates have been accepted at major universities in North America to pursue their higher education for MA/MS, MBA and/or Ph.D. programs.

Examples: Harvard, Cornell, Georgetown University, Tufts, George Washington University, McGill, Concordia, American University – Washington DC, University of Nevada – Reno, etc.