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Message From The President

Facing the Challenge...

As the end of the academic year approaches, for some of us time drags on and for others it presses. We find ourselves overwhelmed with plans and with worries- preparing and taking finals, presenting and assessing reports, submitting reports for evaluation. Commencement Day is approaching, the tensely awaited moment. It is the celebration of achievement, and now with summer here, it is time to rest and enjoy the vacation.

However, in the midst of all this excitement, the end of the academic year for us at NDU is a time to sit together and reflect on what we have achieved during the past year. It is a time to identify failures and successes, and to recognize the former and celebrate the latter. Our failures call us to intensify our effort. **Henry Ford** stated, *"Failure is only the opportunity to begin again more intelligently."* While **Albert Einstein** later added, *"In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity."*

In fact, today's failures become tomorrow's success. Our failures are today's challenges that we can transform into opportunities. They present the opportunity to discover who we are, the opportunity to improve ourselves, the opportunity to prove our abilities and to uncover our deeper powers, and finally, the opportunity to succeed. On the way to success, challenges are inherent steps that we cannot avoid; they are the place where courage and knowledge meet. The obstacles we overcome measure our success. Actually, life is built on challenges that help refine it, and the levels of difficulty in life determine the levels of exaltation whenever victory is achieved. That is how we gain experience! That is how we build our history!

Whenever we are challenged by any difficulty, problem, or failure, let us not stumble and become paralyzed, rather let us be solution-oriented, let us build the systems to decrease the chance of failure, let us modify our approach. For failure as defined by the late **William Arthur Ward** is not fatal. Failure should be our

teacher, nor our undertaker. It should challenge us to new heights of accomplishments, not pull us to new depths of despair.

Last year, around this time, I reminded you that our mission is to inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more, and become more-for success is as being born in the womb of dreams. So, I invite you to provide a wide horizon for the dreams of our youth and pave the path to success for them. This year, I would like to add, paraphrasing America's foremost business philosopher, **Jim Rohn**, that the path to success requires strength but not roughness, kindness but not weakness, boldness and not cowardice, thoughtfulness and not laziness, humility but not timidity, pride and not arrogance, humor but not folly.

Let us transform failures into successes and turn all the challenges we face into opportunities. Let us look to a future filled with hope and the will to achieve.



Fr. Walid Moussa
President

In this issue

• President's Message	01	• Parolin Lecture	10
• Trip of the President and Dr. Eid to USA and Canada	02	• Honorary Consul of Nigeria	11
• Trips of President: Italy, Texas, Paris	03	• Lecture by Swedish-Lebanese professor	12
• Trips of Dr. Eid to Lisbon and Cyprus	04	• Brazilian poster: Carioca	13
• Panel Discussion Series Report	05	• MOUs	14
• Trorient Concert	06	• AFNDU Scholarship	15
• Beirut Water Week	07	• Alumni Awards	16
• Results of AVSI Project	08	• Martyr's Day Lebanese Army Celebration	17
• April 29, 2009, Ekaterina Kovrikova Concert	09	• Commencement Ceremony	18
• April 30, 2009, Reflexive Thinking Session	10	• Publications Abstracts 2008-2009	19

Visit to USA and Canada

With NDU Friends in D.C. 

 **Left:** with Bishop J. Khoury in Montreal

Right: with NDU Friends in Montreal



On January 30, 2009, Fr. Walid Moussa and Dr. Assaad Eid went on a two-week trip to both the United States and Canada. On the agenda were several events:

- A. The 2009 Annual Meeting of the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities (ACCU)
- B. The 91st Annual Meeting of the American Council on Education (ACE)
- C. Visits to Concordia University, University of Ottawa and Carleton University.
- D. Meetings with the American and Canadian friends of NDU

A. The 2009 ACCU Annual Meeting: Jan. 30 – Feb. 2

The 2009 ACCU Annual Meeting featured a number of plenary sessions and panels on “Higher Education: Hopeful Leadership and Unimagined Challenges”. During the three-day meeting, discussions among participants focused on the following issues:

- Catholic Higher Education as an ‘Apostolate of Hope’
- University and Church: Facing the Future Together
- Fundraising in a Climate of Volatile Investment Performance
- Inspiring the Next Generation of Campus Leaders.

Also, the meeting provided excellent opportunities for presidents and vice presidents to discuss and exchange views on better ways by which partnerships and cooperative relationships may be enhanced.

B. The 91st ACE Annual Meeting: Feb.7-10

This year’s annual meeting, titled “Collective Foresight”, has been carefully programmed to allow all attendees to participate in

sessions that identify emerging trends in higher education and the impact they will have on American universities as well as those overseas. Areas of focus were:

- Access, Success, Equity and Diversity
- Institutional Effectiveness
- Lifelong learning
- Internationalization.

On the other hand, the meeting provided excellent opportunities for participants to discuss ways by which partnerships and cooperative relationships may be enhanced.

C. Meetings at Concordia University, University of Ottawa and Carleton University: Feb. 4 – 5

On Wednesday, February 4, Fr. Moussa and Dr. Eid visited Concordia University. Catherine Vallejo, Associate Vice President (International), Dr. Louise Dandurand, Vice President, Research and Graduate Studies, and Professor Lorne Switzer welcomed the visitors. At the start, Fr. Moussa gave a brief introduction outlining NDU’s history, goals, achievements and future plans. In her introduction, Vice President Louise Dandurand thanked NDU’s delegation for their visit and called for closer and more extensive cooperation between Concordia and NDU – Louaize. The meeting wound up with a new Memorandum of Cooperation, the draft of which will be communicated to NDU in the near future.

On Thursday, February 5, Fr. Moussa and Dr. Eid visited the University of Ottawa. In attendance were Gilles Breton, Associate Vice President, Academic (International), Professor Abdallah Obeid, Dr. Vicky Salloum, and Mr. Abdallah Abi-Aad.

During the meeting, a new memorandum of agreement was proposed by Dr. Assaad Eid. The proposal was approved, and a first draft will be communicated to NDU before the end of May, 2009.

In the afternoon, Dr. A. Eid visited Carleton University in Ottawa to meet with Dr. Karim A. Karim, Director of the School of Journalism and Communication. The meeting offered an excellent opportunity to discuss mutual interests and needs. It was agreed that a Memorandum of Understanding would be outlined and approved by both universities prior to setting future plans and activities.

D. Meetings with the American and Canadian Friends of NDU: Jan. 31 – Feb. 10

Several meetings with NDU's friends were held in Washington, DC, USA, and Montreal, Canada. Discussions focused on setting an action plan for the year 2009 which would help in:

- Enlarging the pool of friends in the US and Canada.
- Building cultural and educational ties between the Lebanese emigrants and their homeland through providing financial assistance to students who wish to visit Lebanon and at the same time pursue their university studies.
- Providing financial support to NDU students selected to study abroad.
- Enhancing relationship between NDU – Louaize and American and Canadian institutions of higher education.

Fr. Moussa at NDU Choir Performance in Italy



Upon the invitation of Fr. Wissam Abou Nasser (OMM), priest of St. Eugenio parish in Castel Gondolfo, Italy, the Notre Dame University (NDU) choir, directed by Fr. Khalil Rahme, presented a religious recital at the parish church on Friday, 22 May 2009. The following day, Saturday 23 May, the Superior General of the Maronite Mariamite Order, Abbot Semaan Abou Abdo, celebrated a mass at the same church as part of the annual celebrations of St. Eugenio parish.

The NDU Choir also served the mass on Sunday 24 May in the St. Tommaso Church, which is the summer residence of the Pope.



NDU Choir's visit culminated in its participation in the Fifth Gathering of Polyphonic Choirs (Quinta Rassegna Polifonica) at Centro Mariapoli. The choir's harmonious performance greatly impressed the audience. Present were Abbot Abou Abdo; Fr. Walid Moussa, NDU President; Fr. Charbel Mehanna, Delegate of the Order to the Holy See; the Lebanese Ambassador to the Vatican, Mr. Georges Khoury and his wife; the Lebanese Consul Sami Nmeir and Mr. Maurizio Colacchi, Chair of the City Council.

Father Moussa in Texas, USA

Father Walid Moussa, NDU President, visited Houston, Texas, USA, in the last week of May 2009, where the Maronite Parish priest hosted him. Father Moussa held several meetings with NDU's friends and alumni in Houston, Texas. Discussions focused on building a chapter in Houston for the purpose of promoting NDU programs, including the Summer Arabic Program, and encouraging students of Lebanese descent to study at NDU.

In addition, Father Moussa jointly celebrated the mass with the parish priest of the Maronite Parish in Houston. In his address, he briefed the audience on the University's role and called for close relationships between NDU and Lebanese expatriates residing in Houston.

NDU participates in UNESCO 2009 World Conference on Higher Education

Notre Dame University President Father Walid Moussa and Director General of the Public Relations Office Mr. Souhail Matar participated in the UNESCO 2009 World Conference on Higher Education entitled, 'The New Dynamics of Higher Education and Research for Societal Change and Development.' The conference, held between July 5 and 8, 2009, at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, gathered over 1,000 participants from around 150 countries.

The UNESCO World Conference on Higher Education closed on July 8, 2009, with a call to world governments to increase investment in higher education, encourage diversity, and strengthen regional cooperation to serve societal needs.

"At no time in history has it been more important to invest in higher education as a major force in building an inclusive and diverse knowledge society and to advance research, innovation and creativity," states the final communiqué adopted at the end of the conference.

Participants also recognized the abiding relevance of the outcomes and Declaration of the 1998 World Conference on Higher Education and took into account the outcomes and recommendations of the six regional conferences (Cartagena de Indias, Macau, Dakar, New Delhi, Bucharest, and Cairo) as well as the debates and outcomes of this world conference.

At the forum, Father Moussa emphasized the importance of the UNESCO World Conference in providing valuable information and input toward improving and developing higher education in general, and NDU and all other Lebanese Universities in particular.

Dr. Eid Represents NDU at FUCE, Meets University of Cyprus Officials



Dr. Assaad Eid, NDU Vice-President for Sponsored Research and Development, was delegated by NDU President to represent him at the General Assembly of the European Federation of Catholic Universities (FUCE) from May 14 to 16, 2009, at the Université Catholique Portugaise in Lisbon, Portugal. Dr. Eid's participation in discussing the conference theme, 'Students Behavior,' was more than significant.

Dr. Eid also traveled to Cyprus on May 17-18, 2009, and met with University of Cyprus officials, to follow-up on the MOU signed on March 28, 2009. The following subjects were on the agenda:

- Discussion of student exchange, in particular Cypriot students joining the Arabic program at NDU;
- follow-up on the exchange of speakers for the series of lectures on "The MENA Region in Politics;"
- discussion of the Anne Lynch project, 'Developing an Inter-cultural Research Center,' at the University of Cyprus, in partnership with NDU and other Universities in the region.

A Panel Discussion Report

By Prof. Naji Oueijan
Chair of the Organizing Committee



Research has always been one of the primary goals of any university. In carrying out its mission, NDU has always strived to generate knowledge and understanding through research and scholarship in the sciences, humanities, and professional disciplines.

The Panel Discussion Series, "Common Platforms for Bridging World Cultures," sponsored by the Office of the Vice President of Sponsored Research and Development, Notre Dame University, was proposed by Prof. Naji Oueijan to commemorate the EU Year of Cross-cultural and Inter-Cultural Dialogues (2008), to serve as prelude to the forthcoming IAU Annual Conference (International Association of Universities) to take place at NDU during November 2009, and to encourage research activities among NDU faculty members and students. This series of panel discussions address cross-cultural and inter-cultural dialogues as an endeavor to locate common grounds with the "Other." The series of panel discussions were planned for Spring and Fall 2008, and for Spring 2009. The first panel discussion was held on Friday 30 May 2008; the second panel was held on January 21, 2009; and the third panel was held on June 3, 2009.

In each panel, full-time faculty members and selected students from the NDU Faculties addressed a particular theme of cross-cultural dialogue with emphasis on their fields of study. Faculty and student presenters of papers from the same discipline shared sessions, whereby each speaker was given 20 minutes followed by a discussion period equivalent to half the time of presentations.

All panel discussions took place at NDU Friends' Hall. In the first panel, panelists tried to provide answers to the following question:

How and where do cultures meet (Integrate, Compete, and/

or Conflict) in the fields of sciences, arts, humanities, business, and the professional fields? In the second panel, panelists tried to respond to the following theme: How important was/is the Middle Eastern world, more specifically the Arab world, to the West and vice-versa? And in the third panel, panelists answered the following question: What is the role of research of university faculty-members and students in various fields of studies in creating appropriate platforms for cross-cultural dialogue and sustainable development?

Keynote speakers included Prof. Ameen Rihani, VPAA, Prof. Michel Nehme, and H. E. Ambassador of the Royal Norwegian Embassy, Mrs. Aud. Lise Norheim. The first panel included 12 panelists from five Faculties; the second included 17 panelists; and the third included 11 panelists. The number of student-panelists in all three panels was 24; the number of faculty-panelists was 13.

The activities were all successful especially that 24 students were given the chance to present in public their research. The discussions in all three panels were stimulating and enriching and the attendance was better than expected.

Thanks to all members of the Organizing Committee, to Prof. Naji Oueijan, Chair of the Organizing Committee, to Prof. Assad Eid, VPSRD, and to all participants for their support in all three activities.

TriOrient Group Stages Captivating Concert:

“The Dream Regained”



Notre Dame University (NDU) organized a musical event to commemorate Independence Day on November 26, 2008. The TriOrient Group (Amale, Ronza, and Fadia Tomb) performed under the musical direction of Maestro Father Khalil Rahme and artistic direction of Samir Tomb.

The repertoire was divided into two parts, including a selection of tunes from the catalog of the legendary Rahbani Brothers. The nostalgic tunes filled the hall and invoked a wave of reminiscences from a cherished and by-gone era.

Father Walid Moussa, NDU President, addressed the audience, following the screening of a short documentary about the University's present and future. He said:

“This film gave us a brief glimpse into the present status of NDU. It helps us remember how we began in 1987, and how far we have progressed through immense efforts and unwavering responsibilities to become what we are today. Neither state-of-the-art buildings nor facilities existed in the early days; there was just the will and determination to move forward. All our predecessors, from presidents and administrators to professors and staff exerted great effort, dedication, and energy to realize the goals and objectives set by the University.

Thanks to the resolute support and unyielding efforts of the Maronite Mariamite Order, the Board of Trustees, and the Friends of NDU, we became more determined than ever to succeed. However, our human resources have been by far the most significant factor. Without exception, faculty and staff members played a major role in making this University what it is today. Their names and memory will forever rest in our hearts. Today, we stand here in our University with pride in our hearts.

Dear Friends,

The future now rests on your shoulders. It is also your individual and collective responsibility to participate in the development, evolution, and expansion of NDU. This applies to each one of you, according to your capacity, will, and faith.

Our University has never relied on foreign endowments. We thrive through our family; our students' parents that want to provide their children with first-rate education. Today, you, the NDU family, are capable of helping our students in need of financial support through a variety of options. By putting our hands together, we can continue to move NDU forward. Man does not live by bread and prayer alone, but also through hard work and faith.

We continue to give our best to perform our duties toward our students on both the educational and humanitarian fronts. We assist some of our students and provide solutions for special cases. We also encourage creative minds and outstanding human elements. With that said, we have been very generous without compromising our academic excellence. In addition, some friends offer our students scholarships for which we are extremely grateful. However, during these difficult economic times, the needs and concerns have become far greater. But, through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, we have faith that even a widow's penny can perform miracles.”

2nd Beirut Water Week

February 4 - 7, 2009 Beirut, Lebanon



Under the patronage of H. E. the President of the Republic of Lebanon General Michel Suleiman and at the initiative of The Lebanese Ministry of Energy and Water (MEW) General Directorate of Hydraulic and Electrical Resources (GDHER), The 2nd Beirut Water Week "Meeting of Experts and Water Directors in the Mediterranean Basin" was held as a contribution to the Mediterranean Consultation for the 5th World Water Forum. This was organised by the Lebanese Ministry of Energy and Water and the Global Water Partnership - Mediterranean with the support of the Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative and of the Greek Government and the French Government's French Development Agency. The conference was held at the Metropolitan Palace Hotel, Beirut, Lebanon.

At six in the evening on the Wednesday, there was an introductory session with the presence of H.E. Alain Tabourian, Minister of Energy and Water. It was co-chaired by Dr. Fadi Comair, Director General of Hydraulic and Electrical Resources at the Lebanese Ministry of Energy and Water and Director of the Water, Energy and Environment Research Center at NDU, and by Professor Michael Scoullou, Chairman, Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean (GWP-Med). This was followed by a cocktail.

Represented were MED EUWI/Greece with Mr. Emmanuel Kakavelakis, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Greece in Lebanon; GWP with Mr. Aly Kerdany, Network Officer; BLUE PLAN (MAP/UNEP) with Mr. Henri - Luc Thibault, Director; AFD with Mr. Francis Stephan, Director, Lebanon; RED Ethique with Mr. Herve Lainé, President; OIEau with Mr. Jean Francois Donzier, General Director; IME with Mr. Hachmi Kennou, Executive Director; FAO with Mr. Ali Moumen, Representative of FAO in Lebanon; CDR with Mr. Nabil Al Jisr, President; SEMIDE with Mr. Walter Mazzitti, President; ESCWA with Mrs. Anhar Hegazi, Chief of Division, Sustainable Development and Productivity; and the League of Arab States with Mrs. Chahra Ksia, Chief of the Centre of Water and Arab Water Security Studies.

The 2nd Beirut Water Week addressed key IWRM questions particularly in the context of developing the new Strategy on Water in the Mediterranean. These could be summarized as:

How to achieve good water governance at national and local levels around the Mediterranean Basin?

How to limit the effects of climate change in the countries of the region and properly adapt?

- How to manage sustainably the scarce water resources, ensuring access to sufficient quantity and quality of water for the people and nature, through water demand management application?

How to sufficiently finance the water sector?

How to substantially promote education and public awareness on water issues?

How to eliminate the spectre of water wars, particularly in the South-Eastern Mediterranean Basin, by encouraging governments to adopt a participatory policy in management?

Results of the project:

“Integrated River Basin Management, Monitoring and Data Management of Nahr el-Kalb Water Course and Jeita Aquifer”



The main purpose of this research project was to develop an implementation mechanism for integrated river basin management in line with the neighborhood policy between Lebanon and the EU in order to satisfy the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD). This pilot project covers Nahr el-Kalb and Jeita Aquifer and includes several water infrastructures such as Chabrouh Dam for various usages, and benefits a variety of water users including industrial, urban, and agriculture sector. The watercourse is located in Mount Lebanon area, Kesrouan Caza. This water training Framework Directive Organized By Ministry Of Energy And Water (Mew), Water Energy And Environment Research Centre (WEERC), Notre Dame University (NDU), AVSI, ICU Monday, March 30, 2009 Time: 10:00am – 12:30 Pm ,venue WEERC – NDU ,Old Campus NDU 4th floor

Lecturers

Dr. Fadi Comair, General Director of Hydraulic and Electric Resources in the Ministry of Energy and Water

Dr. Alberto Mazzucchelli, Specialist in Water Resources and Hydrology from Milano, Italy

On March 31, 2009, a seminar was held at Friend's Hall, NDU, to present the results of the project. Mr. Souheil Matar, General Director of Public Relations at NDU, opened the first session. Speeches were delivered by Dr. Fadi Comair, Director General of Hydraulic and Electric Resources at the Ministry of Energy and Water; Mr. Marco Perini, AVSI representative in Lebanon; Mr. Jose Antonio Naya, ICU representative in Lebanon; NDU President Father Walid Moussa and H.E. Alain Tabourian, Minister of Energy and Water.

Ekaterina Kovrikova Inspires Audience

Lebanese Center for Societal Research



Beauty, brilliance and technique came together at Issam Fares Hall on Main Campus where Ekaterina Kovrikova brought the haunting musical inspiration of the vastness of Russia, Central Asia, and the melodic genius of Vienna.

NDU reaches out on all sides and this particular evening, Wednesday 29 April 2009, was the fruit of cooperation between the Russian Cultural Center and the Lebanese Center for Societal Research (LCSR) at NDU.

Kovrikova is the winner of international and national contests, and senior lecturer at the Tatar State Pedagogical University. Ever since 1993, she has performed across Tatarstan, Russia, and Europe, including Turkey, in both solo programs and performances with leading ensembles of every region. This particular evening revealed the wide range of her repertoire.

It included pieces by Sergy Rakhmaninov, Milli Balakirev, Alexander Klucharen, Rustum Yuhin, Shamil Sharifullin(Tatar), Aram Khachaturian, Mozart, Bach, Listz, and Schumann. The ceaseless applause was such as to demand an encore. Among the audience included leading members of the University,, NDU President Father Walid Moussa, and various dignitaries.

Kovrikova was presented with an NDU Commemorative Shield, and on her part, she presented Russian icons to Father Moussa and Father Khalil Rahmeh, the musical director. Another shield was presented to the virtuoso by Mr. Suheil Farah, President of the Lebanese-Russian House.

LCSR (NDU) - USEK Seminar

A seminar entitled, *Where are we from Reflexive Thought in Contemporary Societies?* was held on Thursday 30 April 2009 at NDU's Abou Khater Auditorium and on 1 May 2009 at the Salle des Congrès in the University of the Holy Spirit (USEK), Kaslik. NDU's Lebanese Center for Societal Research (LCSR) was the body responsible for planning and organizing.

Dr. Abdo Kahi, Director of LCSR, opened the seminar by presenting the question under study. The study follows fifteen years of research by LCSR, forty seminars and workshops, and the publication of forty books. This question: how does one define liberty, equality and justice, and economic distribution of wealth and equity in the future?

In attendance were scholars from Notre Dame University, The Holy Spirit University (USEK), Saint Joseph University (USJ) and five French and German key note speakers, in addition to Dr. Abdo Kahi, Director of LCSR, and Dr. Assaad Eid, NDU Vice President for Sponsored Research and Development.

Issues pertaining to technology, globalization, religion, politics, human rights were addressed over the two-day seminar.

LERC lecture: Citizenship in the Arab World

Wednesday 25 March 2009, LERC, NDU

Reported by Sara Panossian, LERC Research Assistant, and Elie Nabhan



Dr. Gianluca P. Parolin, author of *Citizenship in the Arab World: Kin, Religion, and Nation State*, gave a riveting lecture at Notre Dame University-Louaizé. Dr. Kamal Abouchédid, Professor and Director for the Center for Applied Research in Education at NDU, introduced Dr. Parolin. Dr. Abouchédid said Dr. Parolin's work was colossal, since the author compared the citizenship laws of twelve Arabic-speaking countries in their original language, i.e. Arabic. The book took five years in the making. Fluent in at least five languages, Dr. Parolin had done research, said Abouchédid, which presented a scholarly achievement.

Dr. Parolin then took the platform. He explained, in particular, the difficulty of finding equivalents for certain terms, such as *citizenship* and Aristotle's *polity* in different languages. With the rise of the modern nation-state, what in the past was referred to as *nationality* is now termed *citizenship*.

Dr. Parolin stated that in order to understand citizenship in Arabic-speaking nations, he looked at the individual through three dimensions: Kin, Religion, and Nation-State. In the twelve Arabic-speaking countries that he studied (Egypt, Iraq, Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Gulf States, Yemen, Sudan, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia, and Algeria), the rights and duties of the individual were shaped by his kin/ family, while at the same

time, the individual was connected to his religious community as well as to the newly formed nation-state. At these three levels of membership, the individual has no choice in becoming a member, because these memberships are created and formed at birth.

He said that in the case of Lebanon, the nationality law remained fundamentally dependent on the Decision 15/S of 1925, which was taken under the French Mandate, even though it was repeatedly amended. He also stated that in Arabic-speaking countries "members of religious minorities endure limitations of citizenship rights" and that "even in a formally secular state like Lebanon (although based on communitarianism: al-ta'ifiyah), the political, social, and demographic equilibrium is so delicate that religion-related aspects of nationality and citizenship stir great political animosity."

Dr. Parolin closed by saying, "Several questions about the definition of nationality and citizenship in the Arab world are still open, due to major thorny issues of international law and regional politics."



The lecture was attended by H.E. Hameed A. Opeleyeru, Ambassador of Nigeria; Mr. Anthony A. Bosah, Head of Chancery at the Embassy of Nigeria; Mr. Jorge M. Baker, Counselor at the Embassy of Mexico, who was accompanied by his wife; Dr. Assaad Eid, the Vice-President for Research and Development at NDU; two visiting colleagues of Dr. Parolin; Dr. Deborah Scolart and Ms. Fabrizia Agosta, the Director of LERC; Ms. Guita Hourani; NDU Professors; LERC staff and Friends of LERC.

LERC Award to Mohammed-Ali Fadlallah, Honorary Consul, Kano, Nigeria

Tuesday 28 April 2009, LERC, NDU

Reported by Basma Abdul Khalek

LERC Project Coordinator

In recognition of the accomplishments of a prominent Lebanese emigrant, the Lebanese Emigration Research Center of NDU gave its award to the Honorary Consul of Lebanon in Kano, Nigeria, Mr. Mohammed-Ali Fadlallah, in a ceremony held at Notre Dame University in the presence of NDU President Father Walid Moussa, Vice-President for Sponsored Research and Development Dr. Assaad Eid, the Ambassador of Nigeria to Lebanon H.E Hameed Opeleyeru, and members of the Nigerian diplomatic mission in Beirut.

The ceremony began with a tour of the Lebanon and Migration Museum at NDU, where the guests were guided around the various collections.





The Director of LERC Ms. Guita Hourani welcomed the guests, among whom were the President of the Lebanese-Nigerian Friendship Association (LENIFRA) Mr. Issam Makarem, its Vice-President Mr. Hani Safieddine, and member of the LENIFRA Board of Trustees Mr. Jawad Roda. Also present were members of the Fadlallah family, including Mr. Haidar Fadlallah, the Consul's brother representing him at the ceremony, the President of the Municipality of Jwaya Mr. Sari Fadlallah, and Mr. Mohammed Hassan Fadlallah, as well as NDU staff, and LERC friends.

NDU's President Father Moussa acknowledged Consul Fadlallah as a distinguished member of the Lebanese community in Nigeria.

He added that the Lebanese Emigration Research Center of Notre Dame University had recognized various individuals who had made outstanding contributions to Lebanese migration communities. Two awards had been given previously, the first to Mr. Roberto Khatlab, a Brazilian-Lebanese, for his many valuable studies on Lebanese emigration to Brazil and the second to Mr. Victor Sahade, a Lebanese-Australian, for his devotion and services to the Lebanese Community in Australia.

Consul Fadlallah was appointed Honorary Consul in Kano, Nigeria, in 1987, and since then has dedicated himself to serving and supporting the Lebanese community and strengthening Lebanese-Nigerian relations. He highlighted the efforts made by NDU to support LERC's research infrastructure and museum, and encouraged emigrant Lebanese to join in this effort.

Following his speech, Father Moussa presented Mr. Haidar Fadlallah with the Acknowledgment Award. In the name of the recipient, Mr. Fadlallah thanked NDU and LERC for this noble initiative that recognizes the accomplishments of various Lebanese emigrants. H.E Mr. Opeloyeru expressed gratitude to NDU for appreciating the role that Consul Fadlallah has played not only in the lives of the Lebanese in Kano but also in sharing his knowledge of Lebanon with those who seek information. H. E. mentioned that when he was appointed to Lebanon he contacted Mr. Fadlallah to familiarize himself with the country and found him to be very erudite and generous.

The event was closed by a presentation given by Ms. Hourani showing the electronic collection of the Lebanese Emigration Archive and Database.

Stockholm Professor at LERC

Thursday 28 May 2009

By Elie Nabhan



Professor Elie Wardini, Head of Middle Eastern Studies at the Department of Oriental Studies at Stockholm University, Sweden,, and a specialist in Arabic and Semitic languages, visited the Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) of Notre Dame University-Louaizé. Director Guita Hourani and LERC Project Coordinator Ms. Basma Abdul Khalek welcomed Professor Wardini to the Center. In a private meeting, Director Hourani introduced Professor Wardini to the infrastructure at LERC, providing him with an overview of its objectives, activities, and current research work.

In turn, Professor Wardini introduced his work and research in the Middle East and Lebanon, particularly his published book, *Lebanese Place-Names (Mount and North Lebanon): A Typology of Regional Variation and Continuity*, which covers 1,724 place-names in the

two districts to document the “present etymologies of these names based on the latest findings in Semitic lexicography, onomastics, and dialectology.”

Further discussion also raised the possibility of Professor Wardini conducting a workshop at LERC during his stay in Lebanon, as well as embarking on a joint project between himself and LERC concerning migration in Sweden.

Professor Wardini was then introduced to the Lebanese Emigration Archives and Database by Mrs. Liliane Haddad and taken on a tour of the Lebanon and Migration Museum at NDU by Mr. Elie Nabhan.

Líbano-Carioca: Essa Gente Mostrando o Seu Valor

Photographic Exhibition in Rio de Janeiro

The Lebanese-Cariocas Show Their Value, exhibition in Rio de Janeiro in Brazil from June 18 to July 17, 2009 is, according to Japanese artist photographer Hélio Shiino, “the result of research on the lives of Lebanese immigrants and their descendents in the City of Rio de Janeiro. The images disclose their celebrations, faces, cuisine, dances, and activities.” The exhibition also “shows their integration into the local population, highlighting the diversity that encompasses nations, cultures and religions.”

This exhibition is the fruit of cooperation between the Photography and General Coordinator Hélio Shiino, and Roberto Khatlab, Liaison Officer for Latin America at LERC-NDU and academic coordinator for the event.

The exhibition, open to the public free of charge, will be held at the State University of Rio de Janeiro - UERJ Space Center MID (Memory, Information and Documentation), Maracanã Rio de Janeiro – RJ, Brazil.

The Exhibit is the outcome of the cooperation of the institutions indicated below. A copy of the photographs will be given by the photographer to LERC.

Event:

FotoRio 2009 - Encontro Internacional de Fotografia do Rio de Janeiro

Cultural Support:

- State University of Rio de Janeiro - UERJ
- Sub-Dean for Extension and Culture - SR-3/UERJ
- Cultural Department - DeCult/SR-3/UERJ
- Speed Lab - Professional Photo Lab
- Notre Dame University - Louaize NDU (Lebanon)
- Lebanese Emigration Research Center – LERC (Lebanon)
- Universidade Federal de Santa Maria - UFSM
- Laboratory of International Studies - Center for Lebanese Studies

Institutional Support:

Network Library of Sirius / UERJ

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Promotion:

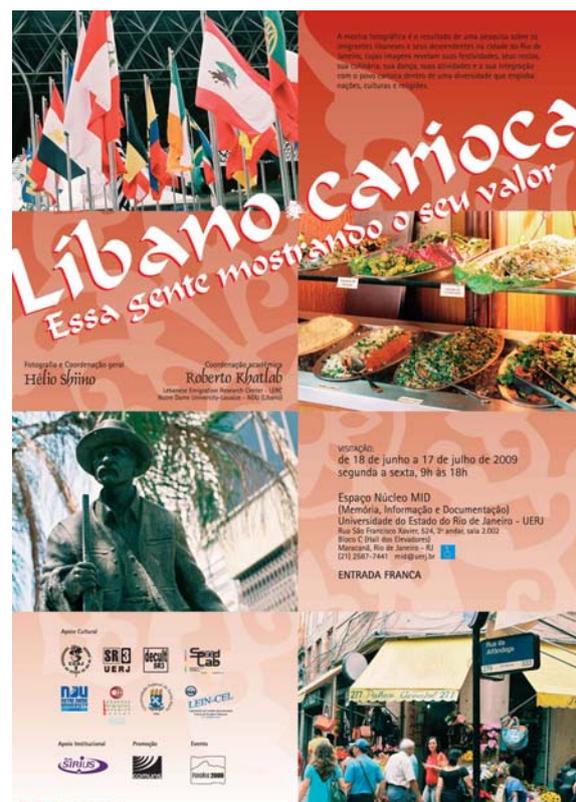
Directorate of Social Communication - Common / UERJ

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Memoranda of Understanding



 Universidad Libre, Colombia



 University of Cyprus



 University of Dayton, Ohio

October 31, 2008: Signature of an MOU with Universidad Libre, Colombia, in the presence of Mr. Alfonso Santos Montero, Counselor to the Rector, and Fr. Walid Moussa, president of NDU.

February 1, 2009: Signature of an MOU with the University of Dayton, Ohio, USA, valid for five years, in the presence of Dr. Daniel Curran (UD) and Fr. Walid Moussa (NDU).

February 17, 2009: Signature of a Protocol of Intentions with Politecnico di Milano valid for three years, in the presence of Prof. Giancarlo Spinelli (Rector's Delegate for International Relations) and Fr. Walid Moussa.

March 28, 2009: Signature of an MOU with the University of Cyprus, valid for five years, in the presence of Prof. Antonis Kakas (Vice Rector of International Affairs) and Fr. Walid Moussa.

Four other MOUs are in progress and will be signed soon:

- Universidad Autonoma de Madrid (Spain)
- Ukrainian Catholic University
- Catholic University of Poland
- Merced (California)

The American Friends of Notre Dame University – Louaizé, Washington D.C. Chapter

NDU – Louaizé Scholarship for Students in the USA

Objective

The objective of the NDU Scholarship is to provide an opportunity for outstanding students to gain first-hand experience of Lebanon and the Middle East during their university studies. The NDU Scholarship is established to encourage and support eligible students in attending the only private Catholic Lebanese University adopting the American system of higher education in the region.

Award

The recipient will receive a scholarship in the form of full tuition coverage for one academic semester at NDU-Lebanon. In addition, the recipient will receive free lodging during the academic semester in Lebanon. The recipient is responsible for all travel costs to and from the USA to Beirut, Lebanon.

Conditions of Eligibility

Individuals are eligible to be nominated for the NDU Scholarship if they:

- Are citizens/legal permanent residents of the United States of America
- Have attained a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.25 on a 4.0 scale
- Are already in college or university as full-time students seeking an undergraduate degree in one of the aforementioned faculties.

Application Procedures

Only those students for whom all materials have been received with the postmark deadlines here- under will be considered for a scholarship. Students with outstanding academic qualifications are invited to apply. The application must be supported by the submission of the following documents:

- A sealed official transcript of records of the most recent semester
- Three letters of recommendation, including one from the academic advisor
- A copy of the applicant's ID or passport
- The applicant's personal essay

Application Deadlines

All materials must be postmarked on or before the following dates:

- For Fall semester – September to February – applications must be postmarked no later than June 15
- For Spring semester – February to June – applications must be postmarked no later than November 1.
- For Summer session – July and August – applications must be postmarked no later than March 15.

All applications and supporting documents should be mailed to:

Notre Dame University, Lebanon (DC Office)

1629 K Street, NW

Suite 300

Washington, DC 20036

(202) 349-1705

Evaluation Process

Applications are evaluated and ranked by a committee appointed by the Washington, D.C. Chapter of AFNDU. The top three applications are then forwarded to NDU in Lebanon for final selection of the scholarship award recipient.

THE FIRST-EVER NDU ALUMNI AWARDS 2008

A resounding success



The first-ever NDU Alumni Award ceremony, honored NDU graduates who distinguished themselves through personal and professional achievements. Their personal stories portrayed in short documentaries were a source of inspiration for the audience and a source of much pride for NDU's academic family and staff.

More than 350 alumni attended the NDU Alumni Awards 2008. Many had a story or two to tell when they reconnected with friends they had not seen in years, and were moved near tears by the Alumni Award Recipients' acceptance speeches and by those of the Award presenters throughout the evening. As of 2008, there were around 9,000 former NDU students.

The event commenced by honoring the NDU Alumni Association's former presidents: Dr. Roch-Antoine Mehanna, Mr. Michel Murr, and Dr. Najj Sfeir.

Dr. Roch-Antoine T. Mehanna: BBA Business Marketing, NDU, 1991; MBA Finance, University of New Orleans; PhD Business Strategy, University of Louisiana; currently Director of Graduate Studies, Faculty of Business Administration, NDU.

Michel Georges el-Murr: BS Computer Science, NDU, 1992. Works in family business, owns a well-known library in the Kesrwan region.

Dr. Najj Joseph Sfeir: BBA Business Marketing, NDU, 1992; MBA Business Administration, NDU, 1994; DEA, Université Libre de Bruxelles, PhD, Tourism and Hospitality Management, Université de Perpignan; currently teaching at the University of Balamand and managing the family business, Al Medina Hotel and Beach Resort.

ALUMNI AWARDS

Robert Mario Ohanessian: BS Computer Science, NDU, 1995; in UAE since 1997; 2003, joined Data Processing Company (airport systems); founder of NDU Alumni Group in Dubai, and now heads the UAE Group. Award Presenter: Mrs. Mona Kan'aan, General Secretary of NDU Board of Trustees.

Nicole Edmond Tohme: BA Journalism, NDU, 2002; MA Media Studies, NDU, 2004; journalist with Al-Nahar; does the Absar program for the visually impaired; she has been visually impaired from birth, but supported by her parents and the late MP Gebran Tuani, and distinguished by courage and determination. Award Presenter: Mr. Ghassan Hajjar, Chief Editor, Nahar Ash-Shabab, and Youth and Education pages editor.

Cynthia Jabbour Sfeir: BA Economics, LAU, 1991; MBA, NDU 1997; now NDU Chief Accountant. Award Presenter: Fr. Bechara Khoury, MMO, NDU Director of Finance.

Annette Maalouf Rami: BBA Business Marketing, NDU, 1991; in first NDU graduating class; Marketing Manager of a computer company for six years; then with her brother established Casper & Gambini and with her husband put together Water Lemon, Café Blanc and Living Colors. Chosen as one of top fifty businesswomen in Middle East. Award Presenter: Dr. Roy Khoueiry, Ass. Professor in FBA&E.

Ziad Jean Akl: MA International Law, NDU, 2004; MA Public Administration, NDU, 2005; started and heads YASA association to promote road safety. Award Presenter: Mrs. Nelly Alam,

Mark Rafik Kozah: BA Mechanical Engineering, NDU, 1999; remarkable career as professional basketball player; currently head of Mechanical Engineering at SEG–Lebanon. Award Presenter: Mr. Tony Baroud, formerly of Lebanese national basketball team, now sports commentator and TV entertainer with LBC.

Hilda Georges Khalife: BA Advertising/Marketing, NDU, 1997; famous Lebanese TV personality, presenter of the Star Academy program. Award Presenter: Mr. Simon Abou Jaoude, Director of Alumni Affairs Office, tireless worker for NDU.

Johnny Antoine Ibrahim: BBA Business Management, NDU, 1991; MBA and MIAD, NDU, 1994; MA Diplomacy, Mediterranean Academy for Diplomatic Studies; MA Public Administration, École Nationale d'Administration, France; LLM International Criminal Law, Leiden University, Netherlands; married, two children.

Ara Boghos Khatchadourian: BBA Economics, NDU, 1996; MA International Relations, LAU; currently pursuing Executive MBA at École Supérieure des Affaires.

Fadi Joseph Ziadeh: BBA Business Marketing, NDU, 1996; MBA International Relations. Award Presenter: Mr. Suheil Matar, NDU Director General for Public Relations, major contributor to NDU family.

Youssef Sami Haddad: BBA Business Management, NDU, 1991; MBA Business Administration, NDU, 1994; became youngest major in the Lebanese Army. Award Presenter: Mrs. Lea Eid, NDU Registrar, longtime pillar of NDU.

ALUMNI BY CHOICE

The Awards Ceremony drew significant media attention and was the subject of numerous articles in the Lebanese press, including the Alumni by Choice award, which was given to those who had not studied at NDU but were friends of graduates, business associates, spouses, or siblings.

Mr. Tony Baroud: former member of the Lebanese National Basketball team, now sports commentator and entertainer on LBC, he was at Notre Dame-Louaizé School and claims spiritual affinity with Mariamite Order.

Mrs. Nancy Zakharia Ohanessian: nominated by her husband Robert, she always encouraged him in his Alumni activities.

Army of Lebanon Martyrs' Day Celebration

*"Be Safe, Soldiers of Lebanon, Protectors of
Our Independence,
Always Head High on the Battlefield,
like the Cedars of Lebanon"*

On the occasion of Martyrs' Day on May 6, 2009, the Student Affairs Office, headed by Fr. Salim Rajji, Director of SAO, organized, in collaboration with the Public Relations Office, a lecture at Issam Fares Hall delivered by Captain George Nader, regarding the role of the Lebanese Army and its mission.

First, a documentary shed light on the conflict between the Lebanese Army and Fatah al-Islam at Nahr el-Bared, which occurred in July 2007 and ended in September 2007 with the Lebanese Army taking full control of the camp after eliminating the remaining terrorist pockets. This accomplishment reflected the dedication and efforts of the Lebanese Army.

The lecture was followed by a military parade and maneuvers on Main Campus, with a presentation of military action to overcome an enemy. The Air Force took part in the military parade with a helicopter flying over the Campus, and a military band providing martial music.

The demonstration showed the students, faculty, and staff how effective and professional Lebanon's Armed Forces are. They were all thrilled by this unforgettable performance that will resonate with all those involved for years to come.



NDU Celebrates 19th Commencement Ceremony



Notre Dame University–Louaizé celebrated its 19th Commencement Ceremony on Friday 10 July 2009 on campus. Around 1,000 students from the three campuses: Zouk Mosbeh (main), North Lebanon Campus, and Shouf Campus constituted the Class of '09. The event, attended by the parents of graduates and a crowd of academic, religious, social, and political figures, was held under the patronage and in the presence of former Minister Leila el-Solh Hamadeh, Vice President of Al-Walid Bin Talal Humanitarian Institution. Fr. Walid Moussa, NDU President, granted Mrs. Hamadeh an Honorary Doctorate degree.

In his address, Fr. Moussa raised the following questions: “What kind of future have we, as officials, prepared for these graduates? Where are they going after graduation? Do they have a future in this country, or are they rather destined to emigrate? Are there any suggested plans to offer them jobs?”

Fr. Moussa then expressed his pride in having Mrs. Hamadeh as a distinguished guest and welcomed her to join the NDU family.

Sarah Moukarzel, the valedictorian, BS in Nutrition and Dietetics, delivered a speech on behalf of the graduating class and praised the efforts of University officials and faculty members.

In closing, degrees were distributed to graduates



Publication Abstracts 2008- 2009

The Virgin Mary in Lebanon District of Jbeil

The name of the district is the same as that of its capital. Jbeil, mother of the alphabet, is famed for its fortress, souk, and the church of St. John Mark. The district of Jbeil contains the greatest number of villages in Lebanon, some of which are still covered by virgin woodland. Around Jbeil, fossils are found in the rocks, and remains from the Stone Age, Phoenician, Pharaonic, Hebrew, Babylon, Greek, Roman, Crusader, and Ottoman periods. Christians and Muslims of different rites and confessions live in this district, which is also home to Maronite patriarchs and saints such as St. Sharbel, St. Rafqa, St. Neemtallah, St. Hardini, and others. These districts include around 522 churches and shrines, ruined and standing, of which 117 are dedicated to the Virgin Mary, the inspiration and the centerpiece of this compilation.

ISBN for the Total Series: 8853-418-10-1

ISBN for Vol. 7: 978-9953-457-88-8

Author: Dr. Christian A. El Khoury

Edition: 2008

Language: Arabic & English

Number of pages: 880

Epigraphie Syriaque au Liban

This work aims to present an inventory of Syriac epigraphs covering all Lebanon, revealing a local Syriac artistic tradition and showing its continuity due to the political emancipation of the Maronite Syriac Church. From the early Middle Ages to the early twentieth century, omitting only the disastrous Mameluke period, churches and monastic schools encouraged a flowering of literature and inscriptions.

This book provides the material needed for further research in linguistics, epigraphy, history, and art. It fills large gaps in the literature concerned, being a compilation of inscriptions in Syriac and Karshuni individually photographed, translated, and described.

The reader will be able to observe resemblances, constant features, and artistic canons revealing and defining the characteristics of the Lebanese Syriac tradition. Another volume, to appear shortly, points to the philosophy underlying this art, taking into account decoration and architectural context.

ISBN: 978-9953-457-78-9

Author: Amine- Jules Iskandar

Edition: 2008

Language: French & Syriac

Number of pages: 477

Dostoevski God, Humanity, and Civilization

This book is the first of many publications presenting intellectuals from around the world who contributed through their thinking and writings to build human societies on both civic and spiritual principles. This book is devoted to Dostoevski, a famous Russian writer. The book introduces Dostoevski's life, his faith and his contemplation; it presents the author as a narrator, a poet, and a philosopher who lived his philosophy while simultaneously searching for his self and human society in the depths of a soul seeking sincere knowledge and true and fair interaction with others.

The book reveals this genius who was able to unite God with a humanity confronted with its cultural dilemma together in a unique symphony, the symphony combining ephemeral human existence on our planet and the eternal existence of God in the universe.

ISBN: 978-9953-457-71-9

Co- authors: Mr. Souheil Farah, Fr. Walid Moussa, Abdo Kahy, Dr. Tarek Metri, Bishop Georges Khodr, Archimandrite Alexandre Yelissof, Valery Alexiev, Nikita Strovë, Dr. Joseph Yacoub.

Edition: 2008

Language: Arabic, English, and Russian

Number of Pages: 173

Gestus of the Spirit in the Heart of the City

Existensialism of Humanitarianism

In this book, the reader will find he or she is faced with the challenge of inner transformation, by which he/she may purify his/her way of thinking and his/her entire being threatening selfish inclinations.

In this way, the reader will feel he or she is called to form a personal identity by becoming aware of his/her profound need to listen to that inner voice and others. Accordingly, he/she may increase his/her capacity to recognize his/her humanity and fructify the spiritual and material treasures of the earth to insure his or her durability.

ISBN: 978- 9953- 457- 75-8

Author: Abdo Kahy

Edition: 2008

Language: Arabic

Number of pages: 413

Analytic Lectures on Freud

This book comprises analytical readings in the light of Freud's life and writings.

These shed light on the dialectics of psychoanalysis and on dilemmas between the analyst and those who ask for solutions to their complexes through his analysis.

They show Freud, as father of psychoanalysis, suffering from a paternal complex and trying for a life-time to find a solution for it in order to have a more harmonious relation with others. Moreover, these readings reveal that psychoanalysis is a very complicated listening process, or positive interpretation, aimed at maintaining the psyche and revealing the inhibitions and reaccepting them as a means to annul their negative influence on life's present and future.

Co-authors: Fr. Walid Moussa- Dr. Boulos Sarru'- Dr. Doumit Salameh- Abdo Kahi- Dr. Youssef Yacoub- Dr. Adel Akl- Dr. Adnan Houballah- Dr. Edward Alam- Dr. Mouzayan Osseiran-Houballah- Dr. Norman Nikro.

ISBN: 978-9953-457-69-7

Edition: 2008

Language: Arabic, French, English

Number of pages: 92

The Annunciation Made to Mary

The Covenant of life through the Spirit

In this book, The Annunciation Made to Mary: The Covenant of life through the Spirit, the Annunciation presents itself as a new alliance between God and humanity. It is a spoken act that expresses the will of God to incarnate in human flesh.

Thus, in turning through the pages of this book, the reader faces a conceptual challenge, a challenge that only faith allows him/her to confront, through its elevation to the heights of divine love which came upon Mary to make her the Mother of God in the person of Jesus the Savior.

Thus, the book opens a dialogue regarding the venture of human love emanating from divine love which resulted in the incarnation of Jesus in the womb of Mary.

ISBN: 978-9953-457-73-4

Co-authors: Souheil Mattar, Fr. Walid Moussa, Abdo Kahi, Abot Semaan Abou Abdo, Fr. Stefano Cechin, Mgr. Thomas Habib, Bishop Guy- Boulos Njeim, Bishop Georges Abou Jaoude, Dr. Tamar Dasnabedian, Fr. Peirre Najem, Sabino Chiala, Assayed Hany Fahss, Mgr. Joseph Abssi, Fr. Naji Khalil, Bishop Georges Khodr, Dr. Johnny Awwad, Jocelyne Khoueiry, Dr. Mouhammad Al Noukary, Chafic Jradi, Dr. Sami Makarem, Fadi Noun, Fr. Boulos Wehbe.

Edition: 2008

Language: Arabic, French

Number of pages: 154

Christianity, Culture, and the Contemporary World: Challenges And New Paradigms

Reflections of International Catholic Thinkers in Honor of George Francis McLean, on the occasion of his 80th Birthday

The present volume is a unique international collection of essays from Eastern and Western Catholic philosophers on a wide range of topics to honor a Professor of Philosophy. Topics include religious and philosophical pluralism, interreligious and intercultural dialogue, process thought, Christian education, globalization, human rights, faith and reason, Christian mysticism, and forgiveness.

ISBN: 978-9953-457-82-6

Edited by: Edward J. Alam

Contributors: Richard K. Khuri, Tomonobu Imamichi, William Sweet, L. Anthony Savari Raj, Wilhelm Danca, Cristal Huang, Tran Van Doan, Kuruvilla Pandikattu SJ, Warayuth Sriwarakuel, Vincent Shen, Varghese Manimala, Joseph C.A. Agbakoba, Emmanuel J. Ibuot, Robert Badillo.

Edition: 2009

Language: English

Aafouan ... Haza Ana

(Excuse-me...This is I)

A semi-autobiographical book written in a spontaneous, yet emotional style, which tells the story of Suheil Matar, the author, from his birth in Tannourine to the present. In fact, the author related his life story orally before writing it down on paper in a very simple style and without correcting or editing it.

This book portrays the life of a village boy who grew up in a Lebanese village, the pains he suffered and his continuous struggle to achieve great things in his life. Therefore, one may safely say that many village people can see themselves mirrored in the author's description.

ISBN: 978-9953-457-79-6

Author: Souheil Matar

Edition: 2009

Language: Arabic

Number of pages: 195

Language and its Uses

Language and its Uses is a sociolinguistic study that aims at a deeper understanding of the human language, and of putting it to good use, for the benefit of individuals and those of the Arab and Lebanese societies in particular.

The book consists of two parts: The first discusses six concepts of human language, and looks into the history and evolution of language, as well as the forms of writing throughout history. It also tackles the nature of language geographic, social, political and cultural boundaries. The second part sheds light on the forms and uses of language according to the social, cultural, sexual, religious and political identity of the language users.

This book, a sociolinguistic study, is significant for two reasons: first, it analyzes, in Arabic, language as a science, and provides living examples from Lebanese society in particular, and that of the Middle East in general. The book is easy to read and comprehend, not only because it is illustrated with examples, pictures and tables, but also because it adopts a simple and scholarly approach.

ISBN: 978-9953-457-77-2

Author: Father Ziad Antoun

Edition: 2008

Language: Arabic

Number of pages: 95

REMINDER

Very Important Reminder!

NDU will host the next International Association of Universities 2009 Annual Conference on campus between November 4 and 6, 2009.

For more details, please see the attached link:

<http://www.unesco.org/iau/conferences/Lebanon2009/index.html>

ndu chronicle

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