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Message from the President

Outreach Efforts Leap Ahead

Last summer NDU had the opportunity to return to the United States and Canada to pave the way for further outreach efforts in North America. In Canada, active members of the Lebanese community in Montreal held an annual Lebanese Festival attracting thousands of Lebanese-Canadians in celebration of their Lebanese origins and kindly invited NDU to reach out to the community. In turn, NDU delegation provided information and held workshops highlighting NDU's various academic programs, including Summer Arabic, and invited interested students to apply. NDU also had the opportunity to participate in another key American-Lebanese annual event, namely the National Maronite Apostolate (NAM) Convention, held this past year in Birmingham, Alabama, famous as the place that launched the American Civil Rights movement in the 1960's. The level of interest among American and Canadian Lebanese alike to study in Lebanon, particularly NDU, was remarkable, if not surprising. NDU's efforts to meet their interest is another example of the University's accomplishments this year.

NDU's efforts in outreach have accordingly redoubled, in keeping with the University's commitment to internationalizing campus and encouraging heritage students to study at NDU. During NDU's visit to the National Maronite Convention, for example, I had the privilege

to announce the formation of the NDU-NAM Scholarship Fund for students who are active members of NAM, granting full tuition waiver and residence to outstanding students for study at NDU. NDU's community can thus expect to see two American students, Philip Chelala and Sofia Martinez from Ohio State University and St. Edward's University in Austin, Texas, respectively, on campus in the coming months. This year too marks a new chapter in the establishment of the Friends of NDU Foundation Canada, a non-profit organization established by friends and alumni of NDU to act as liaison to the local Canadian-Lebanese community, thus strengthening the University's outreach efforts.

Clearly, NDU's goal of building cross-national bridges, reaching out to Lebanese communities abroad, and the University's internationalization, is beginning to pay off. I have had the opportunity to witness these efforts firsthand, and given the current level of support for these efforts, I am confident that bonds with North America will only grow stronger in the future.

Fr. Walid Moussa, President

Notre Dame University – Louaize, Lebanon

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Visit of President Moussa and VP Eid to the USA

From January 29-31, 2011, Notre Dame University - Louaize participated in the Annual Meeting 2011 of the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities that was held in Washington, DC. The Meeting, which was open to Catholic university presidents and vice presidents as well as participants from countries around the world, was held under the title "Catholic Higher Education: Carrying on God's Noiseless Work". The program spread over three days. It consisted of theme-based discussion groups and multiple opportunities for dialogue, as well as panels and presentations by keynote speakers. **The Meeting sessions focused on:**

- Student Affairs Assessment through a Catholic Lens
- Applying the Idea to Catholic Mission Today
- Serving the Local Community: A Noiseless Catholic University Approach to Civic Engagement
- Infusing Catholic Identity throughout the Campus
- Preserving Catholic Mission & Identity: Transferable Lessons from Catholic Healthcare for Leadership Formation
- Carrying on Catholic Mission & Identity: Linking Faith and Environmental Sustainability
- Appropriating Catholic Mission & Identity: Models for Faculty and Staff Programming
- Integrating Catholic Thought Across the Disciplines

All in all, the purpose of the Meeting was to gain insight into factors that would help catholic institutions of higher education reach a shared vision on how to preserve and carry the catholic mission and identity in a variety of ways taking into consideration the many challenges of today's world.

While in the U.S, Fr. Moussa and Dr. A Eid had the opportunity to meet friends of NDU, in Washington DC and Los Angeles interested in strengthening American-Lebanese ties and in promoting NDU in the U.S.

Mediterranean universities convention



During September 3-5, 2010, Notre Dame University–Louaize participated in the Annual Convention of the Community of Mediterranean Universities (CMU) in Bari, Italy.

Representing NDU, Dr. Assaad Eid, Vice President for Sponsored Research and Development, had the opportunity to take part in the work of the two-day convention. On the agenda were issues pertaining to “University Cooperation in the Mediterranean Area”. In his speech, Dr. Eid promoted NDU as an ideal destination for both European and Mediterranean students by highlighting the University’s programs and facilities.

Dr. Eid Also took the opportunity to meet colleagues from Morocco, Egypt, Greece and Spain interested in developing cooperative relationships with NDU in areas of mutual interest such as joint research and student exchange.

NDU at Lebanese Festival, Montreal



From June 18 to 20, 2010, NDU participated in the Montreal Festival Libanais, the annual event that attracts thousands of Lebanese-Canadians to honor their roots and attachment to Lebanon. NDU’s presence was marked by wide-scale educational outreach efforts to first- and second-generation Lebanese-Canadians, complete with an information booth promoting the University and its various programs of study. To cap the University’s five-day visit to Montreal, an informational meeting for students and parents of students interested in studying in Lebanon was held in the St. Maroun Cathedral on Tuesday, June 21, under the auspices of Father Sami Farah and in the presence of the Friends of NDU Canadian Chapter.

Representing the University, Humanities Professor George Abdelnour had the opportunity to meet alumni, prospective students, and other Lebanese-Canadians interested in strengthening Canadian-Lebanese links and in promoting NDU. The only Lebanese educational institution present at the festival, NDU featured information about its Semester Abroad and Summer Arabic Language programs, as well as general information about academic life at NDU. Coinciding with the unveiling of a landmark statue honoring Lebanese émigrés in Canada, a world-wide effort spearheaded by the World Lebanese Cultural Union, NDU’s visit to Montreal strengthened efforts to further solidify Lebanon’s bonds with immigrant communities abroad.

National Apostolate of Maronites Convention in Birmingham, Alabama



As part of ongoing efforts to reach out to North America, Notre Dame University-Louaize participated in this year's National Apostolate of Maronites Convention in Birmingham, Alabama, an annual gathering of Maronite Lebanese-Americans, this time held July 7-11, 2010. NDU was represented by Abbot Semaan Abou Abdo, President Fr. Walid Moussa, Vice-President of Sponsored Research Assaad Eid, Professor George Abdelnour, and Washington, DC, Office Coordinator Haley Kalil. The annual event offered NDU the opportunity to familiarize attendees with the University's mission and various academic programs.

NDU's participation included the setting up of a display booth promoting the University as an ideal destination for North American students by highlighting the benefits of an international education in a Lebanese setting, as well as graduate study in the various

faculties, the Summer Arabic Program, and Semester Abroad. Crucially to the University's high-visibility campaign, Dr. Assaad Eid conducted a workshop titled Bridging the U.S. and Lebanon Through Higher Education, offering a general introduction to the University, including its successful drive for American accreditation by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). The University took the opportunity to announce the NDU-NAM Scholarship, a joint effort to award full scholarships to two American students wishing to study for a semester at NDU, further evidence of the University's commitment to attracting Lebanese students from abroad. As a good-will gesture, University President Fr. Walid Moussa hosted a Wine and Cheese gathering for members of NAM's Board and other friends of NDU from across the United States.

"Bridging Cultures" Panel Discussion



Mrs. Linda Choueri, Ms. Gizel Hindi, Ms. Kayrazad Jabbour, Ms. Rana Abou Rjeily and Ms. Vanessa for Ms. Meia Hobeika.

Panel Discussion IV, Common Platforms for Bridging Cultures, was one of a series of panel discussions started in May 2008, and sponsored by the Office of the Vice President for Sponsored Research and Development, Notre Dame University. Prof. Najj Oueijan, a member of the University Research Board, Full Professor of English Literature at the Faculty of Humanities, Department of

English, Translation and Education, and Chair of the Organizing Committee(s), initiated this series to commemorate the EU Year of Cross-Cultural and Inter-Cultural Dialogues (2008), and to serve as prelude to the IAU Annual Conference (International Association of Universities), which took place at NDU during November 2009. The main purpose, however, Prof. Oueijan writes, is "to encourage

research activities among NDU faculty members and students, and to address cross-cultural and inter-cultural dialogues as an endeavor to locate common grounds with the 'Other'."

In each panel, full-time faculty members and selected students from the NDU Faculties were asked to address a particular theme of cross-cultural dialogue with emphasis on their fields of study. Faculty and especially students presented papers related to specific fields of study. So far thirteen faculty members including four keynote speakers and thirty-one students have participated in the panel series.

The theme of Panel Discussion IV held on 2nd June, 2010, was the question "Is globalization bridging world cultures?" Professor Oueijan opened the introductory session by referring to the positive and negative impacts of globalization on stretching bridges of understanding and respect among the cultures of the world. He ended his brief introduction with the following questions: "Will local cultures inevitably fall victim to this global 'consumer' culture? Will English eradicate all other languages? Will consumer values overwhelm peoples' sense of community and social solidarity? Or, on the contrary, will a common culture lead the way to greater shared values and political unity?" Then he introduced Professor Assaad Eid, Vice President for Sponsored Research and Development, Keynote Speaker, who emphasized the significance of the topic, offered a defining of Globalization

and explained how globalization has affected "World Cultures". He then discussed the issue of globalization and multiple identities and multilingualism! Prof. Eid concluded with a new enlightening term, "the University of Life", which is a world-wide university.

Session I was moderated by Mrs. Linda Choueiri, member of the Organizing Committee. Ms. Gizel Hindi spoke about The Effect of Globalization on Self; Ms. Khayrazad Jabbour gave a presentation about Global Education and Technology Open source and Web 2.0 Tools for Global Education; Ms. Rana Abou Rjeily presented her challenging work, Adapting Arabic to the Modern Word; Ms. Vanessa spoke for Ms. Meia Hobeika, about Fashion Complexity of the Lebanese Women. During Session II, which was moderated by Dr. Houda Maalouf, Ms. Krystell Fares and Ms. Angy Hajj spoke about Telemedicine and Telecommunications; Ms. Christian Karam and Mr. Marwan Doumit about New Age Globalization and Cyber Social Networks: The security of Data and Privacy of Users on Social Networks; and Ms. Reine Hanna about New Age Globalization and Cyber Social Networks. Dr. Hassan Hamadi moderated Session III, at which Mr. Elie Moussallem presented The Impact of Globalization on the International Terms of Trade and Ms. Maud Moawad Transforming the Mobile Telecom Industry: a Developing Country Perspective.

All in all, Panel Discussion IV was a success because of the variety and richness of the presentations.

Renewable energy multipurpose system for farmers

On 30th July, 2010, a workshop was held in the WEERC Auditorium, Old Campus on Renewable Energy Agricultural Multipurpose System for Farmers. This was organized by Notre Dame University's Water, Energy and Environmental Research Center (WEERC) and the Lebanese Association for Energy Saving and for Environment, in coordination with the University of Firenze (Italy), the University of Ulster (United Kingdom), the National Energy Research Center (NERC, Jordan), the Institute of Technology and Life Sciences (Poland), the Lebanese Agricultural Research Institution (LARI, Lebanon), and the Lebanese Industrials Association (LIA, Lebanon).

The main goal was to show participants the added value and the success gained during the RAMseS Project based on the development of a Multipurpose Electric Vehicle for farmers powered by a Renewable Energy System (photovoltaic). The following article by promoters of ALMEE throws light on the situation.

Generation from PV in Lebanon

By Said Chehab and Tony Matar



Lebanon is not an oil- or coal-producing country and the energy produced is totally based on imported oil derivatives. Use of Renewable Energy (RE) is very limited. Electricity is supplied by Electricité du Liban (EDL), an autonomous state-owned entity. Lebanon has largely completed the rehabilitation and expansion of power generation facilities. In 2004 the installed capacity amounted to 2310 MW and 98% of the population was connected to the system. Work is in progress on the rehabilitation of the high-voltage transmission networks. Losses, both technical and non-technical, are unusually high. Currently they represent 34% of the energy produced. This includes some 14% in technical losses and about 20% in non-payment of electricity bills and power theft. The principal objective of the distribution plan is to reduce these losses to a normal rate between 10 and 15%. A 6-to-8% growth in electricity demand is expected every year, which will require the simultaneous strengthening and extension of the network.

SOLAR ENERGY

General data

Solar radiation: av. 4.8 KWh/day

Nb of annual hours of solar radiation: 3000 h

Considerations

We distinguish the following categories of solar energy

- Solar Hot Water for general purposes (sanitary water etc.)
- P.V. for electricity production

There is a very good Solar Potential in Lebanon and the technology needed has made great progress for ensuring more efficiency and lower charges for the energy produced. It is suitable for isolated houses and large installations. There are 72,320 houses unsuitable for installation of the technology.

a. P.V. connected to the grid

In order to have a development of the sector, an attractive feed-in tariff of regulation and a long-period guarantee are needed.

As the technology is making progress, the cost for installation is getting lower and lower, and the solar energy data seem very attractive, one may well expect extension of its use.

Table 1: P.V. connected to the grid

Year	2010	2020
P.V. in KW	0	1,000
Power generation in GWh	0	2.1

b. P.V. Conclusions

Table 2: P.V. Power and Energy Scenario

Year		2010	2020
Grid connected and not connected in MW		2.60	8.50
Power generation in GWh		5.46	17.10

Despite a favorable geographical, economic and environmental context in the development of RES and DG in Lebanon, the installed photovoltaic power does not exceed some 2600KWs, due to three main barriers (refer to the barriers chapter):

- Lebanon is 98% electrified and isolated sites are rare.
- EDL still has the monopoly of production and distribution of electricity.
- The present electricity tariffs have not changed for the past sixteen years and do not reflect the real costs of production and distribution.

These barriers inhibit the demand and explain the absence of manufacturers and suppliers of equipment and related services. The only installations disseminated over the country are photovoltaic kits of unitary reduced power (a few hundred watts) serving the telephone, antenna, police cameras or radar stations installed in rural areas on the top of the mountains and some other very small private medium-size installations (10 to 100 KW) which are in competition with the diesel power-generators that are still more reliable despite the high cost of diesel and end up by being less expensive than the photovoltaic systems at the investment and life-time level. Some PV pilot projects are developed mainly for schools, industries and remote hospitals but have not yet created a sustainable market. These few installations face a lack of spare parts, high cost of batteries and a lack of qualified labor

Economic feasibility of technological options for PV

The analysis of the local situation has revealed the need for the development of suitable market-based programs, for the engagement of the private sector in projects related to PV and involving technology transfer, for updating and enforcing laws and regulations and finally for profiting from international donor agencies.

The constraints facing technology transfer have been identified in the top-up enabling activity. They are divided into legislative, economic, social, technological, marketing and infrastructure.

Policies and Legislations: These are the conditions that greatly affect capacity-building actions for they can be the real barriers. They include regulations and standards that preclude new technologies, distorting market interventions such as subsidies for polluting industries, regulated markets that create disincentives for new technologies, planning system issues, etc.

Availability of Funding: New technologies are generally cost-intensive, and potential investors may lack the financial resources required to bear the upfront cost.

Commerciality and Competitiveness: These constitute one of the main barriers to accelerating the technology- transfer process. New technologies should be able to compete technically and cost-wise with existing well-established products.

Immaturity of Technology: This may take several forms; the simplest is where potential purchasers are ignorant of new technology capabilities. They may also be faced with multiple and conflicting information and have limited ability/time to absorb it, and choose a known option in preference to new alternatives.

Adequacy of Resources: The transfer of new technologies requires the existence of supporting infrastructure. For example, testing laboratories, skilled labor for regular maintenance, and availability of local manufacturing facilities to support minor modifications and spare parts are all important elements for a successful technology transfer process.

Public Awareness: Lack of awareness is a major barrier to cost-effective new technologies.

10.7 Barriers to the development of PV in Lebanon

10.7.1 Socio-economic impact:

Arguments in favors of the development of RES and PV in Lebanon seem obvious and can be summarized up as following:

- Mastery of energy bills and improvement of the balance of payments.
- Reduction of attacks by the conventional energetic system on the local and global environments: SO₂, NO₂, CO₂, etc.
- Reduction of the future impact of world energetic tensions on the national economy.
- Promotion of technical innovation and spreading technological progress, allowing shorter development stages.
- Reduction of investments to expand the production of conventional energy.
- Reduction of economic costs, which promotes sustained growth and higher incomes.

- Increased flexibility of investments in energy production and use, and reduction of risks linked to the uncertainties of the world energetic situation.

- Improvement of individual prosperity through tourism and ecotourism.

10.7.2 Barriers:

Despite all their advantages, the RES and PV in Lebanon are poorly developed. This is because of rates which do not reflect the real cost of energy and particularly of electricity, the absence of a political decision in favor of solar energy, lack of consideration of the impact of air pollution on the environment and public health, a lack of information to promote public awareness, absence of reliable RES data, easy access to the Grid, high initial cost, a too-long current payback of RES & DG installations (10-30 years), monopoly of electricity by the EDL, cash-strapped government, inconsistency of regulations, small area, trade restraint (Utility Company "bullying" on grid interconnection Issues), low buy-back rates for excess power, needs in capacity building, and finally weak product, distribution and service networks.

Tarifs de l'électricité BT			
Consommation kWh/mois	Tarif LL / kWh		Tarif € / kWh
<100	35		0.026
101-300	55		0.041
301-400	80		0.060
401-500	120		0.090
>500	200		0.150
Petite industrie	115		0.086
Agriculture	115		0.086
Public	140		0.105
Tarifs de l'électricité MT			
Industrie	320	pointe	0.240
Hotellerie	112	normal	0.084
	80	nuit	0.060

3rd Beirut Water Week hosted by NDU



Dr. Fadi Comair, Director of NDU's WEERC and President of MENBO, signing his book.



Distinguished Participants in the 3rd Beirut Water Week.

Water-savvy delegates from around the world gathered at NDU during October 24-27, 2010 for the Third Beirut Water Week organized by the University's Water, Energy and Environment Research Center (WEERC) in collaboration with the Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean (GWP-Med), the Mediterranean Network of Basin Organizations (MENBO), and the American Academy of Water Resources Engineers (AAWRE).

Attendees from Egypt, France, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, The Netherlands, Palestine, Spain, Tunisia, and the USA shared their expertise in the field, disseminating and discussing information about ongoing water initiatives and processes at international, region, and national levels. One of the main aims of the Water Week was to encourage key water stakeholders to strengthen and develop bilateral and multilateral cooperation toward sustainable and integrated management of water resources in the region, while responding to the related challenges that countries encounter.

Dr. Assaad Eid, Vice President, Sponsored Research and Development at NDU, opened the event by welcoming all parties on behalf of Rev. Father Walid Moussa, President of the University. "I know that we in Lebanon operate on the false assumption that water is a natural blessing, that it is abundant and plentiful, yet history teaches the reverse, with whole civilizations disappearing because of changes in the availability of life-sustaining resources," noted Eid in his opening speech. "Because of this, we as educators, scholars, activists, and citizens need to sound alarm bells and wholeheartedly commit ourselves to the challenge of rethinking water conservation, management, distribution, and geo-politics.

"... [A]s educators, we have a vital role to play in educating students, the public, and ourselves about this vital natural resource

and the environment more generally," said Eid of the country's water situation. "I personally believe that issues of sustainable development and environmental awareness should be at the forefront of curricular innovation at all levels of our educational system, both private and public, and that as educators we need to come up with creative ways of involving our students in issues related to the environment and conservation."

Eid went on to reiterate his commitment, and that of Fr. Moussa, to water and environmental research always being given proper attention and support at NDU.

Following Doctor Eid's speech of welcome, the audience was addressed by various key authorities, including Dr. Fadi Comair, President of MENBO; Prof. Michael Scoullou, Chairman GWP-Med; Walter Mazzitti, Steering Committee President of the Euro-Mediterranean Information System on Know-how in the Water sector (EMWIS); Pierre Roussel, former Water Director in France and President of the International Office for Water (OIEau); Hachmi Kennou, Executive Director of the Mediterranean Water Institute; Panos Kaloyeropoulos, Ambassador of Greece in Lebanon; and Gebran Bassil, the Lebanese Minister of Energy and Water.

The opening session was followed by a book-signing of Dr. Comair's *Water Management and Hydrodiplomacy in Lebanon*. The following two days included six sessions of presentations and discussions, the focus of which was crucial water issues such as transboundary river-basin management, selected water-quality and security themes, financing of water infrastructure, innovative approaches to water management, and water processes in the Mediterranean, among others. The Third Beirut Water Week ended with a day's outing for invited guests to the Chabrouh Dam.

Mémoires d'outre croyance

Les vicissitudes de la foi

Abdo Kahi

Ce qui est demandé dans ce livre n'est pas du ressort de ce qui lui revient d'annoncer, ce qui fait que ce livre ne le dit pas. Il le préconise cependant dans un projet qui invite à outrer l'être qu'on est. C'est le projet d'outrance de ce qu'on croit être et de ce qu'on croit sur l'être en soi, outrance qui est considérée comme étant le cheminement le plus sûr vers la science et vers la foi.

Mais ce qui appartient à la vision lointaine de ce livre, se laisse entrevoir au-delà de la dynamique de l'outrance, il revient en fait, à l'intuition de science et de la foi qui précède la preuve scientifique et qui la dépasse ontologiquement en l'être. Cette intuition, qui n'est rien d'autre que l'exceptionnelle force aimante accordée à l'homme par le créateur, et qui l'autorise à connaître la nature, y compris la sienne, à la nommer, à la respecter, à l'aimer, et à la parfaire.

Reste à savoir ce que c'est qu'une foi, là où la croyance est l'attachement à ce qui est, et sa transcription en soi dans les registres de sa mémoire, cette mémoire qui ordonne, classifie et régularise ses sujets selon la morale des liens de pouvoir, qui se composent sur une base binaire, et en correspondance avec les principes de fonctionnement des lois de la nature terrestre.

C'est cette question de la foi que le livre a essayé de débattre pour libérer l'impossible univers céleste sur le plan de la vie terrestre, c'est-à-dire pour faire réussir la médiation entre les pôles opposés dans les relations binaires, jusqu'à faire réussir le lien entre les contraires : l'homme et la femme, Israël et la Palestine, le Ciel et la Terre, etc...

Pour cela, il a fallu réinvestiguer le champ du sens et ses chemins, à savoir :

La religion

La philosophie

La science

Sur ce, la bonne question a été celle de savoir dorénavant davantage insister, non sur l'objectivation du sujet soumis à l'observation et sa définition minutieuse, mais sur l'indéfinition des sujets pour faire distancier :

le religare de ses religiosités ;

la raison de ses théologies ;

l'épistémè de ses logiques.

À la lumière de ces distanciations, la foi s'infléchit au cœur de l'homme comme étant cette force qu'il va suivre pour mener ses investigations qui vont pouvoir l'aider à indéfinir le sens des choses de manière à les libérer des boucliers de leurs asservissements précédents et à les aimer telles qu'elles lui paraissent à l'image de son amour et de son acceptation de se mettre lui-même en recherche, avec elles, dans une dynamique de quête de sens se perpétuant à l'infini.

Suite à cela, la foi devient cette ouverture au sens de l'existence au-delà de la connaissance qu'on a d'elle, et de toute connaissance qu'on en aura, pour permettre à celui qui acceptera de s'engager

sur cette voie d'ouverture, de s'abandonner à cette dernière, comme seule issue le rassurant sur ses facultés d'altérité.

Elle se transforme, à partir de cet abandon, en une disponibilité à l'altérité par laquelle l'homme sera capable de résister à sa haine qui est inhérente à sa condition humaine primaire, et qui est responsable de tous ses malheurs.

Est-ce possible, donc, d'avoir la foi sur terre ?

Non, si nous les humains, allons continuer à insister à vouloir maintenir la force de la pesanteur de la terre dans l'équation du lien entre ciel et terre, car nous vivons trop aujourd'hui de nos religiosités radicalisées, de nos théologies polarisées et de nos logiques opposées, là où la foi n'existe que par-delà les religiosités, les théologies et les logiques binaires.

En effet, la foi ne peut naître que là où les croyances deviennent paix et silence, pour ne pas dire là où elles se transforment en une altération fatale d'elles-mêmes, dans une attitude de pardon total, pour parvenir à l'unité absolue de l'humanité de l'homme, l'homme qui est l'objet du lien entre le ciel et la terre.

Alors de quoi parle-t-on ?

On parle de ce qui reste à faire : de l'humanité à construire, du religare à recibler et à restituer, de la cité humaine à rebâtir et de l'apocalypse à éviter !!!

Un nouveau livre s'annonce à cet effet, sous le titre

L'après religion(s) : « religare »

Le pourquoi de l'apocalypse

Aurions-nous l'occasion d'en parler ?

L'espérance relève de notre amour les uns pour les autres.

Mais, en attendant, que faire de notre mémoire, car la mémoire c'est le tissu matériel et immatériel du croire : croire en ce qui est, et croire en ce qui n'est pas, mais qui sera par la force de la foi ?

La mémoire peut être réduite à devenir une caisse noire où s'enregistrent les histoires des temps, elle se laisse, de ce fait, encombrer par la chaîne des haines qui anime ces histoires. Elle peut, par contre, s'ériger en lieu de recreation de l'humanité de l'homme en rebâtissant l'histoire de cette humanité sur les débris des histoires des temps. Elle œuvrera, de la sorte, à amener chaque être humain à s'ouvrir sur cette histoire en relisant les histoires des temps, en cherchant à les comprendre comme autant de faiblesses dues à notre condition binaire, et en essayant de les dépasser, *pour pouvoir rétablir le vrai religare à partir de l'oubli de ses haines sur terre, et entre le ciel et la terre, sur la base de son amour qui l'aidera à rebâtir sa cité.*

Mémoires d'outre croyance, raconte l'échec de cette expérience au Liban, échec, parce que les histoires des temps confessionnels ont été capables d'abattre tous les efforts établis pour faire renforcer l'histoire du temps de la foi. Mais le sens ne naîtra-t-il pas de l'échec sur terre ?

LERC News

LERC Director's Fellowship in MEPI

May 2010, Syracuse University, Syracuse, USA



Colleagues at Syracuse University: (from left-right) A. Jabereen, K. Hassan, M. Raymong, S. Zoghaib, G. Hourani, A. El Sheikh, G. Al Attar, and S. Rayan, Syracuse, USA (2010).

Following her selection to participate in the Civic Education and Leadership Fellowship (CELFL) at the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs of Syracuse University, New York, USA, Ms. Hourani returned to resume her duties as the Director of LERC. CELFL is part of the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) program of the State Department, aiming "to promote civic engagement in their home countries via improved pedagogy, teacher preparation, and curriculum development for related social science departments."

In describing her time at Syracuse, Ms. Hourani stated that "what was wonderful to experience at Syracuse University was the intellectual caliber of the professors especially of Maxwell School, as well as the participation and innovation of the students." She encouraged other professors to participate in the program.

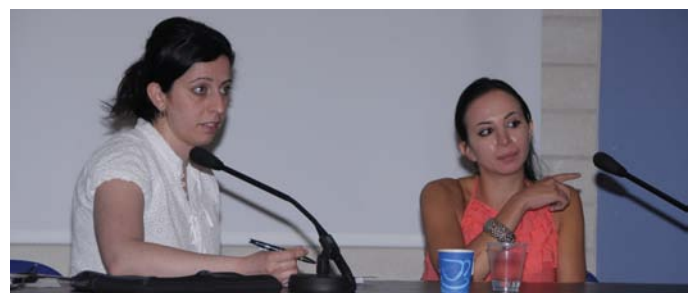
LERC Workshop on Field Surveys

Reported by Jared Keyel, International LERC Intern



First interview simulation between Dr. Dorai and Iraqi student at NDU Mr. Firas Hasan (June 2010).

The Lebanese Emigration Research Center at Notre Dame University held a workshop entitled Administering Field Surveys and Conducting In-depth Field Interviews on June 12, 2010 at NDU. Participants gained understanding of Iraqi migration patterns over recent decades, and learned techniques for conducting field interviews and surveys. The Workshop was presented by Dr. Kamel Dorai, a Researcher at the CNRS - Paris (the French National Center for Scientific Research) currently based at the French Institute for



Second interview simulation between Ms. Menhem (left) and Ms. Mokdad (June 2010).

the Near East in Damascus (IFPO) and recently appointed Director of Migrinter at the Université de Poitiers, France.

Dr. Eugene Sensenig-Dabbous, LERC former Acting Director and Chair of the FPSPAD at NDU, welcomed Dr. Dorai and introduced the main topics. Dr. Dorai gave an in-depth history of Iraqi migration to Lebanon and elsewhere, stating that 1.5 million Iraqis have left Iraq since 2003.

The 'Back to Roots Summer Academy' visits NDU

Reported by Jared Keyel, LERC Visiting Intern



'Back to Roots' US students paying keen attention to LERC's presentation (June 2010).

On Wednesday, June 30th, 2010, the students from the 'Back to Roots Summer Academy' visited NDU. These students, all of Lebanese ancestry, came from North America to visit Lebanon for three weeks. The director of the program, Dr. Antoine Habchi, had been working on it for three years and this is the first year it has proved possible to organize a trip to Lebanon. The students pay for their flight and then the organization pays for their expenses

in Lebanon. The program receives funding through individual donations. As part of the visit the LERC staff gave a two-hour presentation about Lebanese emigration. Mr. Elie Nabhan began the program by introducing the LERC as well as the schedule for the presentations.

Ms. Basma Abdel Khalek gave an overview of Lebanese migration, focusing on North America. Mrs. Liliane Haddad spoke about the electronic archive kept by LERC, which includes materials collected from Lebanese migrants around the world. She showed a traditional Lebanese Dabke performed by professional dancers of Lebanese ancestry in Argentina.

Ms. Guita Hourani, LERC Director, led the group in a question-and-answer session, emphasizing the importance of migration studies and of preserving the history of Lebanese migration. After the question-and-answer session, the students toured the Lebanon Migration Museum at NDU.

The Lebanese in Mexican Cinema at NDU LERC acknowledges scholar with honorary award.

Reported by Jared Keyel and Elie Nabhan



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1. Presenting the Award: (from left to right) Dr. E. Sensenig-Dabbous, Ms. G. Hourani, Dr. C. Martinez-Assad and Fr. Boutros Tarabay (July 2010).

2. Attending the event: (from left to right) Dr. R. Kazan, Dr. C. Martinez-Assad, Ms. G. Hourani, General M. Nahas, and from the WLCU, Ms. Nena Boulos and Mr. G. Faddoul (July 2010).

The Lebanese Emigration Research Center in cooperation with the Audio-Visual Department at Notre Dame University, Lebanon, invited veteran scholar, writer, film director and producer, Dr. Carlos Martínez-Assad, to present his film *The Lebanese in Mexican Cinema*, on Wednesday, 7th July. Produced by Dirección General de Actividades Cinematográficas de la Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, it highlights the golden age of Mexican cinema. It identifies the most reputed sons and daughters of Lebanese emigrants who left their mark in Mexico's rich cultural life.

Descendants of Lebanese became interested in local cinema and their support and talent were indispensable in the creation of the film industry, with stars such as Mauricio Garcés, Antonio Badú, Gaspar Henaine Capulina, and Esperanza Issa, who became familiar to the Mexican public.

LERC's Director Ms. Guita Hourani and Former President of NDU Fr. Boutros Tarabay presented Dr. Martínez-Assad with the LERC

Acknowledgement Award for all he has done and is planning to do concerning Lebanese migration of all generations in Mexico.

Dr. Carlos Martínez-Assad is a Researcher at the Instituto de Investigaciones Sociales, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. He is also Professor of History at the Facultad de Filosofía y Letras, UNAM and has been visiting professor at Arizona State University, Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona and Universidad Iberoamericana. Dr. Martínez-Assad has dedicated a large part of his life towards studying Middle Eastern immigrants to Mexico, publishing articles, essays and books on the subject and founding a periodical.

In recognition of his work on both Lebanon and Mexico Dr. Martínez-Assad has been acknowledged with some of Mexico's finest awards, the most recent being the Medalla al Mérito Histórico Capitán Alonso de León, edición 2009, as well as being honored internationally.

LERC at Barcelona Congress

Reported by LERC staff

Director Guita Hourani of LERC and Research Affiliate Melkar El Khoury participated in the World Congress on Middle Eastern Studies in Barcelona, Spain from July 19th to 14th, 2010, organized this year by the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed) which aimed to “foster the production of knowledge and act as a facilitator to create outstanding events such as the Congress.”

Over 2000 participants attended. Mr. El Khoury presented a paper on behalf of the LERC entitled Citizenship Rights of the Lebanese Diaspora: A Roadmap to Returning Home in the panel Citizenship in the Arab World chaired by Dr. Gianluca Parolin, Assistant Professor of Law at the American University of Cairo. Ms. Hourani attended the Congress as part of her CELF fellowship with the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs.

MoU between LERC/NDU and WLCU

Tuesday 3rd August, 2010, LERC, NDU

Reported by Elie Nabhan



Pen to paper: Fr. W. Moussa (left) signing the MoU with Mr. E. Chedrawi (Aug 2010).



At the exchange of awards: (from left-right) Dr. N. Kahwaji, Mr. A. Ghanem and Ms. G. Hourani (Aug 2010).

The World Lebanese Cultural Union (WLCU) and the Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) have been cooperating together over the last two years to document the history of the WLCU since its inception. This has led to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Notre Dame University and the WLCU, on the highest level of both institutions, as represented by the President of NDU, Fr. Walid Moussa, and World President of the WLCU, Mr. Eid Chedrawi.

The WLCU requested institutionalization of this relationship, acknowledging NDU's vision which led to the establishment of the Lebanese Emigration Research Center. The WLCU used the occasion to present LERC and its nucleus museum with a replica of the Lebanese Migrant Statue and to present the NDU President and LERC the 50th Anniversary Commemorative Medal in appreciation for their endeavors related to Lebanese migration. In the same spirit the WLCU wanted to congratulate LERC Director Ms. Guita Hourani for her vision, intellectual drive and relentless energy.

At the signing ceremony, LERC's Director, Ms. Guita Hourani, welcomed the attendees and spoke about WLCU's relation with the Center. She expressed appreciation to WLCU former Secretary General Georges Abi Raad and current World Secretary General

Dr. Nick Kahwaji for initiating this relationship. The Memorandum of Understanding was then signed by Fr. Walid Moussa and Mr. Chedrawi, who recognized NDU as the first university to have established an academic center to study Lebanese migration.

The presentation by the WLCU of the medals (limited edition) celebrating the WLCU's 50th anniversary to NDU and LERC recognized the efforts of the University and the Center on the theme of Lebanese migration. World President Mr. Chedrawi first presented a medal to Fr. Moussa in recognition of his efforts and then presented one for LERC in recognition of its achievements. Dr. Kahwaji then presented Director Hourani with a commemorative medal in appreciation of all her vision and efforts. Mr. Antoine Ghanem, the WLCU President of the Committee for Culture and Heritage, expressed recognition of Ms. Hourani's for her dedication and achievements by presenting her with a commemorative bust of Gibran Khalil Gibran.

Those present at the event had attended the World Council meeting in Lebanon of the WLCU delegates coming from Australia, Canada, United Kingdom, Sweden, Switzerland, South Africa, the United States, and Latin America.

LERC at workshop on “Highly-Skilled Migration...”

Reported by Marwan Abdallah, LERC Intern

Ms. Guita Hourani, Director of the Lebanese Emigration Research Center at NDU, participated in the two-day workshop, Meeting of Experts and Policy Makers on Highly Skilled Migration Into, Through and From Southern and Eastern Mediterranean and Sub-Saharan Africa, held at St. Joseph's University, Beirut, on the 27th and 28th of September 2010. Co-financed by the European Union, it was organized by the Consortium for Applied Research on International Migration (CARIM) in partnership with the International Training Center of the International Labour Organization (ITC-ILO), the European University Institute (EUI) and St. Joseph's University. Around fifty experts and policymakers from the eastern part of the Mediterranean discussed the findings of original CARIM research on highly-skilled migration, and, in general, to exchange views on this issue. The inauguration was attended by H.E. Boutros Harb, Lebanese minister of Labor, the President of USJ Fr. Rene Chamussy, officials from the EU and its Sub-organizations, and NGOs dealing with migration issues.

MOIM Workshop Cycle on New Electoral Law,

15th September and 12th-13th October

LERC was also represented at the series of workshops launched at Holiday Inn Hotel, Verdun, by H.E. Ziad Baroud, Minister of the Interior and Municipalities and titled Together for an Electoral Law for All Citizens. For LERC, Dr. Elie el-Hindi spoke about the participation of emigrants in Lebanese elections. A detailed report by LERC Research Assistant Michele Fenianos may be found on the LERC website.

Farewell to Ms. Basma Abdel Khalek

Friday 29th October, 2010, Ksar Restaurant, Jbeil

Reported by Elie Nabhan

The Lebanese Emigration Research Center at NDU threw a lavish lunch at the Ksar restaurant in Jbeil, to send off former LERC Research Assistant/Project Manager and Office Coordinator, Ms. Basma Abdel Khalek, and to wish her well in her new job. Over two and half years, Ms. Abdel Khalek single handedly reorganized LERC's administrative resources and oversaw the transfer of LERC offices to the new block, the Archives, the library, the Database, the Director's Office the research and administrative departments. She was of invaluable help to visiting researchers of all nationalities and was a hardworking researcher in her own right. Fluent in three languages and mastering her fourth, Ms. Abdel Khalek represented LERC at numerous diplomatic, social and academic events.

Ms. Abdel Khalek was chosen from hundreds of international applicants to participate in the IV CARIM Summer School on Euro-Mediterranean Migration and Development organized by the Robert Schuman Center for advances Studies (RSCAS) and the European University Institute (EUI), in Florence, Italy, where she completed training with flying colors. She will be joining the prestigious Bassil Fleihan Institute at the Ministry of Finance, an overriding ambition as finance was her keen interest and the subject of her undergraduate degree.



Ms. B. Abdel Khalek delighted with her certificate and farewell gifts she received from LERC (Oct 2010).

Those who attended her farewell lunch included, LERC's Director Ms. Guita Hourani, NDU Professor and LERC Adjunct Research Associate Dr. Eugene Sensenig-Dabbous, NDU Professor Dr. Doumit Salameh, LERC Research Associate Dr. Salwa Karam, LERC Consultants Dr. Rudy Kazan and Melkar el Khoury, CARE Director Dr. George Abdelnour, LERC Chief Indexer Mrs. Liliane Haddad, LERC Website Editor Mr. Elie Nabhan, LERC IT Specialist Mr. Elias Sfeir, and LERC Intern Ms. Aurelia Eid.

B. E.S.G.B. Visits NDU Museums

Thursday 11th November 2010, LERC, NDU

Reported by Elie Nabhan



B.E.S.G.B students listen to Mr. E. Nabhan giving an introduction to migration at the Lebanon Migration Museum at NDU (Nov 2010)



The students study the Lebanese migrant statue displayed at the Museum (Nov 2010)

The Beirut Evangelical School for Girls and Boys organized a day trip to Notre Dame University, Louaizé, covering both the Stone Wing Museum and the Lebanon Migration Museum at NDU. The Elementary Six students were led by Mrs. Rima Algharib, who had only come to know of the Museums at NDU after a documentary was aired on TV. Around 60 English speaking students were divided into two groups. One was shown, by Mrs. Caline Saadeh Abi-Saad, the prehistoric stone tools used by historic man over several thousand years ago and the collection of precious and semi-precious stones and fossilized fish and plants displayed in the Stone Wing.

The other group headed to the Lebanon Migration Museum for an introduction by Mr. Elie Nabhan and Mrs. Liliane Haddad of the Lebanese Emigration Research Center. The groups later swapped venues.

Many of the students themselves had either lived abroad, in the United States, United Arab Emirates, Ghana, or had parents who had emigrated to these countries. Many of their families were return migrants.

Lebanese-Irish Fashion Designer

Reported by Aurélia Eid

On Thursday 4th November, 2010, LERC welcomed Mrs. Tamem Michael, Irish designer of Lebanese descent, accompanied by Mr. Guy Younes, Chairperson of the Irish-Lebanese Cultural Association (ILCF) and two Irish friends, Mrs. Irene Pyrne and Mrs. Mary Hiney. After being welcomed by LERC Director Guita Haurani, Mrs. Michael was interviewed by Mr. Elie Nabhan and shown the archives and database by Mrs. Liliane Haddad.

Before giving her talk to students of Fashion Design, Mrs. Michael was welcomed to the Faculty of Architecture, Arts and Design (FAAD) by Ass. Professor Linda Choueiry and Mr. Nadim Matta, Chairperson of the Design Department. Her parents in Sierra Leone, being impressed by the work of Irish Catholic Missionaries, in 1960 sent her with her brothers and sisters to Ireland to continue their studies.

After starting production at home following her childhood interest in colors and fabrics, she finally specialized with a Wedding House in Dublin's Fashion City. Unlike other Irish manufacturers, she refused to outsource work to China, wanting wedding gowns created and made precisely in Ireland. After her talk full of practical advice, Mrs. Michael faced a stream of questions. Mr. G. Younes presented Mrs. Michael with a certificate of "Meritorious of Honor and Gratitude" on behalf of the World Lebanese League. Ms. Guita Hourani gave her a copy of LERC's latest publication *Our People* with a gold pin and Mr. Bou Tannous Maged, fashion designer and NDU professor, presented her with a book on the history of Arab fashion together with a brochure of his fashion house.

LERC BOX

LERC follows an open door policy for visitors. Many have been brought to the Center by friends of LERC, or are academics who seek out LERC, and in many cases introduced by Mr. Roberto Khatlab, LERC's Latin-American Liaison Officer. Others have heard of LERC through word of mouth. LERC recognizes the value of each visitor and offers them a presentation of the LERC collections in the Lebanese Emigration Archives and Database, with a tour of the Lebanon Migration Museum. The following are visitors recently welcomed at LERC.

Assistant Professor of Portuguese Dr. Christine Marie Guedri, at the United States Military Academy West Point, who has been in touch with the Center and its Director for the last three years.

Mrs. Carol Zaiek, Argentinean of Lebanese descent, lawyer, who presented LERC with two black-and-white pictures of her grandfather, Mr. Habib Zayek, born in Ghazir, Kesserwan, in 1908 and emigrated in 1920. Her father, Mr. Humberto Nicolás Zaiek, was born in Argentina in 1928, making her a third-generation Argentinean.

Brazilian professors Dr. Luiz Carlos Merege and his wife Dr. Marcia Moussalem, of Sao Paulo, brought to LERC by Mr. Roberto Khatlab.

Ms. Elisabeth Longuenesse, Director at Département Scientifique des Études Contemporaines, Institut Français du Proche Orient, who met with LERC Director to learn about the Center's services.

Mr. Nicolás Kronfly, Argentinean businessman of Lebanese descent and Vice-President of the youth section of U.C.A.L. (Union Cultural Argentina Libanesa) and of the J.U.C.A.L Filial Rosario, two parts of the Argentinean Sociedad Libanesa, along with Mr. Michel Ghossoub, Representative in Lebanon of the Firkat Al Arz, folkloric dabkeh dance group that performs at cultural events around Argentina.

Ms. Naire Geni Elias, resident at Porto Alegre, in Rio Grande do Sol. Her grandfather, Khalil Elias Letayf (Lteif), left Zahle for Brazil in 1900 at the tender age of twelve.

Dr. Felipe Nacle Gannam, second-generation Brazilian, medical doctor and author, whose father left El Kaa, near Ras Baalbek, accompanied by his Brazilian wife, Eliane.

Mr. Michel Delifer, a Lebanese of Armenian descent, who currently lives and works in the United States,

Regional Sales Director for Sopheon, a software company that focuses on innovation.

Lebanese-Brazilian businessman and Honorary Consul of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in Sao Paolo, Brazil, Mr. Mustapha Abdouni, accompanied by his son Mr. Munir Abdouni.

Mr. Nabih Abou el-Hosn, eminent Lebanese-Brazilian businessman, former Governor, land-owner, active member of Druze community, leading member of organizations and author. Accompanied by his cousin Walid Abou el-Hosn.

Society of Civil Engineers Activities

Arab Environnement 2010 Conference

Water: Sustainable management of scarce resource

Two students and one faculty member of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and the Society of Civil Engineers (SCE) attended the ARAB ENVIRONMENT 2010 Conference held on 4-5 November, 2010 in Emirates Hall, Convention Center, Habtoor Grand Hotel in Beirut. The conference was third of an annual series initiated by AFED, Arab Forum for Environment and Development, a non-profit organization bringing together specialists of the media, civil society, research centers, universities, authorities, and business community to enforce environmental policies and programs across the Arab world. The conference was held under the patronage of His Excellency the Lebanese Prime Minister Mr. Saad Hariri with the participation of ministers and representatives of government and international organizations. It contributed to the publication of the 2010 report which combines in one volume critical material on water from a variety of sources including analyses, case studies, and proposed measures. The second aim of the forum was to discuss the sustainable management of water resources by using specialist knowledge and research outcomes on water scarcity in the Arab region.

From the presentations and discussion, it has been shown that the major challenge facing the Arab region is the water crisis. Research has shown that almost all Arab countries will be below the level of severe water scarcity, less than 500 m³ per capita per year, which is below one-tenth of the world's average, currently estimated at over 6,000 m³. The climatic change will dramatically worsen the situation; for example an average increase in temperature of 2°C due to greenhouse effect will decrease water availability by 10-30% in

arid regions, according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). In addition to that, the abuse in management of water in agricultural practices and human use is leading to unsustainable practices of this scarce resource.

The conference ended with several recommendations and conclusions announced at the Lebanese House of the Ministerial Cabinet in Beirut. The state of water supply in Arab countries is critical and demands immediate action to allow equitable sharing and sustainable use. High rates of population growth must be complemented by efficient management of water, increasing the ratio of water treatment and reuse, and achieving a breakthrough in desalination technology for practical use.

The detailed announcement and report is available at the following http address: www.afedonline.org

The representatives of the Faculty of Engineering were:

Dr. Talal Salam, Assistant Professor, SCE Advisor, FE

Miss Berthe Bou Chaaya, SCE member, student, FE, co-author of above report

Mr. Rawad Salameh, SCE member, student, FE, co-author of above report.

Society of Civil Engineers (SCE)

Nutrition and Dietetics

The Nutrition and Dietetics program at the Faculty of Nursing and Health Sciences in NDU participated in the Science Days, an event organized by the Ministry of Culture from October 14th to 16th, 2010 at Beirut Hippodrome. The NDU Faculty stand was organized by Ms. Maya Abou Jaoude and Dr. Doris Jaalouk, with the participation of Nutrition and Dietetics students Jennifer Ayoub and Pascale Milene shown in our illustration.

The stand was entitled "Get to Know Your Fats". It consisted of many games and activities to educate people of all ages, especially school children, about the different types of dietary fats, their respective food sources, their effect on health, and how to identify them in our daily food choices (reading food labels, portion sizing, supermarket shopping, etc.). The stand consisted of different games such as a healthy fridge that the children would fill with healthy food while dropping junk foods in the garbage, and also a series of coloring pages of healthy and unhealthy foods, with nutritional mazes through which the children had to track the healthy and unhealthy paths. In addition to these there were question-and-answer sessions on nutrition jeopardy competition and also a

nutrition electro-game where the children had to find the right food for the heart as well as word-finders that revolved around the nutrition theme.

At specific times of the day, a PowerPoint presentation was projected, when one of the team members would accompany the presentation with detailed explanations for the audience. The stand was much visited by entire families, school children with their instructors, science teachers from schools, and many other adults from different backgrounds. It received very positive comments from the different visitors, which encouraged the NDU instructors and students to go into such activities more often so as to develop community knowledge on key nutrition and health issues.

Dr. Pennington and Global Music



Two musical experts – Dr. John Pennington and Fr. Elie Kesserwani of NDU.

The Department of Musicology at the Faculty of Architecture, Arts and Design in association with the American Embassy hosted Dr. John Pennington, Professor of Music at Augustana College and Artistic Director of the Animas Music Festival, Durango, Colorado.

Dr. Pennington delivered a lecture on Global Music History and Literature featuring African and Chinese music. He talked about the texture of music, improvisation, variation, etc. and elaborated on the cyclical forms of African music as being part of African daily life. He showed some of the main traditional instruments and explained about polyrhythmic layering of different instruments and rhythms which the audience experienced through several groups, clapping different rhythms simultaneously.

The second part of the lecture was about Chinese music and its similarity to the Japanese, Korean and Vietnamese music. He spoke about the scales and the instruments while playing musical examples.

Students and professors were very interested by the accurate portrayal of Global Music History and Literature as well as by the broad knowledge of the great percussionist, musicologist and scholar.

40th Annual Meeting of Neuroscience Society



Dr. Colette Kabrita-Bou Serhal with her poster.

Dr Colette Kabrita-Bou Serhal, a Circadian Biologist and Chairperson of the Department of Sciences, presented a poster at the 40th Annual Meeting of the Society of Neuroscience (SFN), which was held at San Diego (USA) on November 13 – 17, 2010. This international conference was attended by 31,358 neuroscientists from different parts of the world with, except for Notre Dame University, barely any participation from Lebanon. Dr Kabrita Bou-Serhal, who is a member of the SFN, presented her poster on Sunday, November 13th, 2010. This bore the title Determination of the site of origin and settling patterns of suprachiasmatic nucleus (SCN) precursors in the anterior hypothalamus of mouse (C57BL/6) embryo. The study traced the origin of SCN cells from the neuroepithelium of the third ventricle in the embryonic mouse brain and looked at their settling patterns in the midline anterior hypothalamus above the optic chiasma. It should be noted that the SCN is the biological clock in mammals, humans included, that times their daily biological rhythms and synchronizes them with the environmental light/dark cycle. This helps organisms to adapt to their external world, a fact of high survival value.

Colette Kabrita-Bou Derhal, Ph.D.,

Ass. Professor of Biology and Chairperson of Department of Sciences, FNAS (NDU)

In Germany, DAAD/NDU Study Plan



The NDU students with Dr. Naji Oueijan, their experienced guide.

On May 9, 2010, Professor Naji Oueijan accompanied twelve graduate and undergraduate students of English Literature to Germany for one full week of a Study Trip Program sponsored by the DAAD and NDU. They visited Marbach, Munich, and Erfurt, and smaller towns such as Ulm, Bayrouth and Weimer. They took part in three workshops with three professors of German and British Romanticism, Dr. Marcel Lepper (Director of the Schiller Archive Center in Marbach), Prof. Christoph Bode (President of the German Society of British Romanticism and Prof. of English Literature at LMU), and Prof. Fritz Neumann (Prof. of Literature at Erfurt University). The NDU delegation also had an opportunity for research in the Library of the Schiller Archive Center.

The places they visited, the people they met, and the universities and cultural institutions they had the privilege of visiting, all left a lasting impression on the students. Their views on the Study Trip reveal the great impact of such a cross-cultural experience on the academic development of NDU students. Snapshots and their Trip Reports, showing their admiration of Germany, its peoples, and cultures, are included with this report and their views. All in all, such activities are greatly needed to foster cross-cultural understanding, respect and appreciation of diversity.

The students' views on their trip will be found under Opinion and Culture.

ndu chronicle

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