



ndu chronicle

NOTRE DAME UNIVERSITY - LOUAIZE [NDU] BULLETIN

ISSUE 17 FEBRUARY 2012

In This Issue:

A Word from the President

1. President's message.

Feature

2. NDU's silver jubilee.

Seminars, Lectures, Workshops

3. Lebanese Phoenicianism as a Diasporic Discourse (Dr. Andrew Arsan).
4. University, religion, polis: can we still hope to regain the lost opportunities for peace on earth? And how?
5. Living Between Two Worlds (Dr. Rosemary Suliman).
6. RUCAS Tempus project workshop on ESD.

Conferences, Conventions

7. International Conference on Cross-Cultural Education.
8. NDU attends NAM Convention.

LERC News

9. Visitors to LERC.
10. LERC Director's Activities in the U.S.A.
11. Akiki Family funds grant for LERC's Internship Program.

WEERC News

12. Scientific Day on Solar Technologies.
13. Training workshop on the impacts of climate change on water resources management.

Accreditation Updates

14. Another step closer.

NDU Press Publications

15. A list of NDU Press' latest publications.

News in Brief

16. President and VPSRD Trip to USA.
17. My Summer at Notre Dame University' by Sofia Martinez.

Announcements

18. Fulbright scholar: Dr. Melissa Wall.
19. Sponsored research projects – update.

P.O. Box: 72 Zouk Michael
Zouk Mosbeh, Lebanon
Phone: +961 9 218950 Ext .2121
Direct: +961 9 208998
Fax: +961 9 224517
www.ndu.edu.lb
asaadeid@ndu.edu.lb
nfares@ndu.edu.lb

A Word from the President



Of the many dynamics operating in contemporary higher education is the great importance universities attach to the internationalization of their campuses. In terms of content, internationalization includes: mobility of students and faculty across borders, participation in international conferences, and cooperation in research projects. In Lebanon, well-established universities have been vocal about their ambitions to attract international students, develop joint programs, and engage in research endeavors through academic partnerships and collaborations with overseas universities.

Notre Dame University - Louaize has been active in developing worldwide connections. In the past few years, it has moved ahead with the second phase of its outreach efforts in North America and Europe. This ongoing plan of action is set to build bridges between European and North American students and faculty and NDU, especially those hailing from Lebanese expatriate communities.

The year 2012 marks NDU's Twenty-fifth-year Anniversary, and NDU has identified this important milestone as crucial to its institutional advancement plan. The narrative of NDU's progress during its first twenty-five years, as well as the University's vision for the future, is of tremendous value to its advancement efforts. NDU, thus, recommends leveraging the University's Silver Jubilee to serve as an occasion to undertake a more active role in attracting students and faculty from the ranks of the Lebanese Diaspora.

Internationalization is an emerging goal that is embedded in NDU's mission, vision, and objectives. More than ever before, NDU is not only ready to face the challenges associated with the "international dimension", but quite determined to ensure its progress towards a sustainable international status.

2. Announcement of NDU's Silver Jubilee



(L-R) Mr. S. Matar, Mr. M Baalbaki, Fr. W. Moussa, Mr. R. Jebara



On the occasion of commemorating the 25th anniversary of the establishment of Notre Dame University, Louaize (NDU), President Fr. Walid Moussa held a press conference at NDU's Pierre Abou Khater Auditorium to announce the various activities and events slated for this year.

In addition to religious, media, and social figures, the dignitaries present at event included: Superior General of the Maronite Order of the Holy Virgin Mary, Abbot Fr. Boutros Tarabay; former Minister of Economy, George Skaff; President of the Lebanese Press Syndicate, Mohammad Baalbaki; and Director of the National News Agency (NNA), Laure Saab.

Following the national anthem, the Master of Ceremonies and NDU Press Attaché, Mrs. Tatiana Rouhana Abou Hadir, delivered a welcome speech. A mini-documentary- prepared by reporter/news anchor Majid Abou Hadir- that told the story of NDU's inception and subsequent development was later screened.

Fr. Moussa likened the press conference to "a close-knit family bringing together people from the University and media- two institutions that work to serve Mankind on several fronts: educational, cultural, moral, political, social, and economic".

In conclusion, Fr. Moussa said, "We are endeavoring to obtain accreditation, which will allow our graduates to find the best jobs on the market."

The Vice-President for Cultural Affairs and Public Relations, Mr. Souheil Matar, presented the agenda for this year's Silver Jubilee as follows:

1. Marking the Silver Jubilee as an occasion to evaluate the past and plan for the future.
2. Developing a series of documentaries on NDU.
3. Preparing various comprehensive studies of NDU students and programs.
4. Organizing events to honor retired professors, monks, staff members, alumni, etc.
5. Establishing new faculties and academic majors that answer the needs of the job market, particularly:
 - Founding a Faculty of Law, which offers courses in English. This faculty is currently close to receiving a license from the Lebanese Ministry of Education & Higher Education in order to become active.
 - Preparing feasibility studies necessary for the establishment of a Faculty of Medicine as well as cost-projections toward establishing a private hospital.
6. Offering scholarships for NDU students and students of schools that work in partnership with NDU.
7. Creating a public garden with several planted trees inside the NDU main campus, bearing the names of various figures concerned.
8. Holding on- and off-campus sports and arts competitions among students in collaboration with other universities.
9. Organizing music concerts.
10. Unveiling new busts of notable figures.
11. Organizing laser light shows.
12. Organizing social and charitable activities in orphanages and humanitarian establishments.
13. Coordinating spiritual activities that carry the torch of the University's belonging and its role in strengthening faith and ethics.
14. Preparing for a musical extravaganza that will be performed by the NDU Choir.
15. Issuing special volumes of various NDU publications.
16. Organizing seminars, workshops, and conferences with the participation of specialists from Lebanon and abroad.
17. Combining activities of the Silver Jubilee with the centennial of legendary Said Akl.
18. Organizing various student activities.
19. Celebrating many events, including the Commencement Ceremony and Founders' Day under the patronage of His Excellency the President of the Republic and His Beatitude Mar Bechara Boutros Rahi.
20. Launching these activities with a big stage production by renowned playwright and artist, Raymond Gebara, under the title of Maktal Inna Wa Akhawatiha (The Murder of Inna and Her Sisters).

3. Lebanese Phoenicianism as a Diasporic Discourse: Dr. Andrew Arsan Gives Lecture at NDU

On November 16, 2011, Dr. Andrew Arsan gave a lecture at NDU's Abou Khater Hall under the title of, "Citizens of the World Who Stopped on Every Shore': Reading Lebanese Phoenicianism as a Diasporic Discourse," as part of the Lebanese Emigration Research Center's series. Guita Hourani, Director of LERC, presided over the discussion.



Dr. A. Arsan delivers his talk as part of LERC's on-going Lecture Series (Nov 2011).

4. University, Religion, Polis: Can We Still Hope to Regain the Lost Opportunities for Peace on Earth? And How?

Between May 26 and 27, 2011, Lebanese Center for Societal Research (LCSR) at NDU held the third of a series of seminars under the title of, "University, Religion, Polis: Can we Still Hope to Regain the Lost Opportunities for Peace on Earth? And How?"

The first day was devoted to examining the existing academic programs at the university; on the second day, the panelists attempted to forecast the adequate change in the university environment needed to respond to our future needs.

Fr. Walid Moussa, President of NDU, discussed with Mr. Souhail Matar, Vice-President for Cultural Affairs and Public Relations, the nature of God and Man, and their impact on society and universities in particular. Fr. Moussa stressed the importance of liberating university students from their confessional ties to enable them to reach the status of citizens, capable of participating in collective activities and decision-making while concurrently preserving their own faith and even deepening it further.

Dr. Assaad Eid, Vice-President for Sponsored Research and Development, insisted on the need to liberate the university itself from the constraints generated by the large amount of rigid knowledge that prevents it from functioning as a democratic institution; this fact pushes us to think about how to address the youth of today. Dr. Eid further added that it is precisely religious indoctrination, prevalent everywhere in today's world that prevents the university from playing its role of openness to the cultural, social and educational diversity that would enable it to become a place of research and dialogue between different entities.

This brings us back to the major question asked in the title of the seminar; it might be urgent to habilitate the university to build the foundations of a universal human civilization, and to help them evolve continuously and adapt to the needs and demands of the times and spaces!

Based on the qualitative transformation of the meaning of university teaching space, the three major concepts that concern us in this seminar would rediscover their global orientation as follows:



(L-R) Mrs. D. Rachkidi, Mr. S. Matar, Fr. W. Moussa, Dr. A. Eid, Dr. A. Kahi

Universitas: awareness of the human being of his humanity in its multiple facets: social being, individual being, societal being, and spiritual being.

Religare: opening of the sky (the heart), as a place for love and creation, toward the earth as a place of fertility work, of conceiving and multiplication, but also a place of conflict and destruction as well.

Polis: the creation of an empty physical space (natural surrounding) and of an empty psychic space (sentimental) that would allow individuals, families and the various religious and socio-cultural groups to meet within the search for their common humanity.

The problem is present. Are we going to be able to allow our youth to gain confidence in themselves, so that they are able to defend us, not because of our authority over them, but rather for their own that we have acknowledged as the presence of God?

Among the scholars who took the floor were: Fr. Boulos Wehbe (NDU); Fr. Salim Daccache (USJ); Dr. Wajih Kanso (UL); Nada Saad Saber (NDU); Dr. Chahine Ghais (NDU); Pr. Jacques Beauchard (Université Paris Val-de Marne XII); Manal Kahi (USJ); Myriam Mehanna (USJ); Dr. Elie Yachoui (NDU); Dr. Louis Jean-Daniel Remond (Société Europe et Cultures); Dr. Jean-Jacques Ballan (CENECO Entrainement et Communication); Darine Rachkidi Bouloot (NDU); Dr. Antoine Courban (USJ); Dr. Antoine Seif (UL); Mr. Rabih Turkieh (Hopital Nini); Dr. Roland-Ramzi Geadah (CICERF); Dr. Melhem Khalaf (USJ); and Dr. Nasri Sayegh (Writer).

5. Dr. Rosemary Suliman: "Living Between Two Worlds"

Dr. Rosemary Suliman presented a talk focused on the cultural predicaments that young Lebanese face in Australia on 28 October 2011 at the NDU Bou Khater Auditorium. Dr. Suliman is Senior Lecturer at the University of Western Sydney, for Arabic Language and Education. Born in Khartoum of Egyptian parents, Dr. Suliman moved to Sydney in 1972, and has devoted her professional life to alleviating the obstacles that immigrant children face in Australia's education system. She is also a major player in developing Arabic language education for Australian universities, developing course syllabi and textbooks, and teaching Arabic.



Dr. R. Suliman (Oct 2011).

6. RUCAS Tempus Project Workshop on ESD.



Opening session: Dr. Eid delivering speech



RUCAS group photo

Notre Dame University - Louaize (NDU), hosted the regional RUCAS Tempus project workshop on the education for sustainable development (ESD) between 23 and 25 October 2011, at NDU's Bou Khater Auditorium and Friends Hall (main campus), in partnership with La Sagesse University (LSU) and the University of Crete.

Divided into five sessions, the workshop focused on curriculum revision towards education for sustainable development. Aims/objectives of ESD curriculum reorientation in higher education; strategies for curriculum reorientation at higher education; university for sustainable development curriculum approach to sustainability, and models for ESD curriculum reorientation at higher education were discussed in a workshop setting.

In addition to university teaching staff from partner universities (45 in total): University of Padova, Italy, Heliopolis University, Egypt, MIO-ECSDE/MEdIES, Greece, and training staff from E.U. partners, other agencies included, the National Tempus Office in Lebanon, the UNESCO Regional Office, SEKEM Development Foundation (SDF), Egypt, and the League of Independent Activists (IndyACT), Lebanon were in attendance.

ESD is a vision of education that seeks to empower people to assume responsibility for creating a sustainable future. RUCAS is an E.U. TEMPUS project led by the Department of Primary Education of the University of Crete that was launched on October 2010 with a three-year duration. The main goal of RUCAS is to support the development of ESD in the Higher Education sector in developing countries (Egypt, Jordan, and Lebanon) with the help of developed countries (Greece, France, Ireland, Italy, Sweden).

7. International Conference on Cross-Cultural Education

Adyan Foundation, NDU Faculty of Humanities Co-hosted International Conference on Cross-Cultural Education Notre Dame University, Louaize, and Adyan co-hosted a two-day International Conference on Cross-Cultural Education between 2 and 3 June 2011. Policy makers, academic leaders, and students from around the globe discussed cross-cultural topics, ranging from the "Arab Uprising" to interfaith dialogue. Opening speakers included Dr. Fadi Daou, Chairman of the Adyan Foundation, Father Walid Moussa, President of NDU, and Minister of Culture H.E. Salim Wardy.

Dr. Eugene Sensenig-Dabbous of LERC lamented the ethnocentric policies of applied Western research methods in an Arab context and indicated that the application of these Western research tools in the current context was invalid. Dr. Sensenig-Dabbous highlighted LERC's efforts in rectifying these current errors.



At the panel: (from left to right). Dr. E. Sensenig-Dabbous, Prof. G. Auletta, Dr. E. Alam, Dr. Fr. G. Antaby (June 2011).

8. NDU at NAM Annual Convention in the U.S.A.



Mr. M. Naber and Dr. G. Abdelnour

In what has become an annual tradition, Notre Dame University - Louaize (NDU) attended this year's National Apostolate of Maronites (NAM) Convention in the U.S.A., promoting the University's image as the preeminent Maronite Catholic institution of higher education in Lebanon and the Middle East. NDU was represented by Drs. Assaad Eid, Vice-President for Sponsored Research and Development, and faculty member George Abdelnour. Held in the historic city of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, from July 5-10, 2011, NAM's yearly convention is the largest gathering of the Maronite community in North America, attracting grass-roots members of local parishes and community leaders.

NDU's attendance served to underscore the University's commitment to strong ties with Lebanese communities abroad, as well as to connect with NDU supporters in North America. During the Convention the University announced the second cycle of the NDU-NAM Scholarship Fund for



Ms. H. Kahlil and Dr. A. Eid

study in Lebanon, a merit scholarship for college-aged NAM members to study at NDU. The award offers full tuition and residence for a full semester to scholarship recipients, with additional support from NAM for transportation expenses. The University also held a workshop on "Linking the U.S. and Lebanon Through Higher Education" aimed at young adults. University representatives were on hand to answer questions and furnish prospective students with informational material about the University.

The University's outreach efforts in North America are consistent with its mission as the sole Maronite Catholic institution in Lebanon, following the American model of higher education. Through partnerships with U.S. institutions of higher learning, cultural and religious organizations and associations, NDU continues to build international links that contribute to a global campus. Its partnership with NAM is a keystone of these efforts.

9. Academic and Genealogy Visitors to LERC

LERC's local and international visitors included: **Taco van der Zwaag**, Director of the Netherlands Institute in Beirut (NI-Beirut); **George Youniss** the Executive Manager of Four Accessories Ltd.-Zoppini in Saudi Arabia and founder of Lebanese Worldwide Community (LWC), a network that exceeds 8,000 members worldwide; **Dr. Konrad Pędziwiatr** from Poland, Assistant Professor and Project Coordinator at the Tischner European University; **Pierre Hage**, Lebanese businessman in Burkina Faso, West Africa, and Coordinator of the Lebanese Forces for Africa (Al-Eghtirab Department) as well as Regional Secretary General for Africa of the World Lebanese Cultural Union (WLCU); **José María Castellanos Elías**, Mexican of Lebanese descent who came with his family to donate Dr. Martha Diaz de Kuri's latest book; **Donald Goertzen** and **Cyra Michelle Goertzen**, coordinators at the new Economic Justice Center at Haigazian University in Beirut; two Brazilian couples of Lebanese descent, **Samir Ary**, award-winning lawyer, with his wife, **Maria Elizabeth Jereissati Ary**, and **Valter Antonio Chammas**, company owner, with his wife, **Vania Juliano Chammas**; and **Munir Nellmeldin**, Argentinean of Lebanese descent, President of Firket al-Arz, folklore and Dabke club; and **Samar Nader**, Journalist-Anchor United Nations for Lebanon's New TV.

Moise Khayrallah, renowned Lebanese-American doctor and philanthropist, visited LERC on 6 September 2011. He holds a PhD in Psychology from the University of Carolina, U.S.A., and is involved in drug development. He is currently President and CEO of Neuronex Inc. He co-founded Adrenex Pharmaceuticals, Inc., and Alius Pharma, LLC, to partner with small biotechnology companies in cancer drug development. He has held leading positions in prestigious companies such as Burroughs Wellcome and Glaxo Wellcome. Dr. Khayrallah emigrated from Ghbeleh, Lebanon, in 1983. He and his wife regularly visit their families in Lebanon. Dr. Khayrallah became the main supporter of the new the Khayrallah Program in Lebanese-American Studies at North Carolina State University (NCSU), U.S.A, which is headed by renowned scholar Dr. Akram Khater. He is Public Relations Officer of the Triangle Lebanese Association, which exists to "preserve and promote the Lebanese Culture and heritage". His brother, Roger, accompanied him on a tour of the LERC.

Dr. Khayrallah invited Director of LERC, Guita Hourani, and associates to the international conference on Lebanese migration at NCSU, which is scheduled for spring 2012.

Dr. Uno Masaki, renowned Japanese scholar, visited LERC on 14 September 2011. He is professor at the Faculty of International Studies at Hiroshima City University, specializing in cultural anthropology and folklore. He has published studies on the Druze and Syria as well as the Lebanese

civil war. LERC provided him with material needed for his research on Lebanese immigrants in Argentina.

Dr. Rigas Arvanitis, a visiting sociologist from the Institut de recherche pour le développement (IRD) in France, researching at the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences at the American University of Beirut (AUB), visited LERC on 14 July 2011 to meet with the Guita Hourani, Director of LERC at NDU as well as LERC's Adjunct Researcher, Dr. Eugene Sensenig-Dabbous. Dr. Arvanitis' research at the AUB involves work with Lebanon's National Council for Research, regarding the establishment of scientific and technological indicators for the entire country. The research for this project encompasses the top universities in Lebanon, one of which is NDU. Dr. Arvanitis' interest in visiting LERC was to communicate an idea for a workshop that he hopes will turn into a project at some point in the future. His idea is to invite several world-renowned researchers, working on Columbia and South Africa as well as Lebanese researchers, to discuss how these expatriates involved in hard science research are able to network with the world and with their homeland. The other purpose is to connect scientific researchers with one another.



(from left to right) G. Hourani, Dr. M. Khayrallah, and R. Khayrallah at the LERC museum.



Dr. Masaki pictured at the museum on his visit to LERC.

9. Visit of Dr. Akram Khater of North Carolina State University, U.S.A.

Dr. Akram Khater, Associate Professor of History, Director of the Khayrallah Program for Lebanese-American Studies, and Director of Middle East Studies Program at North Carolina State University in the United States of America, visited LERC on 10 May 2011, along with two renowned videographers, Danica Cullinan, and Emmy award-winning filmmaker, Neal Hutcheson.

Dr. Akram and his team were in Lebanon for the purpose of taping interviews and filming in the towns of Ghbeleh, Hammana, and Mazraet el-Teffah, for an hour-long PBS documentary on the Lebanese community in North Carolina, which will be screened in January 2012. The film will include interviews with Lebanese emigrants and their descendants in North Carolina.

Dr. Akram and his colleagues discussed with the Director of LERC, Guita Hourani, the work being done under the Khayrallah Program, upcoming projects, and future accessibility to the LERC collection on the Internet.

9. Mr. and Mrs. Elvis Alam Visit LERC and Donate Generously

Elvis Louis Alam, civil engineer and owner of Alamco in the Dominican Republic, visited the LERC with his wife, Hala Hraiz de Alam on 9 May 2011. Alam is a third-generation Dominican of Lebanese descent. His grandfather, Tanios, emigrated from Bsarma, in Koura, Northern Lebanon, on 12 July 1898 with his wife, Arze Rizk Alam.

Vice-President of the Club Libanes Santo Domingo, Alam has long nurtured a love of all things Lebanese and striven to collect documents, concerning the Lebanese in the Dominican Republic. In the Archivo General de la Nacion of the Dominican Republic, he digitally photographed endless original documents, including entry permits, residence permits, renewal forms, and re-entry visas for Lebanese who had chosen to retain their Lebanese nationality.

Alam came to LERC to donate copies of his collection, including photographed documents on the Jabbour (Yapor) family as well as Antonio Zaglul (from the renowned Zaglul family), and digital photographs of the magazine, Libanesa: Revista Dominica Libanesa, from its first issue in 1943 to its last in 1967. This covered all aspects of Lebanese life in Santo Domingo.



(from left to right) L. Haddad, Elvis Louis Alam, and H. Hraiz de Alam at the LEAD offices.

10. Hourani's Activities in the U.S.A.

Guita Hourani, Director of LERC, was in the United States of America to conduct two workshops at George Washington University, The Eliot School of International Affairs, on Lebanese migration in the world as well as to give a lecture on the impact of naturalization on the socioeconomic mobility and political participation of the Kurds of Lebanon. While in the U.S., Hourani met with two officials of the Federal Census Bureau on the categorization of Middle Easterners for the 2020 Census. During this meeting, she suggested that classification Middle Easterners as "Arab-Americans" should be changed and that sub-categories should be included to capture non-Arabs as well as the diverse ethnic groups from the Middle East.

She also met with Helen Samhan, ambassador-at-large for the Arab-American Museum, to discuss the museum's projects and activities.

She also interviewed the Director of the Lebanese Information Center (LIC), Dr. Joseph Gbeily, for her research project on the role of homeland political parties and Lebanese Diaspora, as well as to discuss the role of LIC in lobbying for out-of-country voting.

Through several public and private events, she had the opportunity to meet with several families and individuals from the areas of Virginia, Maryland and Washington, D.C., regarding the challenges they face in the U.S., as well as their views regarding out-of-country voting and their plans to return to Lebanon.

She also met with Dr. Rita Stephan (LERC Associate) who works for the Federal Census Bureau in order to understand the current classification of Lebanese emigrants in the census. Hourani further met with Dr. Andrew Arsan, one of the organizers of the conference, "The Mashriq and the Mahjar: Migration from the Levant, 1800-2000", which will take place at North Carolina State University from 20 to 22 April 2012, to discuss LERC's participation.

11. Akiki Family Leave Lasting Impression on LERC

A close friend of Guita Hourani, Director of LERC, from the Maronite Research Institute (MARI)—an institute she founded in the United States in 1995—Kozhaya Akiki and his late wife, Nora, visited Lebanon annually from Tupper Lake in New York, U.S.A. The couple always included a stopover at LERC to visit Hourani and the Center.

Akiki was born in Kfardebian, Lebanon, in 1938. In 1958, he met his wife, Nora Bernadette Maroun, of Tupper Lake, N.Y., who was on a visit to Lebanon. They married in Lebanon and then moved to Tupper Lake, where they taught at various local schools.

Akiki's commitment to LERC's mission led him to share his family's migration story by donating to the Lebanese Emigration Archives and Database (LEAD) family photos, a book of memories he lovingly put together in memory of his late wife, a sample of her obituaries, and press articles that trace the Akiki family accomplishments. The donated materials are assembled in the Kozhaya Akiki Collection.

Akiki very generously funded a grant for LERC's internship program. The Kozhaya and Nora Akiki Internship Grant will provide financial assistance to local Lebanese students during the transition period between graduating and finding



LERC's Director Ms. G. Hourani presenting Mr. K. Akiki with official documents relating to the internship grant (May 2011).

a job. Students interested in benefitting from this grant will have to compete for the two USD1,000 grants per academic year.

Since its establishment, LERC has always been active in providing internships for interested local and international students. The grant will provide some financial assistance for local Lebanese students to intern at LERC during the transition period between graduating and finding a job.

Following a public announcement in 2011, LERC received tens of applications. The committee that reviewed the application unanimously awarded Shereen Mahshi the USD1,000 internship grant in November 2011.

12. Scientific Day on Solar Technologies

In the framework of the project activities of the REsearch Elevation on Integration of SOLar Technologies into MEDiterranean BUILDings (RESSOL MEDBUILD), and after organizing a successful first Scientific Day on 2 April 2011, NDU, the Water Energy and Environment Research Center (WEERC), and Lebanese Association for Energy Saving and for Environment (ALMEE) organized a second Scientific Day on Saturday 17 December 2011, in the WEERC premises at the old Campus of Notre Dame University - Louaize (NDU).

RESSOL MEDBUILD is a Support Action for scientific and research capacities in the field of solar energy between the ALMEE, National Energy Research Centre (NERC) in Jordan, Centre for Renewable Energy Sources (CRES) in Greece, and Fraunhofer Institute for Solar Energy Systems (ISE) in Germany.

Running for a three-year period, RESSOL will provide capacity-building from the EU partners to its Mediterranean partners. The capacity-building will focus on the following research fields:

- **Field 1:** The technological integration of solar thermal (heating and cooling) and PV technologies (grid-connected and stand-alone) in buildings;
- **Field 2:** Simulation models and optimization of solar heating and cooling systems, and PV technologies into building operations, optimization of building energy management and energy performance through simulation of operations and systems for buildings;
- **Field 3:** Energy modeling and decision support, concerning energy planning on municipal and regional scales.

Supported by WEERC and NDU, ALMEE will carry out the action-plan, which has several components summarized as follows:

- Enhancing scientific knowledge and research experience.
- Upgrading research equipment.
- Strengthening research activities.
- Establishing international and national networking relations.
- Disseminating, promoting, and increasing awareness.

Although all these components ran in parallel, the second Scientific Day program, which brought together 40 experts and researchers, focused on efforts to strengthen scientific knowledge in the framework of the secondment (one-month training) and one-week training programs.

This program provided for 20 trainees (engineers or researchers) from various universities, disciplines, or research experiences in the different areas of the project. Trainings were held in the premises of CRES and Fraunhofer ISE.

Dr. Fadi Comair, Director-General of Hydraulic and Electrical



Dr. F. Comair with the organizing team of the 2nd Scientific Day

Resources at the Ministry of Energy and Water (MEW) and President of WEERC, inaugurated the opening session with a welcome speech, supporting and encouraging all participants, and highlighting the importance of research and development in the energy field in general and renewable energy in particular.

Dr. Adnan Jouni, from RESSOL MEDBUILD, took the podium to discuss the secondment and training programs that provided trainees with an excellent opportunity to enhance their knowledge during their science-based stay at CRES and ISE. He also stressed the positive impact of these experiences on other project activities.

Afterward, trainees spoke about their experiences, the knowledge gained during their stay in Greece and Germany.

13. Training Workshop on the Impacts of Climate Change on Water Resources Management.



Audience



(L-R) Dr. F. Comair, Dr. H. Motiee, Mr. S. Matar, Mrs. N.Saber

The Water Energy and Environment Research Center (WEERC) at Notre Dame University - Louaize (NDU), and the Regional Centre on Urban Water Management UNESCO-RCUWM, Tehran, organized a four-day training workshop, between October 27 and 30, 2011, at NDU under the patronage of H.E. Eng. Gebran Bassil, Lebanese Minister of Energy and Water, under the title of "Impacts of Climate change on Water Resources Management".

This workshop was held in coordination with the Ministry of Energy and Water (MEW), the General Directorate of Hydraulic and Electric Resources, and the Arab Forum for Environment and Development - AFED.

The opening session was ensured by Mr. Souheil Mattar, Vice-President for Cultural Affairs & Public Relations at NDU, Dr. Fadi Comair, Director of WEERC, Dr. Homayoun Motiee, Director, Regional Centre on Urban Water Management, Tehran, and Dr. Assaad Eid, Vice-President for Sponsored Research and Development at NDU.

Topics over the four days included: "An Introduction to Climate Change; Theoretical Principles of Climate Change and Global Warming," delivered by Dr Massah, University of Tehran, Iran; "Development of Mitigation/Adaptation Strategies on Climate Change" (Dr. Ahadi); "Modeling the Climate System" (Dr. Massah); and "Studying the Effect of Climate Change on Snow Runoff" (Dr. Saghafian).

The training workshop was concluded with a field visit to survey the Chabrouh dam.

It is worth noting that WEERC at NDU aims at investigating the water and energy resources, and the state of environment situation in Lebanon and the MENA region under its multi-facial aspects. The role of this center is to develop appropriate strategies and provide training for the proper optimization and an integrated management of water and energy use that contributes to a prosperous environment.

14. Another Step Closer.

This year, the President selected two members of the Accreditation Committee, Dr. Roger Hajjar and Mr. Simon Abou Jaoude, to be a part of the NDU team to NEASC's annual meeting which also included the President, the Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Ameen Rihani, the Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs and Coordinator of the Self-Study, Dr. Kamal Abouchedid.

Fr. Walid met with Dr. Barbara Brittingham, the Director of the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education (CHIE) at NEASC in Boston and presented her with NDU's Progress Report 2011. The Progress Report detailed the work accomplished thus far by the 11 subcommittees of the standards and the data reporting team, and highlighted the measures taken by NDU to address points of concerns regarding governance and finance raised by the NEASC's visiting team in June 2010 composed of Dr. Patricia O'Brien, Dr. David Finney, and Dr. Orin Grossman.

At the meeting, Dr. Brittingham requested from the President the following: a Management Letter detailing the procedures and actions taken with regard to the restructuring of the Business Office and financial reporting in accordance with

American not-for-profit institutions of higher education to be submitted in mid-February. She also asked to see the latest amendments of the BOT bylaws, in particular the section regarding the president's appointment. In light of the latter request, NEASC may propose that the President of St-Anselm College visit NDU in June 2012 since their governance structure has undergone similar amendments to NDU's governance structure.

In addition to Dr. Rihani's meeting with Dr. O'Brien, Deputy Director of CHIE, members of NDU's team attended various conference sessions and participated in workshops that centered on the assessment of student learning. Various topics were also addressed such as institutional research, informational technology, student advising, net generation students. The President of NDU exchanged greetings with Mr. George Mitchel, U.S. Senator and former envoy to the Middle East, following his luncheon address.

NDU's attendance at NEASC's conference highlighted the progress NDU is making and emphasized NDU's community's commitment to the accreditation process.

By: The executive accreditation committee

NDU Press Publications

15. Latest NDU Press Publications

Pushkin, the Spiritual Father of Russian Poetry

Proceedings of an international conference held at NDU on 2 December 2009.

Languages: Arabic, English, French, and Russian.

Universitas, Educatio, and the Future of Societal Thought in a Contemporary World

Proceedings of a two-day reflexive seminar held at NDU between 28 and 29 April 2010.

Languages: Arabic, English, and French.

Juhan

Author: Ameen F. Rihani.

Language: English.

Compendium of the Virgin Mary in Lebanon – Part 9

Compiled by Jean Sadaka

Languages: Arabic and English.

Abstracts are available online:

www.ndu.edu.lb/research/ndupress

16. President and VPSRD Trip to USA

On January 28, 2012, President Fr. Walid Moussa and VPSRD Dr. A. Eid joined hundreds of top leaders of Catholic Colleges and Universities (ACCU) in Washington D.C, where the 2012 ACCU Annual Meeting was held. This year's meeting theme 'Catholic Higher Education and Culture: Advancing Gospel Values and Cultivating Civility' reflected how catholic higher education can both embrace and challenge culture in order to advance society, offering a model of civility that respects the dignity of all persons.

On January 30, Dr. Eid flew to Montreal, Canada to hold a series of meetings with Bishop Joseph Khoury, Fr. Fadi Helwanji, and friends of NDU. Possibilities of cooperation between NDU and the Lebanese Canadian community were discussed and an action plan was drafted. As a follow up, Dr. Eid will be visiting Montreal and Ottawa, June 2012 to meet NDU's friends in Ottawa and to participate in the Lebanese Festival that is going to be held in Montreal mid June 2012.



(L-R) Mr. S. Issa, Mrs. S. Waked, Dr. A. Eid

17. My Summer at Notre Dame University, 2011



If you had told me 2 years ago that I would travel to Lebanon, take university classes there, and begin to learn Arabic, I would most probably chuckle silly. Never would I have imagined myself doing those things in my late teenage years, but by the grace of God, they did. At the behest of fellow members of my congregation, I researched the scholarship opportunity furnished by the National Apostolate of Maronites, an organization of which my parents were a part. Two months later, I received a response: I, Sofia Martinez, would be studying at Notre Dame University in the beautiful city of Louaize. My family was ecstatic for me, as was I. At that point I was open to traveling anywhere, having just started a separate study abroad year offered by my home university.

As Spring 2011 came, and the revolutions in the Middle East along with it, I started to get a little worried. Would the violence spread to Lebanon? It was a question that was continually on my mind, but placing my trust in God is the sole thing I could do. I arrived in Beirut in late June, ready to face the unexpected. I stayed with the most generous, most kind Lebanese family, who would be essential in my informal Arabic Language teaching. As for as the courses at NDU go, I felt quite comfortable. The university teaches using the American college standard, which aided me tremendously when getting habituated to the environment. I took 2 summer courses while I was there in order to further my International Business degree back home. The professors were more than willing to help me situate myself at the university and in Lebanon as well, providing me with the contact information for whatever I may need as well as with sample itineraries to visit the beauties of Lebanon.

My thanks to NAM, for affording me this once in a lifetime opportunity. Through their generous scholarship, I was able to educate myself on the rich culture of Lebanon. For this, choukran!

18. Visiting Fulbright Scholar, Dr. Melissa Wall



Dr. Melissa Wall has been granted a Fulbright Scholarship for Spring Semester 2012. In addition to teaching at the Faculty of Humanities, Dr. Wall will conduct seminars and lectures, and contribute to curriculum development in Media Studies.

Dr. Wall is Professor of Journalism at California State University - Northridge where she teaches and researches participatory/online news and activism and supervises the Mass Communications graduate program. She has previously been a fellow at the Bergland Institute for Internet Studies and the Poynter Institute's Journalism program at Indiana University. Her book, "Citizen Journalism: Valuable, Useless or Dangerous?" will be released in September. Her chapter, "Digitizing Discontent: YouTube and Thailand's Red Shirt Uprising," appears this spring, and an article about YouTube and Egyptian youth activist Asmaa Mahfouz is available for download here: <http://ijoc.org/ojs/index.php/ijoc/article/view/1241/609>.

She has taught journalism in Ethiopia, studied township newspapers in Zimbabwe, produced a radio documentary about Taiwan's media reform movement, volunteered at a homeless newspaper and worked as a professional journalist in the US. Among the places her photographs have appeared are the books "Moral Panics: The Social Construction of Deviance," and "From Act up to the WTO: Urban Protest and Community Building in the Era of Globalization."

She is part of a faculty group creating a new Middle East and Islamic Studies minor at her university. She can be found at melissawall@gmail.com, on Twitter @MelissaWall, blogging at melissawall.wordpress.com, on Flickr at flickr.com/photos/melissawall/ or in room B291 in the Business and Economics Building.

19. Sponsored Research Projects – Update

Reorient University Curricula to Address Sustainability (RUCAS) in partnership with the University of Crete (Greece), sponsored by Tempus

Toward the Lebanese Quality Assurance (TLQAA) in partnership with the University of Balamand (Lebanon), sponsored by Tempus.

Widening Egyptian and Lebanese COoperation and Mobility with Europe (WELCOME) in partnership with Politecnico di Torino (Italy), sponsored by Erasmus Mundus.

The search for parameters and markers of oocyte quality in Awassi sheep conducted by Dr. Pauline Aad (Assist. Prof. in Animal Breeding and Reproduction), sponsored by the 'Conseil National de la Recherche Scientifique' (CNRS), Lebanon

Use of geotechnical laboratory facilities to investigate the stability and formwork pressure of self-consolidating concrete and its applications and use in Lebanon conducted by Dr. Jacques Harb (Assoc. Prof. in Civil Engineering), sponsored by CNRS, Lebanon

Dietary intake, behavior, and cognitive performance among school-aged children and adolescents in Lebanon, conducted by Dr. Doris Jaalouk (Assist. Prof. of Biology), sponsored by CNRS, Lebanon.