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A background image of autumn leaves in shades of orange, yellow, and red, set against a blurred blue sky. A semi-transparent grey horizontal band is overlaid across the middle of the image.

NDU CHRONICLE - FALL 2012

NOTRE DAME UNIVERSITY - LOUAIZE
[NDU] E-BULLETIN



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> EDITORIAL

By Ms. Guita Hourani and Ms. Maritta Sislian, LERC

An educational mission falling under a new scholarly scope imposes itself on academics in the twenty-first century, shifting from the more traditional model of transferring knowledge from teacher to student. This shift is profound. The aim today is to train the next generation of students by building them up and preparing them to become responsible and successful candidates; thus, enabling them to contribute toward developing their country. Institutions of higher education play a large and growing role in helping achieve this mission given that these institutions prepare students for the challenges along their early career paths, starting from the classroom. The burden, hence, rests upon the shoulders of educationalists to think outside the box and adapt to the dynamics of globalization.

Knowledge is undoubtedly the basis of education; however, on its own, it does not qualify as a factor of success. Student mobility and the early engagement of students within their society is a crucial determinant of their potential to put lecture room theory into practice.

Extracurricular involvement is a key tool in helping students gain and enhance multiple skills by providing them with the opportunity to heighten their intellectual, social, educational, relationship formulation, communication, and interpersonal skills, thereby, promoting personal development and advancing public wellbeing. Universities serve as catalysts for students to build upon such features throughout their academic journey, and it is the responsibility of students to seize similar opportunities.

Today, we have come to realize that potential employers seek “wholeness” in job applicants. These employers look for well-rounded candidates with strong skills, which are a combination of expert knowledge, sound character, innovative thinking, and forward-focused outlooks. These general criteria are also pre-determinants to better develop a society.

The future prosperity of our country largely lies in the hands of our youth; those engaged in our class rooms on a daily basis. It is our duty to invest in them, so that they can one day provide Lebanon—a country we all love so dearly—with a better and brighter future.

Through this issue, Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) proves once again the importance of engaging its students in extracurricular activities. This issue covers several seminars, lectures, workshops, and celebrations as well as research projects held and organized by the different faculties, departments and centers at NDU. We highly appreciate the dedication and efforts of the University’s faculty, students, and staff and wish them continued success.

> FEATURES

1. RUCAS Tempus Project on Reorienting University Curricula to Address Sustainability: Two Years of Achievements

By Dr. Nancy Kanbar, RUCAS Institutional Coordinator, NDU-Louaize

The world is currently facing many environmental problems, economic crises, and severe political issues. Despite the numerous “Arab Springs”, the Middle East is increasingly in peril. Achieving a sustainable future is clearly the essential challenge facing our region. Sustainability, in terms of what we enjoy today, is about living our lives in ways that leave the same, or better, options for future generations. The great challenge facing institutions of higher learning in the 21st century is to train professionals in favor of sustainable development. Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) is a vision of education that seeks to empower people to assume responsibility for creating a sustainable future. According to UNESCO, higher education systems in the Arab Region face many challenges that negatively influence their capacity to achieve the desired ESD goals. This situation requires that educational programs of universities should be reoriented in order to infuse ESD and sensitize students and other stakeholders towards sustainable development. A number of higher education institutions (HEIs) in Europe joined efforts with a number of HEIs and NGOs from the Arab region to tackle the issue of ESD within the scope of an EU-funded TEMPUS project. The “Reorient University Curricula to Address Sustainability” (RUCAS) project was launched in October 2010.



Dr. Kanbar presenting the project's progress



NDU and LaSagesse representatives with members of the monitoring team

Its main goal is to help six partner HEIs in Lebanon, Jordan, and Egypt to embed ESD into their curricula and teaching methodology through capacity building of university staff.

<p>E.U. partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University of Crete, Greece • University of Athens, Greece • Dublin City University, Ireland • Stockholm University, Sweden • University of Padova, Italy • University of Bordeaux3, France • MIO/ECSDE/MEDIES (Mediterranean Information Office for Education Culture & Sustainable Development/ Mediterranean Education Initiative for Environment and Sustainability) 	<p>Arab Region partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notre Dame University- Louaize, Lebanon • Université de La Sagesse, Lebanon • Hashemite University, Jordan • University of Jordan, Jordan • Suez Canal University, Egypt • Heliopolis University for Sustainable Development, Egypt • UNESCO Regional Office Beirut for the Arab States, Lebanon • SEKEM Development Foundation, Egypt • League of Independent Activists (IndyACT), Lebanon
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RUCAS team at NDU

The Reorient University Curricula to Address Sustainability (RUCAS) team at Notre Dame University - Louaize (NDU) is working in close collaboration with the Office of Sponsored Research and Development under the supervision of Vice President Dr. Assaad Eid. The project gathered representatives from different faculties to join efforts to reach the ultimate goal of the project.

<p>Faculty of Business Administration and Economics Dr. Nancy Kanbar (<i>RUCAS Institutional Coordinator</i>) Dr. Youssef Zgheib</p>	<p>Faculty of Engineering Dr. Jacques Harb Dr. Talal Salem</p>
<p>Faculty of Natural and Applied Sciences Dr. Elsa Sattout Dr. Tanos Hage Dr. Layla Khalaf-Kairouz</p>	<p>Faculty of Nursing and Health Sciences Dr. Jacqueline Doumit</p>
<p>Faculty of Political Science, Public Administration and Diplomacy Dr. George Labaki</p>	<p>Faculty of Humanities Dr. Sami Samra</p>

Activities of road map project: an update

I. Kick-off meeting

The kick-off meeting was held in Crete, Greece, in December 2010. Dr. Nancy Kanbar and Dr. Jacques Harb attended the meeting. The project's main goals, objectives, and administrative and managerial structures were presented.

II. Pilot assessment on ESD competencies

RUCAS defined and validated core ESD student competence framework. A sample of 3,757 students was surveyed from the 12 participating universities. The pilot study for the development and validation of the framework was carried out at NDU.

III. Revisiting Universities Curricula

A curriculum analysis was carried out to examine how and to what extent sustainability problems and principles of ESD are represented in the study programs of the participating institutions. The curricula were evaluated based on (1) sustainability themes; (2) goals of education for sustainable development; (3) competencies to be developed; (4) teaching methods, and (5) forms of evaluation.

IV. Capacity development and strengthening

Three regional workshops were held in the three partner countries.

First Regional Workshop: NDU, October 23 – 25, 2011 The workshop introduced the faculty members from Arab partner universities in Egypt, Jordan, and Lebanon to the teaching methods, concepts, principles, processes, and practices in ESD curriculum design. Themes, teaching methods, goals, and competencies that need to be addressed for curriculum revision were discussed. A communication platform, the RUCAS Community of Practice, was initiated to support the process of curriculum revision and design.

Second Regional Workshop: SEKEM Farm, Cairo, January 7-9, 2012 Faculty members, Drs. Kanbar, Hage, Doumit, Labaki, Samra, and Salem attended the workshop and discussed the revised syllabi they developed to infuse sustainability. They also reviewed the actions needed to integrate sustainability into the University mission, faculties, and other university structures.

Third Regional Workshop: University of Jordan, Amman, April 17-20, 2012 NDU faculty members, Drs. Kanbar, Zgheib, Hage, Khalaf-Kairouz, Doumit, Harb, Salem, Samra, and Labaki, joined the third regional workshop that examined the implementation process of the revised courses. They discussed with the other partners the process and outcomes of disseminating project results and examined the strategies for the institutionalization of ESD.

V. Communication platform at NDU: Virtual Center

An ESD Curriculum Design Toolkit and a virtual center for curriculum reform and professional development were established in every partner university in the Arab region. The facility is hosted at the computer center at NDU.

VI. Evaluating progress

NDU hosted the first monitoring visit for RUCAS in January 2012. Ms. Roisin Mc-Cabe attended the visit from the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) in Brussels, Drs. Aref Al soufi and Amer Helewan (National Tempus Office, Lebanon). The monitoring team met representatives from NDU, as well as representatives from La Sagesse University. The feedback that the NDU team received after the visit was positive.

2. Celebrating Said Akl's 100th birthday

NDU Marks the Closing of the Celebrations of Said Akl's Centenary at UNESCO Palace

To mark the closing of the festivities, celebrating the centenary of the legendary Lebanese poet Said Akl, Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) invited poets, writers, politicians, and clergy to UNESCO Palace - Beirut on Wednesday July 4, 2012.

Poets from several Arab countries paid tribute to Akl by delivering poems for the occasion; Farouk Shousha from Egypt, Colette Khoury from Syria, Haidar Mahmoud from Jordan, Abdel Rahman al-Jadid from the KSA, and George Chakour from Lebanon.

Following the Lebanese national anthem, Mr. Matar delivered a welcome note in which he considered the great poet as an "exceptional international phenomenon". He said, "Never has Lebanon witnessed a genius like Said Akl, who has transformed one hundred years into mirrors, reflecting love, innocence, sanctity, and beauty. Said Akl resembles the eternal cedar trees of Lebanon, the Berdaouni River that never dries out, and the high peaks of Mount Sannine."

A documentary of the events that celebrated the centenary of Akl inside and outside NDU was screened.

Subsequently, the famous Lebanese singer Wadih Safi sang Rabbi Rouda al-Ahwal (O God, Deliver Us from Horrors), and singer Guita Harb sang Zahrat al-Zuhur (Flower of Flowers), two poems by Akl.

The word that should have been delivered by former Ambassador Fouad

al-Terk on behalf of the poet's hometown, Zahle, was instead delivered by Lebanese star Najwa Karam given that Ambassador Terk was absent for health reasons. She said, "To be still living at the age of one hundred is one of God's blessings to man... And of God's blessings to the Land of Cedars is that for the first time in the history of Lebanon, we celebrate the centenary of a genius who is still among us..."

To close the ceremony, Fr. Moussa thanked "Said Akl for the incomparable beauty he imparted to poetry, the unmatched glory he imparted to Lebanon, and the unparalleled heritage he bestowed upon NDU".

He also thanked H.E. President of the Republic of Lebanon, General Michel Sleiman for his patronage, and saluted Prime Minister Najib Mikati, represented by Mr. Gaby Layoun, and all official, secular, and artistic figures who made this event a success.

In closing, NDU presented shields of appreciation to the poets and artists who brought life to the ceremony and to painter Bernard Renno who donated a painting of Akl to NDU.

Translated by: Christine Rayess Atallah

NDU Launches the Centenary Celebration of Poet Said Akl from Bkerkeh

Under the high patronage of His Beatitude, Maronite Patriarch Bechara Boutros Rahi, Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) launched the centenary celebrations of the legendary Lebanese Poet Said Akl from the patriarchal seat in Bkerkeh, on July 4, 2011.

In the presence of public and artistic figures, Patriarch Rahi celebrated Holy Mass accompanied by Fr. Walid Moussa, NDU President, as well as Fr. Bechara Khoury, former Abbot-General Semaan Abou Abdo, and Bishop Chekrallah Harb.

Fr. Moussa inaugurated the Mass with a word. He said, "Not a single city, spiritual family, or university can possess the grandeur and ingenuity of Akl. Akl belongs to Lebanon in its entirety; he belongs to humanity; all humanity. It is a unique phenomenon that a poet celebrates his one hundredth birthday; I have never heard or read about a poet who have lived a hundred years and never ceased giving."

After the reading from the Holy Bible, Patriarch Rahi gave a sermon under the title of "Who is the Greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven". He said, "Through the initiative of NDU, we are honored to pay tribute today to the legendary poet Said Akl who celebrates his one hundredth birthday. This is

a privilege that God has bestowed upon him, because despite his grandeur, he enjoys the innocence, humbleness, and openness of a child.” Mr. Suheil Matar, Vice-President for Cultural Affairs and Public Relations at NDU, revealed the “Centenary Program,” which comprises: the reprinting and republication of Akl’s old collection of books; the publication of some of his new manuscripts; the publication of a special opera for the Kadmous book; issuing of a stamp to mark this occasion; naming one of the streets of Beirut after him; constructing an edifice at NDU, bearing Akl’s name; organizing writing and poetry competitions among school and university students; encouraging studies and research on Said Akl and his literature, etc.

Matar also added, “The media should shed more light on the image of Said Akl and the role he played in serving Lebanon by maintaining the Said Akl Prize; launching a media campaign for this special jubilee; coordinating with clubs and cultural associations to organize meetings and special activities across Lebanon; preparing booklets on the great poet to be distributed in all academic institutions in Lebanon; launching a special website for the event, and preparing a documentary film about the poet to be broadcast on all Lebanese channels.”



L-R: M. Bou Hadir, E. Khoury, R. Tarabay, G. Gebara, C. Rouhana, R. Najem, Abb. B. Tarabay, S. Matar, J. Wehbe, P. Haddad, Fr. W. Moussa, J. El Atrash & E. Younes.

NDU Celebrates the Centenary of Legendary Said Akl in a Special Cultural Evening

Poets, musicians, singers, dancers, and actors gathered for a special cultural evening at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) to celebrate both the centenary of the legendary Lebanese Poet Said Akl and the Silver Jubilee of NDU on June 13, 2012.

The Georgette Gebara School ballet troupe inaugurated the evening with a dazzling tableau performed to the beat of Oummi Ya Malaki (My Mother, My Angel), a poem written by Akl and sang by living legend, Fairuz. Actors Jihad el-Atrash and Elvira Younes each interpreted two of Akl’s poems.

Oud player, Charbel Rouhana, accompanied by Elie Khoury, followed the singers’ act and played Laylat Saif (A Summer’s Night), another poem written by Akl.

The virtuoso stage performer, Refaat Tarabay filled the auditorium with his outstanding performance of three poems taken from Akl’s compilation. Opera singer Jahida Wehbeh mesmerized the audience when she sang Mishwar Jina Aal Dineh Mishwa (We Came to This World on a Journey).

The students of Georgette Gebara School closed the evening with an enchanting ballet tableau under the title of Aam Bihlamak Ya Hilm Ya Lebnan (I Dream of You, O Lebanon), a poem written by Akl and sang by Majida el-Roumy. At the close of the evening, Mr. Suheil Matar, Vice-President for Cultural Affairs and Public Relations at NDU, thanked everyone on behalf of NDU for participating in such a memorable evening and for making it a success. Mr. Matar then went on to present appreciation shields to all participating artists.

Given that Akl was unable to attend the event, it was beamed directly to his home in real-time. Akl was honored with the unveiling of a sculpted bust donated by media figure Dr. Rima Najm Bejjani, as well as the planting of a cedar tree in Akl’s name.

Translated by: Christine Rayess Atallah



L-R: Fr. W. Moussa, S. Matar, R. Najem & Abb. B. Tarabay.

3. NAM convention

NDU Attends the NAM Convention in San Antonio, Texas

For the fourth consecutive year, Notre Dame University- Louaize (NDU) participated in this year's National Apostolate of Maronites (NAM) Convention in San Antonio, Texas - an annual gathering of Maronite Lebanese-Americans. Held from July 4-8, 2012, NDU was represented by Vice-President of Sponsored Research & Development Dr. Assaad Eid, and Washington, DC, Office Coordinator Haley Kahlil.

NDU's participation included the setting up of an informational booth, promoting University programs of particular interest to a North American audience, such as Semester Abroad, Graduate study in the various Faculties, the Summer Arabic Program, among others. Dr. Assaad Eid addressed the General Assembly on the importance of "Bridging the U.S. and Lebanon through Higher Education", offering a general introduction to the University, including a successful drive for American accreditation by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). He also took the opportunity to reiterate the University's commitment to attracting Lebanese students from abroad, through offering two full scholarships to two American students wishing to study a semester at NDU.

In his closing remarks, Dr. Eid stressed the need for closer coordination between NAM's Board members and NDU.



Dr. A. Eid with participants at the NAM Annual Meeting.



L-R: A. Eid, H. Kahlil & K. Jowdy.

> SEMINARS, LECTURES, WORKSHOPS

4. Workshop on food safety, April 23, 2012

Where Do We Stand on the Lebanese Association for Food Quality and Safety?

The Water, Energy, and Environment Research Center (WEERC), in collaboration with the Faculty of Nursing and Health Sciences (FNHS) at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) held a workshop on Monday, April 23, 2012, at Abu Khater Hall, NDU under the title of "Where Do We Stand on the Lebanese Association for Food Quality and Safety?"

Present at the workshop were Dr. Hussein Hajj Hassan, Lebanese Minister of Agriculture; Dr. Ali Moumen, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Representative in Lebanon; Dr. Adel Cortas, President of the Lebanese Association on Nutrition and Development (LAND) and former Minister of Agriculture; Dr. Fadi Comair, Director of the WEERC, Dr. Antoine Farhat, Dean of the FNHS, and civil society representatives concerned with consumer protection and food safety.

The following recommendations were given at the end of the workshop:

On the legal front:

- 1- Coordinating between the ministries and institutions concerned toward establishing a ministerial coordination committee to review the Food Safety Law.
- 2- Activating the role of ministries and institutions concerned in terms of improved coordination and complementarity.
- 3- Designating one reference body for food safety and charging it with the responsibility of merging the various tasks of different public offices as well as overseeing risk analysis and risk management.
- 4- Issuing executive decrees related to the Customer Protection Law on which sits a committee of representatives from nine ministries as well as merchant, industrialist, and consumer representatives.
- 5- Reconsidering our irresponsible consumption habits, which further exacerbate the food safety situation; therefore, a responsible attitude is required in terms of producing and distributing food products.

On the technical front:

- 1- Activating the role of the COLIBAC (Lebanese Accreditation Council) in facilitating the accreditation of laboratories in Lebanon, given the high fees charged by international accreditation agencies.
- 2- Supporting Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) and training food handlers on the principles of good food handling.
- 3- Practicing strict management controls both along the borders and domestically to control fraud and the selling of expired foodstuffs.

- 4- Requesting the authorities to take immediate corrective measures against institutions violating the laws and norms.
- 5- Asking municipalities to assume without delay their role in controlling all food sectors within their jurisdiction.
- 6- Establishing modern slaughterhouses in all districts, primarily in Beirut.
- 7- Involving the civil society in the control process to ensure complementarity between all parties concerned with food safety.
- 8- Requesting increased media objectivity in tackling the topic of food safety as well as more responsibility toward citizens and the national economy.
- 9- Paying particular attention to the natural herbs and drug industry, which could prove extremely harmful to human health if not administered properly.

On the academic front:

- 1- Coordinating between research centers in universities and the public sector with particular emphasis on the authorities concerned with issuing norms and standards, mainly focusing on the Lebanese Standard Institution (LIBNOR), and tasking it with the responsibility of setting particular standards for Lebanese-made products that lack international standards.
- 2- Establishing an academic/scientific work group, working toward setting a comprehensive program related to food safety issues in terms of technical and scientific capabilities, according to the potentials and specialization of each university.
- 3- Introducing new majors in the curriculum related to food safety.
- 4- Training parties concerned with food safety standards.



L-R: Min. Hajj Hassan, S. Matar, A. Cortas, Fr. W.



Minister Hajj Hassan delivering his presentation.



An attentive audience.

5. Workshops on “Teaching and Assessing for Critical Thinking” by Dr. Pam Nice

CARE Hosts Fulbright Specialist Dr. Pamela Nice

With the generous support of the American Embassy of Beirut, the center for Applied Research in Education hosted Fulbright Specialist Dr. Pamela Nice for a series of Faculty workshops under the title of “Teaching and Assessing for Critical Thinking.” In light of the University’s commitment to teaching excellence, Dr. Nice offered workshops on themes, ranging from defining critical thinking to encouraging active learning in the classroom. Dr. Nice was also on hand to meet with faculty members on how best to integrate critical thinking into their courses.

Dr. Nice has worked in faculty development for the past 22 years, giving keynote addresses to national U.S. and Moroccan organizations. She was the Associate Director of Faculty Development at the University of St. Thomas in Minnesota for 21 of those years, and this past year has been Program Manager for the Center for Global Humanities at the University of New England in Maine. She has used her background in theatre to create plays and scenarios that explore the faculty-student relationship, such as the keynote on Another Antigone for the annual Professional and Organizational Development Conference. She also did a keynote on Active Learning Techniques for the American Language Centers in Morocco while on a Fulbright there in 2004-5. She has created and led many workshops on critical thinking, active learning, classroom assessment techniques, the IDEA teaching evaluation system, among other topics, and directed the Classroom Consulting program for the University of St. Thomas, which trained faculty to consult with their peers on teaching issues. She is a strong believer in finding creative ways to keep teaching alive and stimulating for faculty and students.

Her visit was made possible through the generous support of the Fulbright Program and Notre Dame University—Louaize (NDU).



workshop participants

> CONFERENCES, CONVENTIONS

6. 18th international science meeting (FNAS)

NDU Hosts LAAS 18th International Science Meeting

Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) organized and hosted the meeting of the Lebanese Association of the Advancement of Sciences (LAAS) 18th International Science from March 22 to 24, 2012. The National Council for Scientific Research (CNRS) of Lebanon, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, supported the meeting. Sponsors included Byblos Bank, Benta Pharma Industries, IDM, Tetracom, and Allianz SNA.

Established in 1968, the LAAS aims at “enhancing knowledge, promoting scientific research, and creating the appropriate atmosphere for this purpose”. These goals resonate well with NDU’s development of its research capabilities. The meeting attracted more than 150 papers, which were presented either through lectures or as poster presentations, covering a wide range of sciences and highlighting the quality and breadth of “Made in Lebanon” research. Papers also included those presented by Arab and international authors from various countries, including the USA, France, Algeria, Iraq, Tunis, Morocco, etc. Five guests speakers in various disciplines delivered semi-plenary keynote addresses, concerning important topics in the respective science chosen for discussion.

Dr. Ara Tahmassian, Associate Vice President for Research Compliance at Boston University and Boston Medical Center, touched upon important ethical, regulatory, and security issues that must be addressed when working in a laboratory environment, involving human beings - be it researchers, graduate students, or human subjects.

Dr. Konstantinos Danas, Professor of Health Informatics at Kingston University in the UK, merged the fields of computer science and healthcare by looking at the applications and potential of applying current IT technologies in the field of healthcare.

Chemistry was given its fair share in the meeting through Dr. Fabienne Gauffre, a Research Associate with the French CNRS at the Université de Rennes 1, France, who is also studying nano-particles and the application of these in the various fields of science, including potential applications in the field of medicine. It is worth noting that the meeting held special sessions given that UNESCO declared 2011 as the International Year of Chemistry (IYC 2011).

Dr. Charbel Massaad, Director of the Unite de formation et de recherche biomédicale at the Université Paris Descartes, France, addressed current topics in cell therapies research, which may serve as potential treatments

for cancer. Dr. Angelo Leone, Professor of Histology and Embryology at the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery at the University of Palermo, Italy, discussed topics on the treatment of gum diseases in dental medicine and surgery.

The meeting and the opening ceremony were held under the patronage of His Excellency Professor Hassan Diab, Minister of Education and Higher Education. A panel discussion on science education followed. The session went over its allotted time slot given that the panelists, Dr. Ahmad Jammal, Director General of Higher Education, Mr. Fadi Yaraq, the Moderator, Dr. Rita Meouchy, and the audience engaged in an interesting discussion on the current status of science education in Lebanon. Participants and panelists shared perspectives on reform and improvements needed in these sectors.

To further engage all participants in a fruitful exchange of ideas, the meeting continued for two more days, comprising parallel science sessions, semi-plenary talks, and social events. A luncheon on Saturday concluded the meeting in which winners of the best posters were announced; winners were each presented with a LAAS medal.

Guest speakers and participants attested to the fact that the meeting was one of the best ever attended thus far in terms of organization, quality of papers submitted, etc It is noteworthy to mention here that NDU outperformed other Lebanese universities in terms of number of papers submitted, highlighting its dynamic and creative research community.



Participants at the LAAS exhibition



Dr. G. Eid delivering his speech.



Attendants at LAAS meeting.

7. Internal Day for Biological Diversity (FNAS)

International Day for Biological Diversity 2012

Merging Arts and Sciences for Awareness on Marine Biodiversity

By Elsa Sattout, PhD. DS-FNAS

In an initiative to raise awareness on the importance of Marine Biodiversity by merging arts and sciences on the International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB), the Faculty of Natural & Applied Sciences (FNAS), in collaboration with the University Research Board, organized a series of interfaculty events from May 21 to 29, 2012. The climax, which was organized under the patronage of Mr. Nazem el-Khoury, Minister of Environment, and Fr. Walid Moussa, NDU President, was an award distribution ceremony and an exhibition launch, showcasing the results of the competition.

Awareness on biodiversity empowers communities to be part of public participation processes and to better protect biodiversity. Its importance is globally highlighted each year on May 22 on the IDB as proclaimed by the UN. Biological diversity is defined as the variability among all living organisms. It is believed that it affects our lives as it constitutes an integral part of our social, cultural, and economic growth. At present, threats to the natural world are putting not only biodiversity at stake, but also our existence and well-being.

“Did you know that natural diversity enriches our lives because, as Naess said, it enriches our extended self; thus, bringing us greater self-realization? It is essential for our personal growth.”

In the late 1980s, the United Nations Environment Program sent a wake-up call to the world community to mobilize countries to ratify an international treaty to protect biodiversity. In 1992, the Rio Summit was a landmark, witnessing the birth of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The main objectives of the CBD have set in motion efforts toward a more sustainable world. These are the protection of biodiversity, sustainable use of resources, and equitable sharing of benefits arising from these resources. NDU, believing in the role of the university in strengthening social responsibilities, raising awareness, and protecting the natural heritage of Lebanon, as well as acknowledging its students' capacities and their keen desire to build a better world, called for student participation in the various interfaculty activities on Marine Biodiversity, which entailed poster, photography, and crafts competitions, seminars, and documentaries. The competitions were organized in close partnership with the Faculty of Architecture, Art and Design (FAAD), Faculty of Engineering (FE); Faculty of Business Administration and Economics (FBAE), and Faculty of Nursing & Health Sciences (FNHS). Members of an interfaculty committee joined efforts to promote the participation of students. The committee included Dr. Elsa Sattout (Event Organizer- FNAS), Dr. Colette Kabrita, Dr. Esther Ghanem and Dr. Leila Khalaf-Keyrouz; Dr. Jocelyne Bou Mosleh (FNHS); Ms. Graziella Daghfal and Mr. Noel Nasr (FAAD); Dr. Nancy Kanbar (FBAE), and

Dr. Elsy Ibrahim and Dr. Talal Salem (FE).

The competition categorized students as junior scientists, engineers, designers, photographers, planners, economists, and architects, exploring the living and non-living world and discovering the mysteries of human existence and relationships with their environment - finding inspiration from nature for their art and designing their ventures in sciences based on the wisdom gained by observing the natural world.

The participation of students and NDU community members in different ways and in various activities has revealed the need for organizing more events, fusing all disciplines and building up skills to strengthen social responsibility toward the conservation of biological, cultural, and social diversity.

Competition Winners:

Posters on Marine Biology and Conservation Status

- 1st: Mr. Andrew Alam - FNAS. “Annoyed of Monotone: Invasive Algae in the Mediterranean”;
2nd: Ms. Christina Helene Hage - FNAS: “They Call me Flipper: Dolphin Conservation Status”;
3rd: Ms. Stephanie-Joy Fikani - FNAS: “Loggerhead Turtles Need Our Help”.

Posters on Seas as a Source of Renewable Energy

- 1st: Nicolas Azar, Elie Daccache, and Christina el-Lakkis - FE. “Pelamis: The Sea Snake”;
2nd: Rajha Alain and Dany Rachwan - FE. “Greeting the Wave of Destruction”;
3rd: Adline Georges el-Khoury - FE (North Campus). “Green Infrastructure to Save Marine Biodiversity”.

Photography

- 1st: Miss. Christine Najarian – FBAE;
2nd: Miss. Georges Zahm – FBAE;
3rd: Miss. Sevag Torcomian – FBAE.

Crafts

- 1st: Adrea Choukeir – FAAD;
2nd: Elsie Arayes – FAAD;
3rd: Marise Choucair – FAAD.



L-R: L. Kayrouz, Fr. W. Moussa, S. Matar, Min. N. El Khoury & E. Sattout.



L-R: S. Matar, Fr. W. Moussa, Min. N. El Khoury, G. Eid & A. Eid.

> LERC NEWS

1. Academic, Genealogy and Student Visitors to LERC

Local and international visitors to the Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) included:

Ms. Anna Maria Geluk, MA candidate from the University of Amsterdam, who has conducted fieldwork in the Wadi Khaled region along the Lebanese-Syria border to study the livelihood strategies of both Lebanese and Syrians in these areas.

Mr. Maher Raham, Regional Manager at Audi Saradar SAL, introduced his Lebanese Wealth Management Association (LWMA) and was helped in connection with Lebanese Diaspora communities.

Mrs. Petra Fakhry, Member of the Australian-Lebanese Historical Society visited LERC and brought brochures and flyers on the Lebanese Diaspora in Australia, along with *Raw Kibbeh*, a book focusing on the early settlement of Lebanese in Queensland as well as reports published by the Australian Lebanese Historical Society.

Mr. Roddy Edwards, Mr. Jim Lynn, and Mr. Ramez Salameh, representatives of Moral Rearmament, visited LERC. Mr. Lynn spoke on Irish emigration to the USA, comparing the similar pattern and integration challenges faced by emigrating Lebanese. Mr. Edwards referred to the large Lebanese community in Jamaica.

Mr. Gui Mohallem, a Brazilian artist of Lebanese descent, visited LERC to discover his father's migration story from the village of Fekeh in the Bekaa. His findings will be the subject of a documentary he is preparing for his father's 80th birthday. The Argentinean group *Firgat al-Arz*, under the direction of Mr. Munir Nellmeldin, visited the Lebanese Migration Nucleus Museum. The members of the group who visited the Museum included Nadia Haidar, Yasmina Zgaib, Soraya Nahir Balut, Maria Belen Ferlini Haddad, Lara Jazmin Khalil, Joel Habib, and Lenadro Hamoui.

Mrs. Yvonne Matta, a Lebanese-Australian, visited the LERC to seek help in searching for her family history. Mrs. Matta is currently writing a book for her children that will capture the history of her family and Lebanese culture, and this project has delighted her extended family since she will be recording all their memories.

Ms. Lea Bou Khater, Social and Economic Development Researcher at the Consultation and Research Institute (CRI), visited the LERC in search of research material.

Ms. Irene Kapusta, from Columbia University, School of International and Public Affairs visited the LERC seeking data for her study on the involvement of the Lebanese Diaspora in development projects in Lebanon.

Aya Chahine, Mounis Hakim, and Ghada Bakri, from the International College, visited the LERC accompanied by her mother, Mrs. Mariana Chahine, seeking help for their project on Lebanese Emigration, which is part of the Primary Year Program (PYP).

Antoun Souhaid, Farid Chalfoun, and Marie-Sophie Tarazi, both first-year Law students at Université St.-Joseph (USJ), visited the LERC, seeking help on their project, which focused on Lebanese emigration between 1943 and 1975.

Mr. Eric Paulsen, accompanied by Ms. Anna Polard visited the LERC twice to seek data for his study on statelessness and citizenship. Through *Les Amis de Portugal-Liban*, Lebanese-French artist Mr. Sami Hamaoui, donated one of his paintings to the Lebanese Emigrant Nucleus Museum; his artwork will form part of the cultural material in the Museum's permanent exhibition.

Mr. Kozhaya Akiki visited the LERC to meet with **Ms. Shereen Mahshi and Ms. Maritta Sislian**, the two winners of the "Kozhaya and Nora Akiki Internship Grant". Mr. Akiki met with the two interns and asked how the opportunity had benefitted them. The young women explained that the grant was a key starting point in their careers and an opportunity that had helped them in numerous ways. The experience had consolidated their skills in project management and implementation, they affirmed. It had also paved the way toward strengthening their research abilities through interviews conducted with experts, international organizations, and agencies, which in turn enhanced their PR skills. Ms. Mahshi and Ms. Sislian once again thanked Mr. Akiki for the wonderful opportunity. For his part, Mr. Akiki was glad to listen to their testimonies and promised to continue his endeavors through this special internship grant.



L-R: S. Mahshi, K. Akiki & M. Sislian.

2. LERC Events

LERC at Lebanese Immigrant Day in Rosario, Argentina

The Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) had the pleasure of participating in the Celebration of the Lebanese Immigrant Day in Rosario, Argentina, via a live Skype video call. The Centro Argentino de Investigacion de la Inmigracion Libanesa (Argentinian Research Center for the Lebanese Immigration) and the Sociedad Libanesa de Rosario (Lebanese Society of Rosario), through the LERC's Liaison Officer in Argentina, Dr. Walter Muller Moujir, organized the event.

At the request of Ms. Guita Hourani, Director of the LERC, Ms. Victoria B. Huerta, the LERC's international intern, was chosen to deliver a live message via Skype to the audience gathered for the inauguration of the celebration. This is the first time since its founding more than 80 years ago that the Lebanese Society of Rosario has had a live connection with Lebanon. Ms. Huerta spoke to the Lebanese community and presented a pre-recorded video in which she and Mrs. Liliane Haddad, Chief Indexer and Archivist, recalled the original journey of the Lebanese to Argentina. In the message, they invited the Lebanese community to collaborate with the LERC's Lebanese Migration Nucleus Museum by sending documents or pictures relating to themselves and their families. They both also congratulated the Lebanese community of Rosario for commemorating this day and passing on the Lebanese culture and traditions from generation to generation. The video was recorded in Spanish and Arabic and is available on the LERC-NDU channel on YouTube. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jUCj3EPz9TQ&feature=player_detailpage.

LERC Bids Farewell to Elie Nabhan

The Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) bid farewell to Mr. Elie Nabhan who served as the Center's Indexer and Editor since 2006. Mr. Nabhan was one of the copyeditors who worked on *The Impact of the Summer 2006 War on Migration in Lebanon: Emigration, Remigration, Evacuation and Return* and he also helped in keying in data and reviewing text for *Insecurity, Migration and Return: The Case of Lebanon Following the Summer 2006 War*, which was published by the Euro-Mediterranean Consortium for Applied Research on International Development (CARIM). He was also one of the editors who worked on the artist biographies and selected artist statements for the brochure on the Lebanese Diaspora collective art exhibition inaugurated at the Dome, Beirut City Center (BCC) on March 17, 2010. Mr. Nabhan has undergone training and assists in the indexing of data for the LERC's electronic archives and database. He is a member of the Lebanese-Nigerian Friendship Association. Colleagues and friends joined the LERC in this bittersweet occasion, and each recalled and shared stories of how nice it was to have Mr. Nabhan on the LERC team. Dr. Assad Eid, Vice-President for Sponsored Research and

Development (VPSRD) expressed how much he appreciated working with Mr. Nabhan for the past six years and noted that Mr. Nabhan had always been an enthusiastic and core member of the LERC.

LERC attends the Exhibition of Contemporary Art of Uruguay

Celebrating Uruguay's Independence Day on July 18, 2012, the Embassy of the Uruguayan Republic in Lebanon brought the exhibition of contemporary art of twelve artists to The Venue in Beirut Souks. The collection included art works such as paintings, drawings, prints, and digital art and tapestry created over the past 40 years. Maritta Sislian and Victoria B. Huerta represented the LERC. Dr. Jorge Luis Jure welcomed a crowd of ambassadors, politicians, scholars and other guests attending the inauguration of the exhibition. During his speech, the Ambassador recalled his own Lebanese roots and hoped that both Lebanon and Uruguay would strengthen ties in the future.

The Lebanon and Migration Museum at NDU Commemorates the Lebanese who perished on the Titanic

The Lebanon and Migration Nucleus Museum at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU), Lebanon, unveiled an authentic scale replica of the Titanic, which sank in the North Atlantic Ocean on 15 April 1912 after colliding with an iceberg during its maiden voyage, and a memorial plaque, listing the names of the Lebanese who perished in the tragedy.

The British Columbia, Canada, branch of the World Lebanese Cultural Union (WLCU) initiated the event. Mr. Henry Zarifeh, current President of WLCU, and Dr. Nick Kahwaji, former President of WLCU, represented the organization. In addition, Ms. Noeleen el-Hachem, of the Irish-Lebanese Cultural Foundation in Ireland represented the foundation on behalf of its Chairman, Mr. Guy Yunis.

Also present at the event were Mr. Joe Abi-Saab, the grandson of the late Joe Elias Abi-Saab who lost his life on the Titanic; Mr. Camille Lewis, Secretary-General of the Lebanese-Canadian Society in British Columbia, Canada; Mr. Antoine Menassa, President of the Lebanese Businessmen Association in France; Dr. Antoine Khoury Harb; Dr. Assaad Eid, Vice-President of Sponsored Research and Development at NDU; Ms. Guita Hourani, Director of the Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) at NDU; Mr. Roberto Khatlab, LERC's Liaison Officer for Latin America; guests from Canada and Ireland, and the LERC staff. A moment of silence and prayers marked the beginning of the event and was followed by a welcome speech delivered by Ms. Hourani who thanked representatives of the WLCU British Columbia, Canada, branch and the Irish-Lebanese Cultural Foundation for initiating the commemorative event and for donating the replica and memorial plaque.

Dr. Eid took the podium after following Ms. Hourani and spoke of NDU's academic, cultural, and national commitment to preserving and promoting the Lebanese national heritage, and supporting viable associations

between Lebanese residents and emigrants. Regarding the event proper, Dr. Eid said, "The tragedy of the Titanic has been a recurring theme in different scholarly and/or literary activities and works. For us, this model is a symbol of the hardships that Lebanese and other emigrants went through in their quest for a better life. In this sense, it adds to the existing collection a different dimension."

Mr. Zarifeh then delivered his speech in which he spoke of the importance of preserving the Lebanese heritage especially among the Lebanese and their descendants abroad, and noted Dr. Kahwaji's dedication and efforts in this regard not only in British Columbia but also across Canada.

For her part, Ms. Hashem said that the gathering was aimed at roll calling, remembering, and recognizing each of those from the historic land of Lebanon and bestowing upon them their "rightful Lebaneseness". Dr. Kahwaji then took the podium and thanked the LERC, and promised to continue contributing toward its mission and to continue populating the museum and archive with cultural items. Trying hard to command his trembling voice and hold back his welling tears, Mr. Abi-Saab delivered an unrehearsed closing speech centered on his late grandfather's migration and tragic death on the Titanic.

During the unveiling of the memorial plaque, following Mr. Abi-Saab's moving speech, Ms. Désirée Rizk, a new intern at LERC, sang the famous theme song My Heart Will Go On from 1997's Hollywood's blockbuster movie Titanic. Both the music and Mr. Abi-Saab's story touched the hearts of attendees and added greater significance and meaning to the event.

This initiative, a first of its kind in Lebanon, comes in the wake of a world commemorating the centenary of the Titanic's sinking.

The Lebanon and Migration Museum at NDU opens its doors by appointment only. Appointments can be secured by contacting either the Public Relations Office or the LERC at NDU, Zouk Mosbeh.

3. Lecture Series

Director Hourani and Adjunct Research Associate Sensenig-Dabbous Present Separate Papers at the Levantine Migrations 1800-2000 Conference in North Carolina, USA

Following a call for papers by the Khayrallah Program for Lebanese-American Studies at North

Carolina State University, USA, both the papers of Director Hourani and Dr. Sensenig-Dabbous were accepted to be delivered at the conference.

Organized to mark the twentieth anniversary of the book by Albert Hourani and Nadim Shehadi, the Lebanese in the World, the conference sought to "take stock of recent work on migration from present-day Lebanon to open up fruitful discussion, and to chart paths for future research."

Director Ms. Hourani presented a paper under the title of "Transnationalism from Above: homeland Political Parties of Lebanon and the Lebanese

Diaspora". In her paper she discussed how Lebanese political parties network and mobilize their constituencies abroad.

Dr. Sensenig-Dabbous's paper, under the title of "Global Suffrage: The Battle for Out-of-Country Voting in Lebanon", discussed the attempts and obstacles for out-of-country voting in Lebanon. The papers presented in the conference will be published in book form.

Lecture: "Gentrification by Cappuccino: Ethnic Businesses and Cool Boutiques" by Dr. Rath. As part of an ongoing series of lectures, the Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU), in cooperation with the Netherlands Institute in Beirut, had the pleasure of receiving Dr. Jan Rath, from the University of Amsterdam. Dr. Rath is Member of the Center for Urban Studies in the Institute for Migration and Ethnic Studies (IMES) from the Department of Sociology and Anthropology. This is Dr. Rath's second visit to NDU. From April 24 to 29, 2008, he was the LERC's partner for IMISCOE's Intensive training: Migration and Development: methodology of research in 2006.

Addressing mainly the case of the city of Amsterdam in the Netherlands, Dr. Rath started his lecture by explaining the concept of entrepreneurship in relation to ethnic businesses from

second generation migrants, highlighting two cases: Yahoo! and Google, both established by immigrants and known to be very successful. Apart from these worldwide companies, there are also small shops to be found across Europe or the United States of America, which came to existence due to the mobilizing of immigrant networks and their willingness to invest in local economies, mainly targeting a clientele of co-ethnics. His presentation ended with some very interesting conclusions where he noted the mismatch between those who supposedly propel the city developments and the lower-class immigrants.



Dr. J. Rath.

> CARE NEWS

8. Teaching Enhancement Grants (TEGs) program

CARE Announces Summer Teaching Enhancement Grants (TEGs)

As part of CARE's ongoing efforts to support excellence in teaching and learning, the Center announced the establishment of Summer Teaching Enhancement Grants (TEGs) to support faculty members to redesign their courses. The aim is to encourage faculty members to incorporate critical thinking outcomes and assessment in selected courses, starting Fall 2012. TEGs support ongoing discussions of learning outcomes and build on the two-week series of workshops titled "Teaching and Assessing for Critical Thinking" conducted by Dr. Pamela Nice, Fulbright Specialist. Teaching Enhancement Grants are awarded to "critical teams" of faculty members who work in pairs to offer each other feedback while redesigning selected courses. Working closely with CARE, faculty members reevaluate their past teaching practices and craft new strategies for better, more active learning in the classroom while encouraging critical thinking. This summer's grant totaled US\$10,000 and were awarded to the following teams: Drs. Doris Jaalouk and Jocelyne Boumosleh (Nursing and Health Sciences); Drs. Bassem Sabra and Marwan Gebran (Natural and Applied Sciences); Dr. Christine Sabieh (Humanities) and Dr. Caroline Ahkras (Business Administration and Economics), and Linda Choueiri, Noel Nasr, and Simon Mhenna (Architecture, Art, and Design). Congratulations to all!

> NDU PRESS PUBLICATION

9. Latest NDU Press Publications

- What About the Other?
In collaboration with Adyan
Edited by: Dr. Nayla Tabbarah
Language: English.
- Fakherddin: A Play in Five Acts
Author: Salah Mattar.
Language: Arabic.
- Notre Dame of Louaize Maronite Catholic Lebanese K- 13 School (1682-2005): A Historical and Institutional Analysis
Author: Fr. Ziad Antoun.
Language: English.
- Tout simplement c'est moi
Author: Souheil Mattar.
Language: French.
- Standard Classical Arabic
Author: Group of authors.
Language: Arabic and English.
- Ameen Rihani's Arab- American Legacy: From Romanicism to Postmodernism
Author: Conference.
Language: English.
- Kanaan- Ard Aachtarout (Canaan... the Land of Astarte)
Author: Rihab El Helo.
Language: Arabic.
- Man in a Broken Mirror
Author: Georges Mghames.
Language: Arabic.

Abstracts are available online: www.ndu.edu.lb/research/ndupress

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> NEWS IN BRIEF

10. My Fall 2012 Experience at NDU

by Philip Chelala



In 2010, I received a scholarship from the National Apostolate of Maronites (NAM) for a semester program at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) in Lebanon. It was a dream come true to be able to study in my home country and spend time with my grandparents. As I arrived at the airport, I didn't know what to expect from this curious adventure given that I traveled thousands of miles across the Atlantic Ocean to study in an unknown destination with students who grew up in a different political and cultural environment. During the first month or so of my stay, it was hard for me to get used to life in Lebanon. I didn't know how to speak Arabic. It was, therefore, very hard for me to interact with the students, even though they spoke English, because everyone spoke Arabic in social settings. I found that the majority of students were very passionate about politics and soccer, which are not my favorite topics. Since I was not interested in any of those subjects, it was hard for me to click with some students at first. After getting to know many more students on campus, however, I was able to meet students with similar interests, and I was able to make many friends. Students on campus were very friendly and helped me out whenever I needed it. I was also impressed with the professors on campus. I found them to be very supportive and courteous. Classes were very well taught and interesting. I really enjoyed my marketing class, because my professor taught us business principles that can be applied to real life business practices. Unlike classes at my university in Ohio, the professors at NDU allowed students to speak their mind on the topics in class and allowed debates between students, which made the class fun and interactive. Student life was also great, there was many fun clubs and on-campus activities, and campus life was calm and relaxing. My best memories were the times we hung out in the cafeteria before and after classes, and joked and laughed together. Overall, my study abroad at NDU was a life-changing experience; it really taught me that I could adapt to a new system, a new set of customs, and even a different way of communicating. Eventually, I felt I was part of the community, because I felt understood and accepted. The most important lesson I learned from this trip to Lebanon is that the experience made me a stronger person and made me realize that I can conquer any adversity that may come my way in the future.

11. Founders' Day celebrations

NDU Celebrates Founders' Day

Within the framework of the Silver Jubilee of Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU), the University celebrated the event at Issam Fares Hall in NDU main campus, on Thursday May 10, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

Present at the celebration were several ministers and deputies; presidents of schools and universities; Vice-Abbot General of the Maronite Order of the Virgin Mary, Fr. Joseph Bou Aoun, representing Abbot General Fr. Boutros Tarabay; the Order's Supreme Council; the Board of Trustees; vice-presidents; deans; directors; fathers; faculty; staff; students; alumni, and friends.

Following the national anthem, Tara Maalouf sang the Ave Maria accompanied by Dolcy Laoun on piano. Mr. Suheil Matar, the Vice-President for Cultural Affairs and Public Relations, then delivered an address in which he recounted the story of the "young woman celebrating her twenty-fifth anniversary".

A short film production in the form of a news bulletin presented the history of NDU, and direct interviews were conducted with the audience.

Fr. Moussa delivered his annual address, saying, "Tonight, we look anew at the situation in order to come to a deeper understanding of these celebrations in light of our human dimension which is embedded in the University's mission. This standpoint differs from the traditional customs and festivities, which are the features of any event, particularly when celebrating the birth of a child, an institution, an association, or a university".

Fr. Moussa also reviewed NDU's history from 1987 to the present within the context of both the bigger picture and its details.

He said, "On the Lebanese scene, 1987 was a year of conflicts, battles, and assassinations. On the International scene, the Cold War was at its climax between the United States of America and the Soviet Union. On the other hand, our university was in the pangs of labor: the campus simply lacked the capacity and environment conducive to university learning. At the time, students, faculty members, and staff combined were approximately one hundred persons.

"NDU's journey began on that day in 1987; however, the time has come to reflect on the developments in our history since then. We had to take bold steps to turn dreams into reality. The Order chose this property, laid the cornerstone, and began the construction, during the terms of Abbot Saad Nemr and NDU's former President, Fr. Francois Eid. To this day, we are still engaged in the extension of the campus, and believe me, we have never had a moment's rest, nor have we ever ceased our labor..."

“Today, NDU’s population comprises of approximately seven thousand students and one thousand faculty and staff members. We offer roughly one hundred majors at different levels (Bachelor, Masters, and Doctorate). In addition, NDU has two other campuses in a state of continuous development: the North Lebanon Campus in Barsa – Koura and the Deir el-Kamar campus in the Shouf region. Both campuses were established during the two-term tenure of former NDU President, Boutros Tarabay.

“I can confidently assert today that despite the tribulations our nation witnessed, NDU was able to withstand, develop, and prosper, during the term of Abbot Semaan Abou Abdo. At present, NDU still faces the inherent challenges of growth and development. When others demolished, we built; when others fled, we remained firmly rooted in this land, resilient in the face of adversity to open new horizons for future generations.

Father Moussa questioned if the Order has succeeded in forming a respectable, educated, moral, pious, liberal, and industrious citizen.

He continued, saying, “What do we see today?

Political corruption generating more corruption;

Violence creating more violence;

Lust for money, resulting in human decadence;

Absence of listening and absence of dialogue, except in the virtual world;

Unhealthy students’ political divisions due to lack of political culture;

Chaos instead of real freedom; ...

“It is true that the numbers of students and alumni have increased, and so has the use of cell phones and the Internet, TV and radio “zapping”..., savings accounts in banks for a few or hundreds of people..., brain exports by the thousands.

“But, where are we heading? Have we really ‘lost the compass’?

“A state of consciousness is imperative. We should not despair, because we believe. Our duty is to conquer anything that hinders us from achieving our humanity. I, therefore, find myself here today with all my associates—clergy and laymen—invited to enter into a state of consciousness and stand with God and you. On the occasion of Founders’ Day and the Silver Jubilee, I pledge to review all our academic, administrative, human, and financial affairs. I will suggest to the Order, our Mother, to the Board of Trustees, and the University Council, that a comprehensive program be devised to renew our mission, achieve our objectives, and make these necessary changes in the academic structure and human capital in order to attain the following goals:

- 1- Fulfill our founders’ dreams of a free and dignified university and society.
- 2- Earn accreditation to which we have already made significant progress.
- 3- Endeavor to make the University, and every university, a wellspring that nourishes men and women who can shape the future according to moral principles and the needs of the modern world.”

He concluded by saying, “We have built a beautiful university, with a strong

foundation. Now our concern is the super-structure: minds, ethics, souls, culture, creativity...”

Father Moussa thanked everyone for his/her cooperation: the Order’s Supreme Council, the Board of Trustees, vice-presidents, deans, directors, fathers, faculty, staff, students, alumni, parents, and friends.

At the end of the celebrations, a booklet retracing the history of NDU was distributed to guests who made a toast to celebrate the occasion.

Translated by: Christine Rayess Atallah



Founders’ Day

12. Commencement Ceremony

H.E. President of the Republic of Lebanon, Guest Speaker at NDU Commencement Ceremony

Within the framework of its Silver Jubilee, H.E. President of the Republic of Lebanon, General Michel Sleiman, was the guest speaker of the 2011-2012 Commencement Ceremony at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU).

Also present at the ceremony were deputies, ministers, diplomatic and religious figures, the Order's Board, the Board of Trustees, deans, professors, parents, and friends.

In his address, President Sleiman invited "each member of society and every constituent of the state to bear responsibility during this critical period of our national history".

He hoped that "degrees earned will not serve as passports or visas in the hands of their holders to leave their country and emigrate, rather these degrees should serve an incentive to become more attached to the country and refrain from selling the land we inherited from our ancestors".

He confirmed that the government "will move forward by implementing measures aimed at investing the natural resources of our maritime shores, and pass the Bill of Administrative Decentralization, and other projects aimed at promoting economic growth and achieving balanced regional development".

The President of NDU, Fr. Walid Moussa, also delivered an address in which he thanked the President for honoring the University's invitation. Mr. Souheil Matar, Vice-President for Cultural Affairs and Public Relations, welcomed all guests present at the ceremony and wished the graduates the best of luck for the future.

Translated by: Christine Rayess Atallah



L-R: A. Rihany, Father W. Moussa, President M. Sleiman, S. Mattar



Father Moussa delivering degree to graduate student

> ANNOUNCEMENTS

13. WELCOME project update

Erasmus Mundus Action2. - The WELCOME Project

PREAMBLE

Erasmus Mundus Action 2 is the European Community Action programme for the promotion of cooperation among higher education institutions and for the exchange of students, researchers, and academic staff from EU to Lebanon and Third-Countries Member States. The partners listed below, and coordinated by Politecnico di Torino, have submitted a proposal for a project under the title of "WELCOME" within the framework of the Call for Proposals EACEA/41/10 of the European Commission, Lot 02 (Egypt, Lebanon), corresponding to the implementation of Erasmus Mundus Action 2:

- POLITO - Politecnico di Torino;
 - FUB - Freie Universität Berlin;
 - IST - Istituto Superior Tecnico;
 - KTH - Royal Institute of Technology;
 - LUND - Lunds Universitet;
 - Sciences Po - Fondation nationale des sciences politiques ;
 - SGH - Warsaw School of Economics;
 - UGENT - Ghent University;
 - UNEW - University of Newcastle upon Tyne;
 - UPV - Universidad Politecnica de Valencia;
 - AUC - The American University in Cairo;
 - AUN - Assiut University;
 - AUS - Ain Shams University;
 - CU - Cairo University;
 - HUN - Helwan University;
 - SVU - South Valley University;
 - AUB - American University Beirut;
 - LAU - Lebanese American University;
 - NDU - Notre Dame University-Louizae;
 - LU - Lebanese University.
- Hereinafter called "the Partners"

The Education, Audiovisual, and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) of the European Commission selected the WELCOME project for funding. This project received € 4,000,000 (approximately US\$5,155,000) in funds aimed at students and staff from Egypt, Lebanon, and partner Universities in Europe, willing to spend a mobility period abroad for the purpose of studying, teaching, training, and research in Europe, Egypt, and Lebanon respectively.

WELCOME aspires to be the starting point for a long and fruitful cooperation between the partners from EU, Egypt, and Lebanon. The partners will seek to develop activities within the project, leading to new or enhanced exchange agreements and other joint-study and research projects. The duration of the project is from October 6, 2011, to October 5, 2015.

Students and staff at different levels of study (Undergraduate, Master, Doctorate, Post-Doctorate and academic staff exchange) can choose a mobility period at one of the Partner Universities in their field of study among a wide variety of academic fields.

Scholarships will be awarded to applicants selected by the Partnership and by the European Commission. The program finances the expenses engendered by the mobility, including travel costs, subsistence allowances, and participation and insurance costs.

THE GOALS OF THE EMA2 PROGRAM ARE:

- To promote and to foster mutual enrichment between the Partners through the exchange of people, knowledge, and culture, and to enhance the personal skills and employability of participating individuals;
- To develop higher education teaching and learning capacities of Third Countries and regions especially regarding the countries development priorities;
- To provide good students from vulnerable groups with further education and professional development and empowerment for leadership;
- To promote cooperation between sending and hosting institutions; thus, mutually enriching the educational environment of both to share responsibility and accountability for their joint efforts in partnership by facilitating transfer of know-how and good practices;
- To develop sustainable relationships beyond the end of the project.

2012 achievements

Four students from NDU have been selected to go to European partner universities, and three European students have selected to come to NDU as exchange students.



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