





in this issue

Editorial

Feature

NEASC 128th Annual Meeting

Outreach

AFNDU, D.C. Chapter News

LERC News

Community Service

Scholarly Activities

Humanities Symposium 2013

Commemorating Charles Malek

Tempus Projects

Campus Life

Lebanese Media Dinner at NDU

Choir's 20th Anniversary



editorial

Fr. Walid Moussa
President
Notre Dame University - Louaize

Today, the bitter realities in which we find ourselves living require new thinking about how to best prepare students, who must embark on a quest to reshape a loveless and troubled world.

Our role as a University is to prepare students for citizenship in a diverse society that cherishes and recognizes the primacy of human dignity, which involves the rights and duties of the human being, not only in the local community but also globally.

The society we conceive is the one where everyone is treated with respect, where diverse cultures engage peacefully, where different fields endeavor to enrich one another, and above all, where love, faith, and reason intersect and blend in hopeful and inspiring ways.

In our Mission Statement, we speak of Liberal Arts education and of promoting "diversity, respect for human dignity and rights, and concern for the common good." Our aspiration is to "prepare our students to be future leaders, who can exercise reason upon knowledge and shape a world of truth, justice, love and freedom."

Such a commitment means that our students' education should include learning that deepens their spiritual search and intensifies their intellectual journey.

"Education," says Cardinal Newman, "implies an action upon our mental nature, and the formation of a character..." This means that it is our responsibility as educators to help students acquire knowledge and skills, and to internalize that mental capacity, which enables them to develop a transforming power through love and understanding so that they can find their place in the ever-increasing complexity of life and build a better society.

Note from the President

feature

A delegation from Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) chaired by the University President Fr. W. Moussa attended the NEASC 128th Annual Meeting and Conference held at Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel, Boston, U.S.A., between Wednesday-Friday, December 4-6, 2013. The meeting rendered numerous opportunities to the NDU team to learn from the recent developments taking place in the realm of institutional accreditation in higher education. The variety of topics explored in workshops and panel discussions during the meeting focused on institutional assessment and recent innovations in teaching, learning, and research. The annual meeting gave opportunities to the NDU team to explore venues for possible future cooperation with American institutions of higher education.

During the Meeting, President Moussa was informed of the following:

Notre Dame University-Louaize has been granted Candidate for Accreditation status by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Inc. through its Commission on Institutions of Higher Education. Candidacy for Accreditation is a status of affiliation with the Commission which indicates that the institution has achieved initial recognition and is progressing toward accreditation.

Candidacy is not accreditation nor does it assure eventual accreditation.

Inquiries regarding the status of an institution affiliated with the New England Association should be directed to the administrative staff of the college or university. Individuals may also contact:

Commission on Institutions of Higher Education
New England Association of Schools and Colleges
3 Burlington Woods Drive, Suite 100, Burlington, MA 01803-4514
(781) 425 7785
E-Mail: cihe@neasc.org





outreach

President's Visit and Dinner Event



From left: ANFDU, D.C. Chapter President Chadi Dirani and NDU President Fr. Walid Moussa

As a way to jump-start the new American Friends of NDU (AFNDU), D.C. Chapter, and begin recruitment efforts, AFNDU, D.C. organized on March 2, 2013, a dinner with University President Fr. Moussa for all Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) Alumni and friends in the D.C. area.

The Lebanese Taverna in Washington, D.C., U.S.A., a popular Lebanese restaurant and longtime supporter of AFNDU was chosen to host the event at a private banquet room in their Bethesda, Maryland location.

The goals of the dinner were to generate awareness for ANFDU, recruit new friends and members, and show AFNDU's support for NDU, and highlight Fr. Moussa's unique leadership role in advancing the University toward better education and a better Lebanon.

Over 20 people attended the successful event. The event began with guests socializing and sharing drinks, followed by a few words from ANFDU, D.C. Chapter President Chadi Dirani, and a short speech delivered by Fr. Moussa. After dinner, guests were able to submit their proposals for strengthening AFNDU's efforts to establish itself in the community, as well as to take photos with the President.

It was a great occasion, which achieved many goals. Everyone in attendance and especially members of AFNDU were grateful to the President for taking time out of his busy schedule to attend.

NAM Convention

Representatives of Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) and the American Friends of NDU (AFNDU) Chapter participated from July 3–7, 2013, in the annual National Apostolate of Maronites (NAM) Convention in Tampa, Florida, U.S.A. The NAM is the official lay apostolate of the Maronite Church of the U.S.A., and the only lay apostolate of its kind in the Maronite World. The NAM has held a national convention every year since its inception in 1964. The convention is a mixture of clergy and laity, young and old, Lebanese and American-born, and people of several other ethnic backgrounds, who have become a part of the Maronite Church.

Representing NDU at the NAM were NDU President Fr. Moussa, AFNDU President Chadi Dirani, and Haley Kalil, D.C. Office Coordinator. Their presence was to create awareness for NDU and the AFNDU in D.C. and around the U.S.A.

AFNDU's attendance at the convention included an exhibit table where brochures and various University literature were put on display and made available for

interested parties to take home. Kalil and Dirani were also on hand at the exhibit table to answer questions about NDU and AFNDU and make new connections with Lebanese-Americans. Fr. Moussa spoke on behalf of NDU at the NAM Directors meeting on Saturday, July 6, 2013, and announced new scholarship opportunities for students to study at NDU for one semester.

The convention was a great success, with many connections made and NDU's presence recognized by all in attendance. We look forward to continued success at next year's convention in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania!



President Fr. Walid Moussa with AFNDU members at the dinner

Director of the LERC, welcomed them to NDU and commended their role in the Diaspora. She has also acknowledged the cooperation of the CAAIL (Argentine Center for Research on Lebanese Immigration), which Dr. Walter Muller, the LERC Liaison Officer to Argentina, administers.

Ms. Liliane Haddad, the LERC Chief Indexer and Archivist, welcomed the delegation and presented through the LaserFiche program the Lebanese Emigration Archival Database. Ms. Yvette Ennaisi, who accompanied the delegation on their visit, served as the translator of the event.



The Argentinean and Uruguayan delegation visit to the LERC (October 2013)

LERC NEWS

Lebanese Descendants from Argentina and Uruguay visit the LERC

A delegation, comprising 17 Argentinean and Uruguayan citizens of Lebanese descent, recently visited the Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) at Notre Dame University-Louaizé (NDU). Ms. Guita Hourani,

Following the presentation, a short time was allotted for a Q & A session with Dr. Hourani. The audience was impressed with the great effort the Center has put in during its 10 years of service in terms of broaching the Lebanese migration issue from a scientific perspective. After the coffee break, the delegation headed to the Lebanon Migration Nucleus Museum. Emotional stories were recounted when one of the young visitors pointed to an exhibited photograph of his ancestors.

Maritta Sislian



Uruguayan Ambassador Visits LERC



From left: Ms. Liliane Haddad, Dr. Farhat, Fr. Moussa, Ambassador Andary, Dr. Hourani, Dr. Baroud, Dr. Asmar, and his assistant, Ms. Nadine Fares, at the LERC Museum (Lebanon 2014)

The new Ambassador of Uruguay to Lebanon Her Excellency Dr. Marta Inés Pizzanelli recently visited the Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU). Also present were Dr. Ghazi Asmar, Assistant Vice-President for Academic Studies at NDU, Mr. Roberto Khatlab, LERC Liaison Officer to Latin America, Brazilian painter Ms. Beth Abi, and Dr. Guita Hourani, Director of the LERC.

Dr. Pizzanelli's visit included discussions, ranging from enhanced cooperation between the two countries and the impact of Lebanese migrants in Uruguay to discussions on specific projects previously completed, as well as plans for future projects. Dr. Pizzanelli was also given a tour of the LERC offices and the Lebanon

Migration Nucleus Museum.

Dr. Pizzanelli praised the efforts of the LERC staff, and she was impressed with the wealth of material and data currently available, which encouraged her to want to contribute material such as commemorative stamps and pictures. The LERC seeks to further solidify its relationship with the Uruguayan Embassy by building more social and cultural bridges between the two countries.

Michel Ghanem

LERC Director Dr. Hourani Lectures on the Maronites of Cyprus in Nicosia



Dr. Hourani accepting her award from Ambassador Andary, LERC Museum (Jan, 2014)

At the suggestion of Honorable Mr. Antonis Hajj Roussos, Maronite Representative of the Cypriot

Parliament, Dr. Gabriel Kalakoutis, President of the Association of Maronite-Cypriot University Graduates, invited on November 28, 2013, Dr. Guita Hourani, Director of the Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) and a prominent Researcher on the Maronites of Cyprus, gave a lecture on the history of the community at the Kasteliotissa Room in Nicosia, Cyprus.

LERC Staff

Ambassador of Lebanon to Argentina Visits LERC, Awards Dr. Hourani



Gold medal donated to the LERC by the Lebanese-Uruguayan Association. The medal was issued to commemorate Patriarch Cardinal Mar Bechara Boutros al-Rahi's visit to Uruguay (October 2013).

The Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) team at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) welcomed the Ambassador of Lebanon to Argentina Mr. Antonio Andary for a gathering.

The gathering was attended by Fr. Walid Moussa, President of NDU; Dr. Antoine Farhat, Interim Vice-President for Academic Affairs; Dr. Ghazi Asmar, Assistant Vice-President for Research and Graduate Studies; Dr. Fawzi Baroud, Assistant Vice-President for Information Technology; Dr. Guita Hourani, LERC Director; and members of the LERC team.

Dr. Hourani welcomed the Ambassador and all the attendees, and went on to praise Mr. Andary's efforts toward strengthening the ties between emigrant and resident Lebanese. She also recapped the cooperation between the Lebanese Embassy in Buenos Aires and the Center. In turn, Fr. Moussa stressed the importance of the Ambassador's efforts and the willingness of the University and the LERC to continue cooperating for the benefit of all Lebanese.

Jasmin Lilian Diab



Community Service

Following the Call for Volunteers, which the Community Service Office (CSO) at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) organized at the beginning of this academic year, and following the remarkable student response, including the Recruitment Days, several meetings were held to draft a road map and action plan to provide a swift executive strategy to ensure sustainable civic engagement under the umbrella of five plans, covering all NGOs / NDU partners.

This executive strategy cumulated in the following plans :

- Hands and Hearts Plan covers all the projects, requiring physical engagement: Environmental, restoration, etc.;
- White Hearts Plan covers all actions related to elderly;
- Hearts of Joy Plan covers all actions related to persons with special needs;
- Open Hearts Plan covers the necessary action to be taken in Lebanese prisons;
- Hearts of Mercy Plan covers any action, pertaining to neglected and poor families.



The common denominator, linking these plans is the "heart": Our students are proving that their hearts are filled with boundless love, empathy, and devotion.

From the heart of NDU, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, our ambassadors will lead by example for the community to follow and help to create sustainability for the future.



scholarly activities

Humanities Symposium 2013

The Council for Research in Values and Philosophy (CRVP) at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) organized the Fetzer Advisory Council on the Humanities Symposium 2013 titled "*Intercultural/Interreligious Dialogue: Reflections on the Nature of Love and Forgiveness*" in which 13 international scholars from Belgium, China, the U.S.A., and Lebanon participated with four participants presenting academic papers on different sub-themes such as:

- *Love & Forgiveness in the Sunni Islamic Tradition: An Overview*
- *The Tender Heart and the Kingdom of God: On Christian Love and Forgiveness*
- *The Culture of Co-existence in Buddhism & What is Love?*
- *A Reading in Foundational Shi'ite Literature.*



The rich diversity of participants made for an extremely valuable symposium with Dr. Nader el-Bizri, explaining the Sunni perspective and Sheikh Shafiq Jaradi explaining the Shi'ite perspective. Dr. Jeffrey Bloechl presented a profound Catholic perspective and Venerable Dr. Yifa, a Buddhist nun, presented a fascinating eastern perspective.

Alongside academic papers and fruitful open discussions, the program included powerful personal testimonies, book reviews, and film commentaries by Alexandra Asseily, Assaad Chaftari, and Ramez Salameh; subjects, which transcended forgiveness. Cultural-based excursions enriched the program by elevating the value and power of love and forgiveness from theory into practice and living.

The Jeita Grotto, the OMM Monastery, and the museum tour, lunch with the Maronite Mariamite priests and brothers attending the lectures served to give this Symposium a wonderful fraternal aura. The speakers were treated to visits to St. Anthony of the Desert, Kozhaya, the Patriarchal Residence and Gardens, Diman, Gibran Khalil Gibran Museum, the Cedar Grove, the Holy Valleys of Qadisha and Qannoubine, Baalbek, Anjar, Ksara (wine-tasting), and Sidon, which offered them a splendid and very Lebanese experience.



Commemorating Charles Malek



Unveiling of the bust

On the occasion of the International Day of Human Rights, Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) on Tuesday, December 10, 2013, unveiled a bust at the NDU Main Campus to commemorate the role of Dr. Charles Malek in helping to draft with Eleanor Roosevelt the Universal Declaration of Human Rights at the United Nations in December, 1948.

A ceremony was held at the NDU Auditorium before the unveiling of the bust. Mrs. Layal Nehme, NDU Placement Officer, welcomed the attendees, who included Bishop Boulos Rouhana, representing the Patriarch Cardinal Mar Bechara Boutros al-Rahi, Ambassador to the Holy

See Monsignor Gabriel Caccia, as well as religious, political, social, and military figures.

In his speech, the Vice-President for Cultural Affairs and Public Relations Mr. Souheil Mattar took the audience on a trip down memory lane to 1980 when Charles Malek visited NDU (LCHE at the time). Mr. Mattar recounted what Malek told him during the visit, "Do not hesitate in creating a university, because the Virgin Mary deserves to have a university built in her name, and the region deserves to have an American liberal arts institution of higher learning."

Fr. Walid Moussa, President of NDU, then took the podium. He reflected on the darkness looming over humanity in the modern era, and noted how estranged from Human Rights the world has become.

Fr. Moussa continued, "Through the passage of time, humanity has collapsed ... that is why we find ourselves living in a world where killing, violence, blood, and suicide have become the norm. Is this the result of science and globalization? Is this the result of chemicals, nuclear energy, wars, viruses, pollution ... How many crimes have been committed against humanity and how many communities have been displaced, fleeing from the fires of hatred, racism, and brutality?"

Fr. Moussa went on to confirm the Faith of the University, saying, "Human rights are, and will remain, the foundation to respect the bodies and souls of human beings."

Mr. Antoine Akl, the next speaker after Fr. Moussa, recounted what Malek had told him of his experiences during the drafting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and Akl reminisced how Malek was frustrated by the deception and continuing violations of the objectives of the Declaration.

Charles Malek's son, Habib Malek, was the final speaker. He talked about the letters that were exchanged between his father and his friends, which showed Malek's desire to return to Beirut and to return to higher education and to teaching philosophy. His father viewed his work at the United Nations as "a transitional phase in order to serve Lebanon in the diplomatic arena."

In conclusion, Habib congratulated the University for its initiative in honoring his father. The bust of Charles Malek was unveiled on the grounds of the Main Campus shortly thereafter in the presence of the entire audience.

Tempus Projects

The Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency, Brussels, recently announced that Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) is now partner in four Tempus projects. The implementation of each of these projects will last for two or three years, starting from December, 2013.

Dr. Aref Alsoufi, Director of the National Tempus Office, Lebanon, communicated the news to the University on December 28, 2013.

The projects are:

Projects 2013

Project 1: Apprentissage à distance et innovation pédagogique

Partners in Lebanon: AUF, LU, AOU, CCIA, AUL, DGHE, UOB, USEK, USJ, NDU

Project representative: Dr. Assaad Eid

Countries involved: Egypt, Belgium, France, Romania, Luxembourg.

Project 2: Development of an Interdisciplinary Programme on Climate Change and Sustainability Policy

Partners in Lebanon: LAU, NDU

Project representative: Dr. Nancy Kanbar

Countries involved: Greece, Germany, Egypt, Jordan, Cyprus.

Project 3: Advanced Training and Lifelong learning Program in Applied Health Sciences

Partners in Lebanon: LU, NDU, LIU, Ministry of Health, Al-Rassoul Al-A'zam University Institute for Health Sciences, Al-Rassoul Al-A'zam Hospital

Project representative: Dr. Antoine Farahat

Countries involved: Sweden, Czech, Slovakia, Morocco, Egypt, Italy.

Project 4: Partnership with Enterprises Towards Building Open Source Software

Partners in Lebanon: LU, NDU, Information Management Ltd.

Project representative Dr. Hikmat Farhat

Countries involved: Germany, Spain, United Kingdom, Jordan.



campus life

Lebanese Media Dinner at NDU

Under the patronage of H.E. Minister of Information Walid Daouk, the Press Office at the Office of Public Relations, Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU), honored the Lebanese media by organizing a dinner

event on Monday, December 16, 2013, at the new NDU restaurant on the Main Campus.

The dinner gathered many familiar faces in the print media and audiovisual worlds, creating a charming atmosphere. During the dinner, the University honored Minister Daouk; the Minister of Education Professor Hassan Diab; Mrs. Hanane Sadek, the wife of renowned caricaturist Pierre Sadek; and Mrs. Rima Njeim, who set a new world record by broadcasting the longest live show on a radio (46 consecutive hours).

The jazz band at the Department of Music, Faculty of Architecture Arts and Design (FAAD), provided lively entertainment. In addition, three students performed beautiful Christmas carols



Choir's 20th Anniversary

On December 15, 2013, the Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) Choir celebrated its 20th anniversary. President Moussa joined others in highlighting the grandiosity of the Choir's achievements and activities during the past twenty years. He said, "Over the past twenty years, the NDU Choir has distinguished itself as a voice of hope that has resonated around the world. Its resounding success has never ceased to impress all those associated with it. The novelty and variety, which usually characterize its operatic and

choral performances, have always dazzled audiences everywhere."

President Moussa went on to say, "Under the leadership of Father Khalil Rahme, the dedicated Maestro, and for the last twenty years, it has always been gratifying to assist to the grandiosity of the Choir's activities and to listen to the angelic voices of its prominent members. NDU has always been and will always be proud of the Choir and grateful to all its members, those who served and those who will serve in the future to maintain the name of the Virgin Mary, always glorified."



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