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## editorial

**Dr. Asaad Eid**  
Assistant to the President  
for Planning and Development

On the occasion of the Founders' Day 2014 celebration, two expressions did resonate in the President's address. He spoke of 'leadership' and 'solidarity'.

In keeping with its Mission, Notre Dame University – Louaize (NDU) has always devoted growing attention to those two major concerns of the Lebanese society.

In one of his earlier addresses, Fr. Walid Moussa spoke of 'the cultured student' as "the leader who can assume responsibilities with self-confidence and lead his/her community toward a better and brighter tomorrow. This student can only become a model to be followed when he/she embraces moral and ethical values that make him/her influential among his/her fellow students, and later on, among colleagues at work". It is clear that leadership in this context is closely tied to providing students the opportunity to prepare well in advance for their future careers and lives. It is, therefore, our duty as educational leaders to educate those in our care on how to distinguish between 'right' and 'wrong,' 'good' and 'evil.'

Students come to NDU with high expectations, hoping to receive the proper guidance. Accordingly, our concern should always be to help them develop more confidence in themselves, so as to journey comfortably into the future. To that end, we need to reach more deeply into their lives; we need to nurture their desire for a better future with love and wisdom.

The debate over quality education has been driven by different concerns; one of which is the graduate earnings or achievements. For us at NDU, quality rests in how best we can help students be cultured citizens; citizens who always strive to broaden their knowledge, and who always seek the greater interest of their community. We want to see our society not only grow in size but also in substance. In fulfilling this Mission, we have to ensure that our graduates enjoy leadership grounded in a world of truth, love, justice, and freedom.

## feature

Address of Fr. Walid Moussa  
President of Notre Dame University-  
Louaize, Founders' Day 2014



Fr. Walid Moussa

Dear Friends,

What would a university president say were he to become a student again, and then be asked to evaluate nine years of education?

Yes, I admit here today that during my nine-year tenure as President of NDU, I have learned more than I have taught. I am not sure whether that is a transgression, a mistake, or an undeniable slip of human frailty.

Today, I stand before you, to share with you some lessons I have learned during my tenure:

- I have learned that becoming president of a university is not the culmination of an individual's career in this institution; rather, it is a journey of personal development and growth. For us, priests and monks dedicated to God, the presidency is a mission that can be assigned to any one of us so that, through God's grace, we may fulfill this mission, and as Jesus Christ said, 'Whosoever

will be great among you, shall be your minister: And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all.' (*Mark 10:43-44*). Woe unto us should we be led astray or be misled by appearances, or be conceited fools. Do not think the presidency— any presidency for that matter, even if it is the presidency of the republic — is the be all and end all for the tallest tree has never been the one to yield the most or the best fruit.

- I have learned that no institution of higher education is an island alienated from the realities of the nation, society, politics, economics, religion, and security... We cannot simply say on a whim, 'Let them stew in their own juice...' We are invited through cultural competence to willingly face these challenging realities and find solutions. Yes, we, as educational institutions, ought to assume an important role in Lebanon to save our nation from meandering through the current minefields of personal conflicts of interest, which could in turn lead our country and us to creep ever closer to the cliff edge. The



question then arises: 'Are we ready to assume our role?' We have been entrusted with the task of shaping leaders and not blind followers. I have learned that higher education should not discriminate on the basis of religious, confessional, or political affiliation, or constituency and social class.

- I affirm that I have learned that I must immerse myself in the service of the entire community, just as Mary—whose name our University carries—is the Mother of all communities and all peoples. I also affirm that we have transcended narrow political interests and shameful financial practices. In reality, one-third of our seven thousand and five hundred student population suffers financial difficulties, and despite this looming truth, we never abandoned them, and they in turn have never abandoned this University.

- I also affirm that despite all circumstances, we, without prejudice, have respected the rights of students to express themselves freely. We have encouraged Student Elections because such elections exemplify democratic life.

- I have learned that higher learning cannot be fitted into a mold or confined within four walls. Modernity, technology, and the digital world compel us to ride in the groove of perpetual motion and constant change: We refuse obsolete curricula or 'fossilized' teaching methods. With the break of every new dawn, a novelty arises and imposes itself. It is, therefore, our responsibility and the responsibility of the authorities concerned to keep abreast of these new developments. We should break with conventions that are no longer in harmony with the constant revolutions of a new era. But how can we strike a balance between convention and modernity? During these past nine years, I have learned greatly from this challenging question. I would not be exaggerating to say that our University has witnessed significant developments, especially in the field of Information and Communications Technology (ICT).

- I have learned that University work is a collective effort in which the President, faculty members, staff, and students must work as a team. We are all on the same 'battlefield' – a battlefield where the President's authority is not absolute and where the superior-subordinate relationship is not the norm. During the past nine years, I have always embraced everything that I have done in a spirit of cooperation, solidarity, and partnership with all members of the University community. If I have ever committed the mistake of making sole executive decisions, then such acts were due to urgent needs.

What have I learned? What have I not learned? I will leave those answers to colleagues and friends.

Today, on the occasion of NDU's Twenty-seventh Anniversary, I would like to extend my sincerest thanks and appreciation to:

First, God for all He has given us, through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, and for protecting our University.

Second, the Maronite Order of the Blessed Virgin Mary, represented by Most Reverend Abbot General Boutros Tarabay, His Beatitude Patriarch Cardinal Mar Bechara Boutros al-Rahi, founding father of NDU, the Supreme Council, and all priests and colleagues with whom I have worked here and who have assisted me in all endeavors.

Third, the entire NDU community, starting with the Board of Trustees (BOT) presided over by Dr. Francois Bassil; vice-presidents; deans; chairpersons; faculty members; staff; and all personnel, including everyone in the cleaning, maintenance, security, and gardening units.

Thanks to all of you, NDU will always distinguish itself as a prominent institution of higher education.

**Thank you all.  
Long live NDU!  
Long live Lebanon!**

## outreach

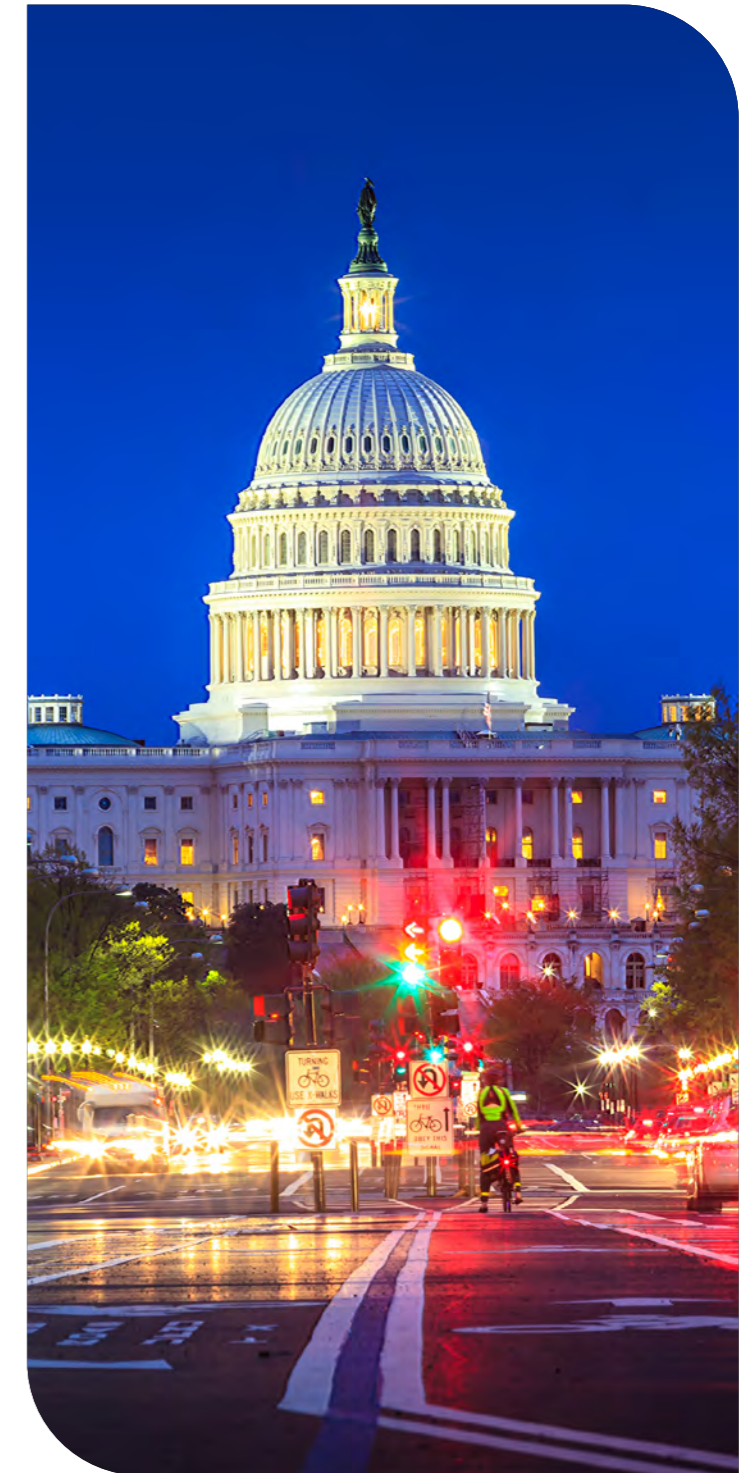
### President's Visit to Washington D.C.

As part of the strategy of Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) associated with quality assurance and international exchange and cooperation, NDU President Fr. Walid Moussa, accompanied by his Assistant for Accreditation Dr. Kamal Abouchedid, visited Washington D.C., U.S.A., from January 27 to February 4, 2014, to participate in two international conferences and to explore research, development, and exchange opportunities for NDU.

### Annual Conference of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA)

Fr. Moussa and Dr. Abouchedid participated in the Annual Conference of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) held in Washington D.C. from January 27-30, 2014. The CHEA — as the main voice for accreditation and quality assurance to the U.S. Congress and U.S. Department of Education — organizes an annual international conference, which provides a forum for higher educational institutions and accreditation agencies to discuss emerging themes and challenges in the realm of quality assurance at both institutional and programmatic levels.

This year's Annual Conference themed, "*Innovation, Disruption, and the Status Quo: What Do We Want for Accreditation?*" housed 248 representatives of higher education institutions and quality assurance agencies from North America, Australia, the Middle East, Africa, Asia, and Europe. Raising the bar to the expectations of quality in higher education, participants discussed a range of challenges and opportunities associated with access to higher education in light of the ascendancy of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) as a possible alternative to traditional education delivered by brick and mortar institutions of higher education. Participants also discussed issues relevant to NDU's





work on accreditation, such as student learning outcomes, affordability, and employability issues of college graduates being subsumed under 'quality' broadly understood.

### Annual Meeting of the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities (ACCU)

The President also participated in the annual meeting of the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities (ACCU), which was held in Washington D.C. from February 1-3, 2014. Founded in 1899, the ACCU serves as the collective voice of Catholic institutions of higher education in the U.S.A. The ACCU's annual meeting provided NDU with a variety of learning experiences and opportunities for sharing its Mission with peer Catholic higher educational institutions as contribution to the common good of the church and the diverse communities it serves through education.

### Meeting the Washington D.C. Chapter of the American Friends of NDU (AFNDU)

The President met with members of the Washington D.C. Chapter of the American Friends of NDU (AFNDU) who briefed him about the activities and plans of the Chapter, as it continues to garner support for NDU.

### Research Cooperation

The President's visit to Washington D.C. was instrumental in exploring opportunities for soliciting sustainable research funds and cooperation with the Institute of World Affairs (IWA) in the scope of peace-building, inter-confessional dialogue, and training for conflict resolution to be housed at NDU. To this end, the University has developed a list of research ideas and concept notes to share with the IWA for further discussion and implementation.

### Exchange Programs

The President met with the Director of the Washington D.C. Program of Pepperdine University Dr. Richard Gathro on February 2, 2014, to explore opportunities for Faculty and student exchange between NDU and Pepperdine University. As a first

step in the cooperation process, Dr. Gathro rendered a large office in the premises of Pepperdine equipped with computers, printers, and meeting facilities for use by any NDU community member who visits Washington D.C.

In brief, the Washington D.C. visit was a milestone success for NDU in seizing opportunities for capacity building and internalization through exchange for cross-cultural communication, research, and development. As Dr. Richard Gathro put it, "It was a delight to dream together about how we might collaborate."

## AFNDU, D.C. Gears Up for an Exciting 2014



AFNDU meeting (May 1, 2014). (from left) Gisele Azar, Emile Haddad (AFNDU, D.C., Treasurer), Chadi Dirani (AFNDU President), Habib Estephan, Marina Chaghoury, and Marc Keyrouzm.



AFNDU, D.C., 2014 strategizing and planning activities

The American Friends of NDU (AFNDU), D.C. Chapter, has started 2014 with rebuilding, planning, and rejuvenation. Under the guidance and leadership of President and NDU Alumnus Chadi Dirani, the Chapter has installed a more effective strategic planning process to better engage members, generate awareness for NDU, and strengthen Lebanese education in general.

Some of the Chapter's plans for 2014 include:

- Setting up a new charitable organization, operating in Washington, D.C.;
- Recruiting and retaining new board members, specifically NDU graduates;

- Partnering with other local Lebanese organizations to help promote AFNDU;
- Hosting a summer rooftop happy hour amid the beautiful backdrop of the Washington, D.C. skyline;
- Organizing a Fall dinner event;
- Ensuring a presence at the annual National Apostolate of Maronites (NAM) Convention;
- Creating social media channels through which we can share with the community both AFNDU and NDU news.

If you are in the Washington, D.C. area and wish to learn more or participate in any of the aforementioned activities, please contact us at [AFNDUDC@gmail.com](mailto:AFNDUDC@gmail.com).

## LERC

### Representatives of the HALFA Visit the LERC

The Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) received representatives of Hommes d'Affaires Libanais de France Association (HALFA), or the Lebanese Businessmen Association of France. The representatives were HALFA President Mr. Antoine Menassa and HALFA Secretary-General Mr. Mansour Khoury.

HALFA is an association created within the World Lebanese Cultural Union (WLCU) to promote networking among its members and with Lebanon. The WLCU is an international, secular, non-denominational, non-profit organization sponsored by the government of Lebanon but working independently in cooperation with Lebanese emigrants and their descendants. It strives to "unite descendants of Lebanese origin and friends of Lebanon into one worldwide organization or union with the aim to promote and preserve Lebanese culture and heritage and to ensure its spirit for generations to come."

The LERC team escorted Mr. Menassa and Mr. Khoury to the Lebanon and Migration Nucleus Museum where Ms. Liliane Haddad, LERC Chief Archivist and Indexer, gave them a guided tour of the exhibited collections.



(from left) Mr. Mansour Khoury, Mr. Antoine Menassa, and Ms. Liliane Haddad at the LERC Lebanon Migration Nucleus Museum NDU/LERC, (January 2014)



## Mr. Antoine Chalhoub, Nigerian of Lebanese Descent, Visits the LERC

Mr. Antoine Chalhoub, entrepreneur and businessman, visited the Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) along with former LERC staff member Mr. Elie Nabhan to further strengthen ties with the Center as well as his home country. After Ms. Liliane Haddad, LERC Chief Indexer and Archivist, welcomed Mr. Chalhoub, he was given a short tour of the LERC Offices as well as a brief presentation on the LERC's digitized collections and database.

Mr. Chalhoub's father, the late Mr. Toufic Mikhael Chalhoub, migrated to Nigeria from the village of Raskifa near Zgharta in 1930. Born in 1937 in Ibadan, Nigeria, Mr. Chalhoub has spent most of his life there.



(from left) Mr. Elie Nabhan, Mr. Antoine Chalhoub, and Ms. Liliane Haddad at the LERC Lebanon Migration Nucleus Museum (NDU/LERC January 22, 2014)



(from left) Mr. Oliveira, Dr. Hourani, and Mr. Muniz at the LERC Lebanon Migration Nucleus Museum (March 2014)

## Diplomats from Brazilian Embassy in Beirut Visit the LERC

Two diplomats from the Embassy of Brazil in Beirut, Mr. Adam Jayme Muniz, Second Secretary, and Mr. Fabio Rabello de Oliveira, Cultural Attaché, recently visited the Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU).

The purpose of the visit was to learn more about the Center's resources, programs, and services, and to explore possible partnerships on topics of common interest.

After a tour of the Center and a meeting with Dr. Guita Hourani, LERC Director, Ms. Liliane Haddad, LERC Chief Archivist and Indexer, briefed Mr. Muniz and Mr. Oliveira on the LERC's electronic archive and database.

The two diplomats then visited the LERC Lebanon and Migration Nucleus Museum. Both men were impressed with the exhibited collections and promised to expand this collection with new material from Brazil.

Jasmin Lilian Diab

## Event: "Honoring Chinua Achebe: A Lebanese-Nigerian Celebration"

After the visit to Lebanon of Professor Wole Soyinka, the first African to win the Nobel Prize in Literature, Lebanese-Nigerian relations will never be the same again. This was the sentiment of many Lebanese and Nigerian businessmen, academics, diplomats, politicians, and students who attended the event. Soyinka, himself, expressed something similar and pledged to return to Lebanon to deepen the cultural ties between the two countries through the promotion of art, literature, and theatre.

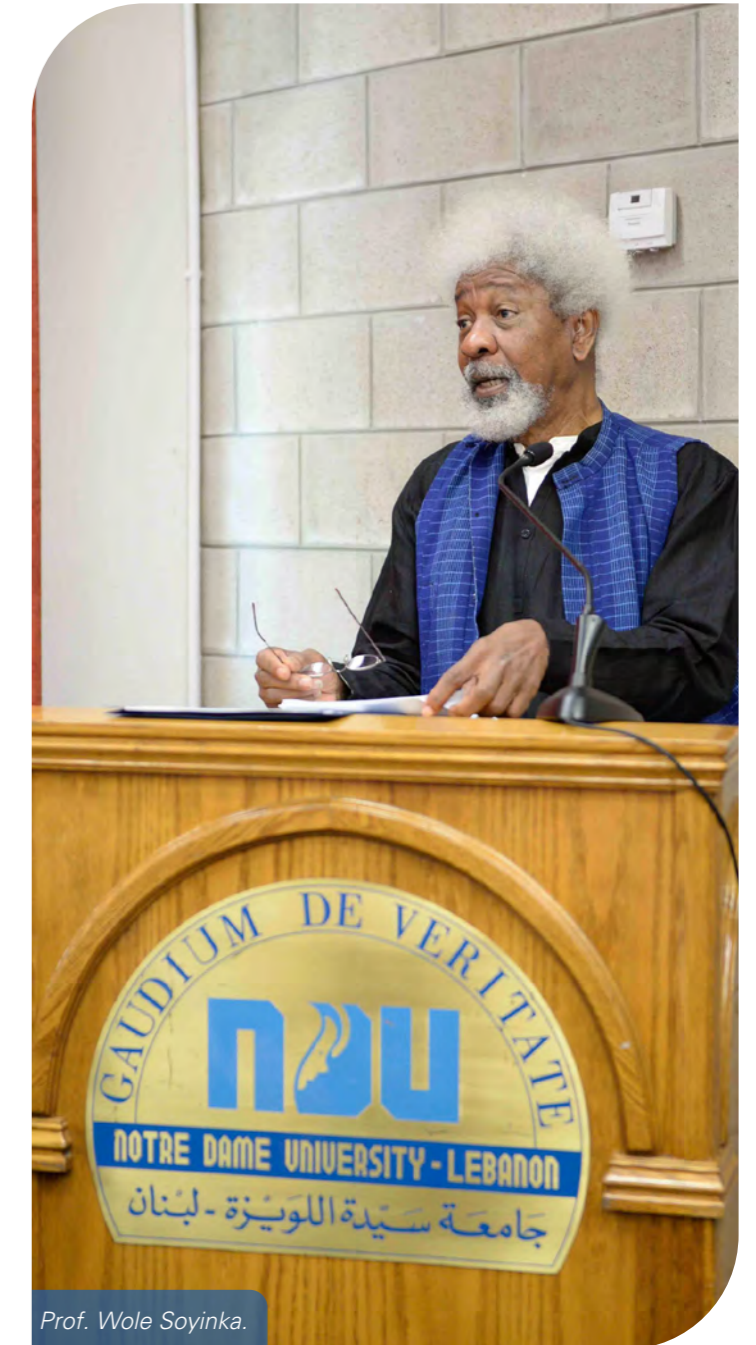
The occasion of Soyinka's visit was to pay tribute to the enduring work of one of Africa's greatest and best-known authors, Chinua Achebe, one year after his death. Promoted as an activity of the "Lebanon: Land of Dialogue Among Civilizations and Cultures (LDC) Initiative," an initiative aimed at gaining United Nations recognition of Lebanon as a Land of Dialogue, the event attracted some of the who's who in Lebanon.

Under the auspices of the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in Lebanon, and in collaboration with the Cedars Institute and the Council for Research in Values and Philosophy (CRVP) at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) in Lebanon, the event was titled, "Honoring Chinua Achebe: A Lebanese-Nigerian Celebration."

It began on March 19 and concluded on March 22, 2014. On March 19, Le Notre Hotel and Resort sponsored a lunch and roundtable discussion with Soyinka, which brought together dignitaries from the region of North Lebanon, including Nayla Mouawad; Ibrahim Daher, Tarek Chidiac, Head of the Gibran Committee and also representing the region's MP's (Sitrida Geagea and Elie Keyrouz); Joseph Geagea, Head of the Gibran Museum; retired General Victor Rahme; retired Chief Justice of the Military Tribunal Tarabay Rahme; and other notables of the Becharri district.

The discussion focused around comments made by Soyinka concerning what other countries, including Nigeria, might be able to learn from Lebanon's unique

confessional system—a system that in spite of all its weaknesses has managed to prevent any dictatorial regime from emerging, and has managed to prevent another civil war from erupting against all odds. On March 20, Mr. Habib Jaffar sponsored a fabulous dinner in Beirut to honor Soyinka, which provided another opportunity for prominent Lebanese from all walks of life to meet and speak personally with Soyinka.



Prof. Wole Soyinka.



On March 21, the main events took place: a seminar at NDU, which brought together many notables, including:

- Mr. Said Khalaf, Head of Setraco group (main sponsor);
- Ambassador of Nigeria Amos Idowu;
- Apostolic Ambassador Gabriele Caccia;
- Ambassador of Indonesia Dimas Rum;
- Ambassador of Sudan Ahmad Hassan;
- Chairperson of the Board and General Manager of Bank Audi Raymond Audi;
- General Edward Akiki, representative of General Jean Kahwaji, the Chief Commander of the Lebanese Armed Forces;
- Marwan Safi, the representative of General George Karaa, Director of the Government Security;
- Elie Mrad, representative of Abbas Ibrahim, Director of General Security;
- Thomas Wakim, representative of the Minister of Labor;
- Mr. Assas, representative of the Minister of Information;
- Dr. Joseph Shida, representative of General Michel Aoun;
- Abdallah Zakhem, President of LENIFRA's Executive Committee;
- Faysal Khalil, Director of Continental Beverages;
- Habib Jaffar, Chairman of Dar Foundation;
- Abbot Boutros Tarabay, Superior General of the Maronite Mariamite Order (OMM);
- Dr. Amin Rihani, representative of NDU's President Father Walid Moussa;
- Dr. Assaad Eid, Assistant to the President for Planning and Development;
- Vice-President for Administration Fr. Ziad Antoun;
- Vice-President for Academic Affairs Dr. Antoine Farhat;
- Vice-President for Cultural Affairs Mr. Suheil Matar; and
- Numerous NDU Deans and Directors.

A closing event took place in Issam Fares at NDU, with pictures, awards, Lebanese and Nigerian folk dancing, and a cocktail, again, attended by many of the same notables present at the seminar, in addition to the prominent Lebanese businessman, William Zard, the catalyst of the LDC Initiative. Later that night, Faysal and May Khalil hosted Soyinka at their home for dinner, along with members of the organizing committee from NDU. The focus of this Lebanese-Nigerian celebration revolved around the need to strengthen the links between Nigeria and Lebanon at the cultural level since these links have for too long been *one-sided* and *one-dimensional* in favor only of commerce. The final activity of the event took place at the Nigerian Ambassador's residence, with delicious Nigerian and Lebanese food, and with Soyinka publically quoting the legendary sportsman, Mohammad Ali, who once famously said, "I shall return."

Dr. Edward J. Alam



(from left) Dr. Edward J. Alam (Director of the CRVP & Executing Officer of Lebanon Dialogue), Dr. Willie Fawole, Dr. Ernest Emenyonu, Professor Wole Soyinka, Dr. Ike Odimegwu, Honorée Claris Eid (event organizer & coordinator), H.E. Ambassador Amos Idowu, and Apostolic Delegate Gabriele Caccia.

## Conference on Kamal el-Hage

To celebrate the publication of the complete works of the late Lebanese philosopher Kamal Y. el-Hage, the Institute of Lebanese Thought at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) organized from March 28-29, 2014, a conference titled, *The Philosophy of Kamal el-Hage*, at Issam Fares Hall, NDU Main Campus. Philosophy and Arabic Literature classes held several sessions two days before the conference to read and discuss the thoughts of El-Hage.

Participants included scholars from NDU and several other leading universities in Lebanon, such as the Lebanese University, American University of Beirut (AUB), Saint Joseph University (USJ), Holy Spirit University of Kaslik (USEK), and the Antonine University.

The key themes of the conference were *'The Philosophy of Language,' 'The Reconciliation of Matter and Soul,'*

*'Lebanese Nationalism,'* and *'The Philosophy of Reason and Faith,'* as represented in the works of Kamal Y. el-Hage.

Patriarch of the Maronite Church Cardinal Mar Bechara Boutros al-Rahi attended the close of the conference and delivered an address, focusing on the faith of El-Hage in terms of his Christian values as well as the potential of the Lebanese to build a strong, healthy nation for future generations to enjoy.

Shortly thereafter, participants witnessed the unveiling of a beautifully sculpted bust of El-Hage commissioned by NDU on the grounds of the Lebanese National Pantheon at NDU's Administration Square.

The conference proceedings are currently being reviewed by NDU and will be slated for publication soon.



(from left) Patriarch Cardinal Mar Bechara Boutros al-Rahi, Mrs. El-Hage, NDU President Fr. Walid Moussa, and guests.



Bust of Kamal El-Hage.



## CLIMASP: CLIMAtE Change and Sustainability Policy

### New EU-Tempus Project at NDU

A new EU-funded Tempus project for the development of an interdisciplinary program on CLIMAtE Change and Sustainability Policy (CLIMASP) has just kicked off at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU). The coordinating institution of the project is the University of Crete, Greece, and it has been awarded a grant of over one million euros from the Tempus Programme to implement this three-year project. The CLIMASP project involves partners from six countries: Greece, Cyprus, Germany, Lebanon, Egypt, and Jordan.

#### E.U. PARTNERS

- University of Crete, Greece
- Frederick University, Cyprus
- Leuphana University Lueneburg, Germany

#### ARAB REGION PARTNERS

- Notre Dame University- Louaize (NDU), Lebanon
- Lebanese-American University (LAU), Lebanon
- Hashemite University, Jordan
- University of Jordan, Jordan
- American University of Madaba, Jordan
- Jerash Private University, Jordan
- Jordan Environment Society, Jordan
- Suez Canal University, Egypt
- Aswan University, Egypt
- Port Said University, Egypt
- Education for Employment Foundation, Egypt
- Egyptian Business Women Association, Egypt

Higher Education plays a critical role in contributing to climate-neutral and sustainable society. It prepares most of the professionals who develop, lead, manage, teach, work in, and influence society's institutions. Though Arab countries only contribute to about five percent of global emissions, carbon dioxide emissions in the Arab region are increasing at a fast rate. This arid region is vulnerable to the impacts of climate change in many ways, such as worsening the water shortage problem, reducing agricultural production, intensifying urbanization, and causing biodiversity losses. The most recent Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change indicated that the Arab region will be subjected to severe water stress due to a decline in rainfall, acute deterioration of water quality, increase evapotranspiration rates, and increased water demand.

The specific objectives of CLIMASP are to:

1. Develop capacity-building workshops for building interdisciplinary and multi-stakeholder driven climate change curricula responsive to societal needs.
2. Develop an undergraduate interdisciplinary program on climate change and sustainability policy in each partner country university.
3. Integrate, implement, and assess the CLIMASP program as an integral part to existing undergraduate academic degrees.
4. Contextualize the Europass supplement diploma in the partner universities and the region.

Besides the integration of CLIMASP into various academic disciplines, other key outcomes include:

1. Development of a Center for Integrative and Interdisciplinary Studies with an ICT Laboratory in each partner University to support CLIMASP.
2. Promote interdisciplinary curricula as well as the establishment of an International Network of CLIMASP Studies.

The opening meeting of this project was held in Athens in February 2014. Dr. Nancy Kanbar (Assistant Professor of Economics at the Faculty of Business Administration and Economics-FBAE, project coordinator at NDU) attended the meeting where the project's main goals, objectives, administrative, and managerial structures were presented.

NDU hosted the first training national training workshop in March 2014. The NDU-CLIMASP team organized the workshop, and it was held at the NDU Main Campus, Zouk Mosbeh. It involved University staff and other key stakeholders (mainly students, NGOs, government and research institutions as well as professionals) to discuss the processes and practices for the stakeholders' involvement in the CLIMASP program and to identify and analyze the barriers and drivers of stakeholders' inputs to interdisciplinary curriculum development.

The workshop succeeded in promoting the CLIMASP project and in highlighting the interdisciplinary nature of the climate change challenge. The networking event brought together many industry professionals along with researchers, academics, and civic society representatives to reinforce mutually beneficial partnerships through a dialogue among stakeholders in different thematic areas of expertise. Participants shared their knowledge, explored links between climate change research in the different academic disciplines, as well as developed an understanding of how research and curriculum improvement could create synergies that help addressing societal challenges in our Arab region. This is vital to social development, as well as economic and environmental sustainability.

Dr. Nancy KANBAR, CLIMASP Institutional Coordinator



Engaging key stakeholders in climate change programs.



Dr. Aravella Zachariou, Frederick University, Cyprus





## Conference Report "e-Health: Opportunities and Challenges"

Under the Patronage of the Minister of Public Health Mr. Wael Abou Faour, the Faculty of Nursing & Health Sciences (FNHS) at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) in collaboration with the Lebanese Information Technology Association (LITA) and the IEEE Computer Society, Lebanon Chapter, held on March 26, 2014, a conference at the Auditorium, NDU Main Campus, titled, "e-Health: Opportunities and Challenges."

e-Health is the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) to improve the relationship between healthcare provider and patient, and to support and strengthen the development of all healthcare and social services. When we talk about e-Health, we need to focus on the core of a fundamental evolution around all those activities, namely, data processing by using ICT to collect, analyze, and exchange information, and augment cooperation in the fields of surgery, medical consultation, and management records of all kinds, including health cards, patients' files, doctors' files, research, digital images, etc.

Medical informatics impact all actors in this sector - from public administrations to private institutions - that work toward enhancing the management of resources, follow-ups, and decision-making. More specifically, managing e-Health records of patients on a larger scale requires updated Ethics and Risk Policies.



Dr. Aziz Barbar, giving his talk.

The conference aimed to promote awareness, drive capacity building, and call for training to ensure proper development of e-Health for our communities. In this context, the conference identified the impact of new ICT in the development of medical practices and healthcare service delivery. It also highlighted new trends in the field of medical/ healthcare informatics and the potential use of electronic medical/ healthcare records, and reviewed the challenges in Lebanon to support the development of e-Health in terms of infrastructure and legalities, and the potential responses to these factors.

The conference covered three main axes: Understanding medical/ healthcare informatics prospects and challenges, presenting the state-of-the-art in electronic medical/ healthcare records, and discussing views on capacity building in Lebanon.

Three speakers presented the first session.

Mrs. Lina Abou Mrad, Director of the National e-Health Program, a program recently launched by the Ministry of Public Health, discussed the main challenges faced by the program.

Dr. Mira Thoumy delivered the second presentation. Dr. Thoumy highlighted the new paradigm spurred by the use of e-Health.

Dr. Mona al-Achkar Jabbour gave the third presentation. She underlined that e-Health professionals were eager to see the draft law, concerning the protection of online data adopted. The adoption will increase confidence in the exchange, access, and archiving of sensitive data, such as medical ones.

The second session targeted the state-of-the-art in electronic medical records. Dr. Ali Krecht, Senior Technical Operations Management expert at the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA), focused on the importance of the development of the broadband telecom network as the determinant for the development of e-Health in Lebanon. One of the goals of the TRA consists of supporting the spread of e-Health.

Dr. Farid Jabbour highlighted the pressing need for a legal and technical framework to build up capacity

to manage the growth of medical informatics in the healthcare sector. He pointed out the risks inherent to the use of electronic medical records from a legal standpoint. He emphasized the types of cybercrimes that could target electronic medical records as well as the liabilities resulting from such cybercrimes.

During the panel discussion, the different speakers were given the chance to present their views on how to enhance e-Health capacity building in Lebanon.

This journey was a rich introduction to the concepts of medical informatics, cyber medicine, and e-Health, examining along the way challenges and opportunities for medical practitioners.

During the conference, the idea to launch an e-Health and Medical Informatics Institute arose. It is hoped that such an institute will be able to benefit from the head start given by the National e-Health Program. Interdisciplinary e-Health programs do not exist in any other institution of higher learning in Lebanon or the Middle East.

NDU is preparing a new Master's degree program in e-Health with a course structure and content that will meet the challenges of the integration of ICT and healthcare. Prospective graduate students will be able to obtain a B.A./B.S. in any discipline related to Health Sciences, Law, Computer Sciences, or Business.

Ms. Nancy Abi Karam, Dr. Lionel Khalil



Ms. Lina Abou Mrad, representing the Minister of Public Health.



Dr. Marie Khair, panel discussant.



Conference speakers and participants.



## SDC Winners from NDU Compete in ASME-IMECE Finals

As the First Prize winners of the Student Design Competition (SDC) in District J (Middle East and Africa), which was held between May 26-27, 2013, at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU), Lebanon, we were invited to compete in the finals at the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) 2013 International Mechanical Engineering Congress & Exposition (IMECE) in San Diego, California, U.S.A.

Founded in 1880, the ASME is a not-for-profit professional organization that enables collaboration, knowledge sharing, and skill development across all engineering disciplines, while promoting the vital role of the engineer in society. Their mission is to serve our diverse global communities by advancing, disseminating, and applying engineering knowledge for improving the quality of life and communicating the excitement of engineering.

Annually, and for this purpose, they organize the lively ASME Student Design Competition, which provides a platform for ASME Student Members to present their solutions for a range of design problems - from everyday household tasks to groundbreaking space exploration. Each team is required to design, construct, and operate a prototype, which meets the requirements of a determined problem statement.

The SDC highlights the extraordinary talents of Mechanical Engineering students while encouraging them to develop innovative ideas toward an improved quality of life for all. Each year, several teams compete at the Student Professional Development Conferences in districts worldwide. Winners then proceed to finals at the ASME-IMECE.

After the Fukushima nuclear facility tragedy, following the March 2011 Tohoku earthquake and tsunami, the nuclear industry issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) to design and build a small, remotely-controlled inspection vehicle. The purpose of the vehicle is to determine the level of radioactivity at specified locations and inspect

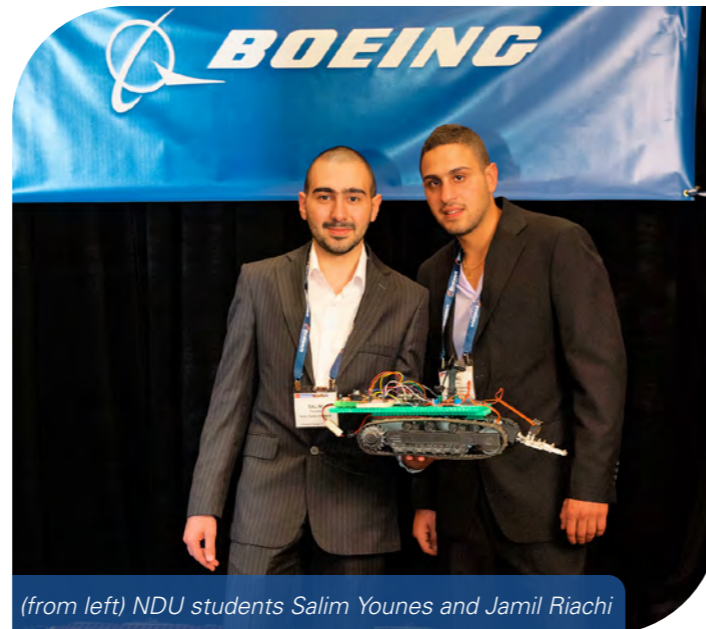
for damage. This vehicle will protect the human operator from absorbing a high dose of radioactive contamination. The inspection vehicle can gather information and notify plant operators to either avert an accident or begin repairs.

The 2013 competition problem statement was to design a remotely-controlled, proof-of-concept vehicle for inspection purposes. The vehicle must be able to negotiate around obstacles, both in getting to the inspection points and in bringing the sensor back to the designated return area. The vehicle must then return to its starting location, ready for another run.

In San Diego, California, we were ranked 5th as an international country, and 15th among all competing teams worldwide.

Our success could not have been achieved without the support of NDU's Faculty of Engineering (FE) and its Mechanical Engineering Department, which afforded us the opportunity to attend this annual event.

Salim Younes, Jamil Riachi



(from left) NDU students Salim Younes and Jamil Riachi

## MSF14: Media Studies Forum

In a country where sectarianism is institutionalized, where political turmoil is ever-present, where the economy is plagued by a heavy burden of public debt, and where the number of Syrian refugees has reached a million, adding to the country's existing aforementioned challenges, it takes very little to incite strife. This is all the more reason to focus on the youth who will emerge as future journalists, reporters, and information generators and disseminators across all types of media.

In a world where access to social media has crossed all boundaries and where citizens across the globe can log on to check the latest news and events happening in every corner of the world, the power of the media is all-encompassing.

Again, the burden falls on educating future generations to respect that power and act responsibly. The Media Studies Forum is a platform that brings together students and experts in media to engage in dialogue around themes in media communication based on maintaining professional standards and ethics while acting in a socially responsible manner. Active collaboration and engagement in these subjects will allow all participants, including students, to contribute to the creation of solutions to current issues that are pertinent to the Lebanese context. It is a forum where knowledge is exchanged, where experts will act as role models, and where students will be empowered.

MSF14 is the first such endeavor being held at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) and, given the importance and the need for such dialogue, it will surely not be the last.

Dr. Mary-Angela Willis



Dr. Mary-Angela Willis

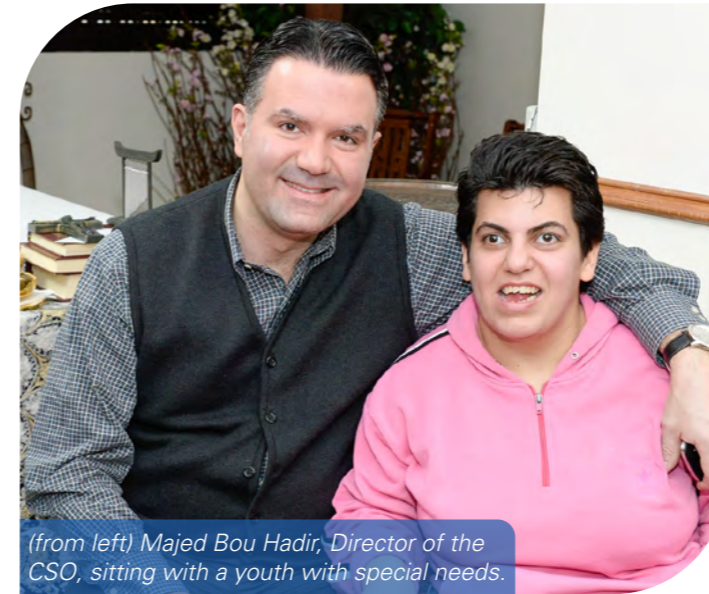




## CSO Activities

Through the Hearts of Joy Plan, an initiative by the Community Service Office (CSO) at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU), volunteers from NDU and Sesobel, a not-for-profit organization, providing social services for the welfare of Lebanese youth, visited the Anta Akhi Center for youth with special needs in Ballouneh, Lebanon.

This annual event witnessed an outpouring of love toward the disabled. It makes us proud that our youth is experiencing its humanitarian mission on earth and setting a shining example for others to follow.



(from left) Majed Bou Hadir, Director of the CSO, sitting with a youth with special needs.



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