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## Professional Degrees - An Evolving Strategy

Technology and social innovations have created new challenges on several fronts, the fact which requires new educational approaches, new thinking, and certainly new partnerships. Universities, driven by the advent of the knowledge based society, cannot risk navigating alone without the support of industry and the community at large. Central to this strategy is the sharing of experience between the university where leaders of new generations are nurtured and industry where knowledge is explored and tested.

Such a reality has not put us off our stride while enhancing and developing our educational programs, infrastructure, and services across our three campuses. Thus far, we have decided to use effective strategic planning as a measure to articulate where we are heading and the actions needed to ensure strong, sustainable and balanced growth in the face of the rapidly changing technology. Accordingly, lots of efforts have been exerted to further solidify our standing. A new *Strategic Plan 2015-2020* has been formulated and adopted, taking into consideration the concerns of the contemporary society in all its facets. The new Plan reveals quite explicitly the strategic initiatives, which are necessary to connect Notre-Dame University-Louaize (NDU) to industry without compromising the University's identity and integrity. In the past couple of years, our curricula have been aligned more consistently to the new challenges and ever-changing environment. A good balance between theory and practice has been improved in those programs leading to professional degrees; applied research, involving students, has been fostered; sharing professional experience with experts from industry has been felt; new facilities (labs, ateliers, studios, etc.) have been set up and old ones updated; students' orientation and career services have been enhanced.

There remains a significant scope for NDU to further consolidate its relationships with local, regional, and international industry. The move toward establishing and solidifying 'advisory boards' within the different

Faculties goes in this direction. Such initiative is necessary for the continuous improvement of the programs offered.

On the other hand, the most noteworthy element when developing those strategies and actions is the focus on values. As academics, our main concern lies, not only on immediate, short-term interests, skills, or knowledge spheres but also on the long-term responsibility to promote and protect the transferrable and fundamental values that are attributed to them.

I invite you to read this issue of the *Chronicle*, which features a number of scholarly events that shed light on this ongoing endeavor. It reflects the kind of activities that students engage in while pursuing their professional degrees at NDU.



## president's message

Father WALID MOUSSA  
President NDU

## feature

### Dubai Alumni Gala Dinner

At the invitation of the Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) Alumni Chapter in Dubai, a gala dinner was hosted on Friday, February 6, 2015, at Dubai's Hotel Al Bustan.

The Minister of Education and Higher Education Elias Bou Saab sponsored the dinner, which gathered around 100 alumni as well as a host of industry leaders in various fields.

Present at the dinner were NDU President Fr. Walid Moussa; Vice-President for Public Affairs and Communications, Mr. Suheil Matar; Vice-President for Financial Affairs Fr. Bechara el-Khoury; President of the Supreme Council Dr. Francois Bassil; Member of the Council Rose Choueiry; and friends, colleagues, and the Chargés d'Affaires at the Lebanese Embassy in Dubai and Abu Dhabi.

During the dinner, NDU Alumnus Mr. Toni al-Sayed spoke on behalf of his friends and colleagues, calling for solidarity, encouraging more alumni work, and granting scholarships, which would help needy students overcome financial difficulties.



(from left) Mr. Joseph Ghossoub; Fr. Walid Moussa; Mr. Elias Bou Saab, Minister of Education and Higher Education in Lebanon; Dr. Francois Bassil, President of the Board of Trustees; and Mr. Suheil Matar, Vice-President for Public Affairs and Communications.



Fr. Moussa delivered a speech stressing the role of the alumni in assisting their fellows and their role in projecting the image of a University proud of its students' achievements.

Minister Bou Saab, Dr. Bassil, and Mr. Matar also delivered speeches, which mainly focused on developing a "unified national spirit as a means to rebuild the country; a country whose sons leave increasingly, fleeing the current spectrum of political and security issues."



(from left) Ms. Zeina Khoury, Mrs. Gisele Habib Abou Jaoude, Mr. Tony Cid, Mr. Ahmad Sabra, Mr. Fadi Boustani, Mr. Robert Ohanessian, and Mr. Elie Mattar.

## Holy Week Mass

Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) celebrated on April 1, 2015, at midday, Mass to mark Holy Week. A short documentary, focusing on the achievements of the Pastoral Work was screened before the service began. Six priests of the Maronite Order of the Blessed Virgin Mary (OMM) were present. Fr. Khalil Rahme presided over the Mass and read from the *Gospel of Luke (10:25-37)*. In this chapter of the New Testament, Christ teaches us to love one another and to be forgiving, just as he has loved and forgiven us.



# outreach

## Educational Field Trip for Architecture Students

The Architecture Department at the Faculty of Architecture, Art and Design (FAAD), Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU), in collaboration with the Architecture Community for Tourism (ACT), organized from April 2 to 9, 2015, a third educational field trip for its students to the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The trip exposed students to urban development, including buildings, exteriors, and interiors, which provided them with a unique opportunity to enhance their critical thinking skills, concerning the built environment.

The ACT has evinced keen interest to engage more groups of NDU students in upcoming academic trips and activities in the near future. Throughout the trip, students demonstrated promising capabilities and a high level of dedication and commitment. Group activities revealed teamwork among students as well



as strong communication and presentation skills. The intensive program included visiting several key sites as well as four main projects/activities carried in groups and individually.



## International Migration and Development Training at NDU

The International Organization for Migration (IOM), in collaboration with the Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) at the Faculty of Law and Political Science (FLPS), Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU), held from February 10 to 13, 2015, a four-day training on "International Migration and Development" at the NDU main campus.

The IOM designed the training modules "to provide trainers, policymakers and practitioners with structured training sessions covering both theoretical and practical elements intended to strengthen their professional capabilities. The modules promote a highly participatory training methodology, fostering teamwork and participants' engagement in stimulating discussions and reflection."



Seven modules along with lectures and group exercises constituted the training, which addressed the following areas: The migration–development nexus; frameworks for cooperation on migration and development; migration and development policy and planning; strengthening the collaboration between policymakers and diasporas for development; facilitating labor mobility; and mobilizing the financial resources generated through migration.

The opening of the training was held under the auspices of NDU President Fr. Walid Moussa, represented by Mr. Suheil Matar, Vice-President for Public Affairs and Communications.

Director of the VPAC’s Office Dr. Nada Saad-Saber opened the ceremony and introduced the IOM and NDU representatives who were Mr. Fawzi al-Zioud, IOM Representative in Lebanon; Dr. Maan Bou-Saber, Dean of the FLPS; Dr. Ghazi Asmar, Assistant Vice-President for Research and Graduate Studies; Dr. Khaled Abdel Mageed, Director of the Secretariat of Sudanese Working Aboard at the Ministry of Cabinet Affairs of Sudan; Mr. Michael Newson, IOM Regional Labour Migration/Migration and Development Specialist; Mr. Tauhid Pasha, IOM Senior Specialist on Migration and Human Development; and Dr. Guita Hourani, Director of the LERC.

The approximately 30 participants came from Egypt, Sudan, Yemen, Italy, and Lebanon, as well as from government, local, non-governmental, and academic institutions. The participants attended all the sessions and showed immense interest across the board; their professional and academic backgrounds gave each module the added value needed to become more relatable and less theoretical.

Guest speakers came from IOM, NDU/FLPS, the Investment Development Agency of Lebanon (IDAL), the International Labor Migration (ILO), the Lebanese Center for Policy Studies (LCPS), the United Nation Development Program (UNDP) Live-Lebanon Program, Byblos Bank, and the International Center for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD).

H. E. Dr. Ahmad Hassan Ambassador of Sudan to Lebanon, Mr. Al-Zioud, Dr. Bou-Saber, Mr. Newson, Dr. Hourani, and Dr. Elie el-Hindy, Chairperson of the Department of Government and International Relations at the FLPS, all attended the closing ceremony.

Following a closing word from each of the aforementioned attendees and from two participants and one trainer, each participant was handed a “Certificate of Completion” for his/her successful participation in the training.

The IOM trainers, participants, and guest speakers informed the LERC and the IOM that the training was a success. Everyone appreciated NDU’s hospitality and welcoming spirit. Local and foreign participants who stayed at the NDU Guest House were pleased with their accommodations and loved the campus.

The IOM’s representatives, Mr. Fawzi al-Zioud, Mr. Michael Newson, Ms. Nur Fitriana, and Ms. Dima Haddad expressed keen interest in continuing cooperation with the LERC and NDU. A debriefing meeting will take place in the next few weeks between the IOM and the LERC in the hope of planning future mutually beneficial activities.

## Open Doors 2015

Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) held between Thursday, March 26 and Friday, March 27, 2015, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., its annual Open Doors event.

Themed, “*Step into Your Future*,” the event, organized on the main campus, presents to prospective secondary school students from across the country the potential of NDU to deliver a first-rate level of higher education in all fields. NDU faculty member, staff, and students participated in the two-day event, which featured many academic activities, entertainment, games, etc. Students from many schools toured the campus, met with advisors and instructors, and were introduced to campus facilities and services.

Sponsors from Rim, Dunkin’ Donuts, McVities, Aruba, among many others, were present to offer refreshments and snacks.

Overall, this year’s event was a resounding success.



Ms. Suad Elhilo receives her certificate from H.E. Dr. Ahmad Hassan





## Washington D.C. Office: Fulfilling the Mission with a new Action Plan 2015-2016

The following outlines the Action Plan for the Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) D.C. Office in 2015:

1. Create synergies with NDU Alumni Office
  - a. Establish relationship and work closely with NDU's Office of Alumni Affairs.
  - b. Establish new systems and processes to maintain contact database, collect updated information about NDU Alumni living in the USA, and communication with NDU alumni. Set up systems to accomplish the following:
2. Create helpful tools for NDU students/alumni living in the USA
  - a. Build out the D.C. office webpage/search functionality to answer frequently asked questions/provide tools for the most common requests fielded by the D.C. Office, including study abroad questions, obtaining official transcripts, and general how-to and contact information for NDU.
3. Support AFNDU in any/all activities, including:
  - a. Recruitment of new members.
  - b. Enlarging pool of friends.
  - c. Fundraising for a study abroad scholarship.
  - d. Increasing social media presence.
4. Generate awareness/promotion for NDU in the USA via online and in-person events
5. Support NDU and AFNDU with miscellaneous office/administration activities.

## campus activities

### Kahlil Gibran in Unknown Works at NDU

The Institute of Lebanese Thought at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) launched on March 16, 2015, a two-week exhibition titled, "*Kahlil Gibran in Unknown Works*," in which various art and literary works of the great Lebanese artist, poet, and writer were displayed.

These works included 35 oil and water paintings and charcoal drawings; 13 handwritten pages by Gibran in the English and Arabic languages; translations in 24 different languages of *The Prophet*; as well as translations in 38 languages of his other works.

The novelty of this exhibition is two-fold: First, the works exhibited are unknown to the public and are not showcased in the Gibran Museum in Becharri, his hometown; second, the exhibition itself had educational goals - parallel activities targeted students who actively participated in the event.



Key parallel activities included an in-depth study of Gibran's literary works based on texts selected for the occasion; Dr. Salma Abdallah, Assistant Professor of Arabic Literature at the Faculty of Humanities (FH), organized and ran this workshop, which NDU literature students attended. For his part, Dr. Najj Oueijan, Professor of British Literature at the FH, gave a presentation titled, "Gibran and the Bible."

Under the supervision of Dr. Danielle Zakour, Assistant Professor of Fine Arts at the FH, arts students were asked to choose paintings as work material for their projects. Music students, under the supervision of Dr. Lola Beyrouthi, Assistant Professor of Modern Music at the Faculty of Arts, Architecture and Design (FAAD), created new musical arrangements for some celebrated scores composed for Gibran's texts. The new scores were blended with jazz, resulting in pleasant fuse of tunes.

A documentary produced by the Gibran Museum committee, as well as a bibliographical film produced by the Institute of Lebanese Thought, was regularly screened throughout the exhibition.

To mark the event, organizers distributed a 100-page colored booklet, containing all the exhibited works and their explanations in English and Arabic, as well as the inaugural notes.



### Mathematics Monthly Seminars

In fall 2012, the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) began to host monthly seminars. These monthly seminars are intended to keep faculty members updated of the latest development in Mathematics, as well as to encourage research among faculty members. Attending a seminar has numerous benefits, including improving communication skills, gaining expert knowledge, networking with others and renewing motivation. In addition, seminars give faculty members the opportunity to meet other people who share their interests, debate issues related to the field and exchange perspectives.

Experts coming from various universities in Lebanon, Europe, and the United States of America lead the monthly Mathematics seminars. Each seminar has a specific topic or discipline, such as Algebra, Analysis, Differential Equations, Differential Geometry, Information Theory, Number Theory, Topology, Operations Research, and Statistics. Immediately after each seminar, attendees meet for few "social minutes" where refreshments are served, and sometimes the speaker is invited to lunch.



## Workshop on Actuarial Practices

The Department of Mathematics and Statistics at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) held on May 30, 2014, a half-day workshop on “Actuarial Practices.” The workshop attracted attendees from Faculty, students, alumni, and actuarially-related industry representatives, such as banks, actuarial consultancy firms, and reinsurance companies. Three presentations tackled three diverse applications of actuarial practice. Mr. Iyad Hourani, a fellow of the Society of Actuaries and currently a Managing Actuary and Director at I.E. Mouhana and Co., gave the first presentation. He highlighted the role of actuaries in managing retirement systems in general and pension funds in particular. He discussed the main actuarial valuation types and stages and elucidated them through a case study. Mrs. Remy Makhoulf Youssef, an NDU alumnae and current Market Risk Associate at Bank Audi, gave the second presentation. She discussed different types of financial risks and concentrated on the evaluation and management of interest rate risk through quantitative techniques. Mr. Elie Abi Rached, Chief Executive Officer at Chedid Re Saudi Arabia, gave the last presentation. He introduced the reinsurance industry and discussed estimation techniques and risk mitigation methods. He illustrated the pricing methodology of reinsurance through a practical example from the motor industry.

## B.S. and M.S. Degrees on Food Safety and Quality Management

Under the patronage of His Excellency the Minister of Public Health Mr. Wael Abou Faour, the Faculty of Nursing & Health Sciences (FNHS) at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) recently organized a launch event for its B.S. and M.S. degree programs in Food Safety and Quality Management, which will start in September, 2015.

Following the Lebanese national anthem, the Dean of the FNHS Dr. Antoine Farhat welcomed Mrs. Dana Abou Rislan, representing Minister Abou Faour; the Minister of Economy and Trade Dr. Elie Bou Yazbeck; and the panelists. The panelists were Mr. Mounir Bissat, President of the Syndicate of Lebanese Food Industries, Mr. Moussa Freiji, Founder of Tanmia and Chairman of the Lebanese Poultry Syndicate, and Mr. Atef Idris, General Manager of the MENA Food Safety Associates (MEFOSA).

In his welcome speech, Dr. Farhat highlighted the pressing need for such degree programs, which reflect the current food safety campaign led by the Ministry of Public Health and other ministries concerned. He also said that NDU foresaw the need for food safety education in Lebanon two years ago when the University submitted to the Ministry of Education and Higher Education its programs for approval.

Dr. Farhat presented compelling statistics and hoped that food safety issues in general, rather than only pathogen-related ones, would be focused on more in the future. He urged the need for more emphasis on the many other aspects of food safety, such as exposure to toxic metals and chemicals released from banned industrial processes that persist in the environment and contaminate food. He used DDT and dioxins as examples. Dr. Farhat also warned of the dangers, resulting from residues of veterinary drugs, agricultural pesticides, carcinogenic chemical contaminants formed during the processing and cooking of foods, such as phthalates and bisphenol A (BPA), genetically modified foods, and the increasing use of nanomaterials used in food packaging.

Given that numerous chemicals and different routes of exposure that affect food safety, resulting in a complex interaction between different pathogens and/or chemicals, Dr. Farhat recommended that ministries consider the ‘mixture toxicology’ approach and avoid the reductionism approach. He pledged that NDU, through its new degree programs, would remain at the forefront of social responsibility and continue to support all ministries in their national quest to ensure food safety.

For her part, Mrs. Abou Rislan briefly described the ongoing Ministry of Public Health campaign and highlighted the uniqueness and importance of the programs offered by NDU. She thanked NDU for its initiative and addressed students, advising them to join such degree programs because of the immense demand for graduates with such expertise at the relevant ministries and in the industry.

Panelist Mr. Bissat both praised and criticized the Ministry of Public Health campaign. He spoke on behalf of the Syndicate of Lebanese Food Industries when he voiced his concern on the biased way the ministry used the media to report the news regarding this topic. Mr. Bissa drew comparisons with similar campaigns in the West where, in addition to the proper use of discretion, the industry was given a two-year grace period to comply with new legislations.

Panelist Dr. Bou Yazbeck briefly described the programs developed by the Ministry of Economy and Trade, and the appropriate legislations developed, emphasizing the Food Safety Law.

For his part, panelist Mr. Freiji pinpointed the gap between the LIBNOR standards and those of the European Union and the U.S. While the Lebanese food processing industries are successfully exporting to the West, some of their products are considered non-compliant in Lebanon. He questioned the unrealistically stringent Lebanese regulations. Mr. Freiji also added that 2,000 strains of salmonella exist while only two are pathogenic and laboratories are failing to consider this variation. Mr. Freiji stressed that people never consume raw chicken, which indisputably carry microorganisms, and such types of food should be cooked before being analyzed to determine whether they are safe to eat or not. He gave an example of imported products where food safety standards are applied to the cooked and finished product given that ministries abroad do not test the foods in their raw states, leaving Lebanese industries at a gross disadvantage.

In closing, Mr. Edris conveyed to the audience the international collaboration in food safety and the outcomes of related scientific conferences. A Q&A session with the audience followed his intervention.





## Student Professional Development Conference (SPDC) 2015

The Department of Mechanical Engineering at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU), in collaboration with the ASME, recently organized the "Student Professional Development Conference – 2015." On the agenda were workshops and presentations. Topics on "Leaderships for Engineers," "Non-Destructive Tests," "Efficiency in PLC and Irrigation Systems," "Geothermal Energy," and "Solar Energy" were presented and discussed.



Rama Keyrouz 1st place  
Mary Joe Alavalas 3rd place  
Francesca el-Asmar 8th place

The exam was the final assessment after long months of hard work and 14 online lectures from top notch experts in the field, including lawyers, judges, and university professors in The Hague. The three students and their top 20 colleagues participated in a field trip to The Hague, Netherlands, to visit the international courts and become acquainted with the work of these courts work first-hand.

Moreover, Dr. Maan Bou Saber, Dean of FLPS and Dr. Elie Al-Hindy, Chairperson of the GIR also participated in an Academic Study Visit to The Hague, which included different international courts and institutes, such as the International Criminal Court, International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, and the Special Tribunal for Lebanon, as well as The Hague Academy of International Law, Leiden University, and T.M.C. Asser Institute. They also participated in roundtables, lectures, and seminars with various judges and lawyers of the courts, and experts in international justice. This visit was beneficial for the updating and development of our curriculum and enhancement of our courses.

## Brown Bag Series

The Brown Bag (BB) series opened at the Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) main campus with two lunch sessions each month. One session focuses on approaches to learning and teaching, a theme under the "Program for Learning and Teaching Excellence." The second session focuses on approaches to research across the disciplines at NDU. Full-time and part-time NDU faculty shared their own challenges, successes, and approaches. A few readings were also handed out and discussed to provide conceptual frameworks to think about.

During the learning and teaching BB session, "Course Design and Development," the group discussed ways of reading and developing their syllabi. Attendees

across the faculties challenged and questioned approaches to reviewing the course objectives and learning outcomes. In particular, discussions focused on how we use concepts of higher-level thinking without seeing them as levels of progression and the alignment between learning outcomes and classroom pedagogies. The session on "Active Learning" examined how we give feedback and how students use this feedback in subsequent work. This notion of active learning is drawn from Dennison and Kirk's (1990) cycle of Do, Review, Learn, and Apply. Throughout the lunch session, instructors revealed various understandings of active learning and prompted a discussion on the quality of feedback provided. We then explored Hattie and Timperely's (2007) four types of feedback: Task, process, self-regulation, and self. On "Collaborative Learning," the group reflected on practices that encouraged students to draw on each other's understandings and work so that their end product was original. Many shared examples on how their students worked together. One that stood out was when students compared and contrasted different translations to a concept studied in class.

In the Brown Bag sessions on approaches to research, "Hot Topics and Grants" explored the first stages of conceptualizing a study with attendees sharing their own journeys of finding their research questions. Presenting and networking at conferences were some of the main sites of developing timely research topics. Reflections opened up conversations on the roles of governments and donors in setting the research agendas. At the "Literature Review" session, discussions focused on four main points: (1) purposes of writing a literature review, (2) fields of literature to review, (3) elements to consider, and (4) approaches to presenting the review. In addition to enhancing the quality of the research study, literature reviews were also seen as fundamental to continuously updating concepts and readings for the courses. When sharing experiences or plans to gather information through interviews, we invited Eric Van Ommering to join the session on "Interviews and Conversations." Eric is in the final writing up stages of his doctorate on education and reflected on much of his ethnographic work in a number of schools in Lebanon over the course of two years. Probing, ethics, and observations

emerged as critical dimensions to learning more about a phenomenon through conversations.

The Brown Bag series is an initiative aimed at creating a space for informal and informed conversations about our approaches to improving classroom learning and producing high quality research. With small groups meeting during its first year, we may consider organizing multiple sessions if numbers grow during the 2015-16 academic year. Do follow the session summaries and resources shared on the CARE webpage.

## Congratulations!

The Student Affairs Office (SAO) at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) is proud to announce the following achievements and successes regarding the NDU Athletic Activities:

- The Basketball NLC team won the AUL North Inter-Universities Tournament;
- The Basketball Men Team won against USJ (83\76);
- Student Sandy Karam (Faculty of Engineering) ranked first and second in the Cross Country Army Race Championship;
- Students Milad Farjallah (Faculty of Engineering) and Yara Khawam (Freshman) ranked second in the Lebanese University Swimming Championship;
- Student Mayssa Bsaibes (Faculty of Architecture, Art, and Design) ranked first in the Lebanese University Table Tennis Championship;
- Students Bruna Ata El Khoury (Faculty of Business Administration and Economics), Jennifer Zailaa (Faculty of Business Administration and Economics), and Michel Zgheib (Faculty of Humanities) ranked first, second, and third, respectively, in the Lebanese University Tennis Championship;

## International Criminal Law Program at NDU

The 4th Inter-University Program on International Criminal Law and Procedures, recently organized with the Special Tribunal for Lebanon, TMC Asser Institute, and seven Lebanese universities was successfully completed with a special flavor for the GIR. Three of the Faculty of Law and Political Science (FLPS) students at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) ranked among the top positions from 120 students representing eight different Lebanese Universities (AUB, AUST, BAU, LU, ULS, USEK, USJ, and NDU). The NDU students ranked, as follows:

- Nine badminton players (Male and Female) participated for the first time in the Lebanese University Badminton Championship and they all passed the first round;
- Students Tarek Mousally (Faculty of Engineering), Elias El Hidary (Faculty of Business Administration and Economics), Anna Maria El Khawand (Faculty of Engineering), and Rouba Abou Rjeily (Faculty of Business Administration and Economics) ranked first in the NDU Taekwondo Championship; and
- Students Michael Merheb (Faculty of Engineering), Kevin Nicolaos (Faculty of Humanities), and Marie-Yvonne Aad (Faculty of Business Administration and Economics) ranked first in Judo.

All the above students (14 athletes) are qualified to represent NDU and Lebanon in the next Summer University Games in Korea - July 2015.



## gifts and donations

A Gift from Japan



The Geisei Prefecture and the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan donated two telescopes to Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU), valued at about US\$500,000. The mass of a mammoth with the precision and grace of a ballerina awaits its trip to the final destination, a building on one of Lebanon's snowcapped mountains located at an elevation of 2,000 meters above sea level where the air is crisp and thousands of shining stars grace the nights.

## new releases

"From Heart to Heart"  
by Suheil Matar



Mr. Matar signing his book

Suheil Matar, Vice-President for Public Affairs and Communications at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU), signed on March 12, 2015, his new book titled, *Dearest Friends, "From Heart to Heart", Part III*.

Hosted at the Cultural Movement in Antelias, the book-signing event witnessed a large turnout of notable political, military, and religious figures as well as a large number of friends and colleagues.

Prominent writers and philosophers, politicians, and leading figures in arts and culture delivered a number of speeches, praising Matar's efforts and creativity. The speakers also thanked him for his great service to Lebanese thought and for disseminating Lebanese cultural values around the world.



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