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The Worth of Parallel Thinking

After what Lebanon went through this summer, it is crucial to revise our way of thinking and way of looking at things. One of the problems we face on the social and political scene is the fact that once we believe in an idea we put ourselves in a difficult position when we take an attitude of not listening to another idea and, more so, when we are not ready anymore to listen to any other counter idea.



Fr. Walid Moussa

Events have proved that no belief in any one particular idea as a unique way of salvation can bring us happiness or an ultimate solution to our problems. Insisting on one particular idea against all other variations, shadows, and deviations of that point of view might lead to a dead end. In that case most of the channels of communication are cut off, and all the intellectual, emotional and social bridges are pulled down.

I invite our campus community members to try and make a difference by starting another pattern of thought, another intellectual attitude that requires the following:
-If the only ultimate and unique universal truth is the "First Maker", the first "Creator", and the power behind

this universe, then all other faces and aspects of truth are relative and subordinate.

-If we accept this first statement, then we reach logically the fact that all other truths are proportional. As a result we have to accept the fact that what is good for me might not be good for others, and what is good for others might not be as good for me.

-If we accept the second statement most of our social and political problems will be solved because our intellectual attitude will drastically change.

This year let us bear in mind a motto related to accepting the other, the other idea, the other person, and the other point of view on the same "very important, national" issue.

Rev. Fr. Walid Moussa
President

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Ignorance and freedom cannot go together.

Thomas Jefferson

FIRST IMPRESSION

I have just completed my first semester as Vice President for Academic Affairs since I was appointed to the position this past summer. It has taken me the better part of the term to educate myself about NDU, its people, history and culture. I have come away from this process firmly convinced that there is nothing which can stand between us, and meeting our goals. On a personal level I was humbled by the confidence placed in me by President Moussa for my appointment, and am aware of the work and challenges which lie before us in the next few years. These challenges present us with enormous opportunities for utilizing the vast potential of NDU, and for raising the quality and reputation of the University in Lebanon, the region and internationally.

One of the things that attracted me to NDU during my job search this past year was that this is a Catholic educational institution which placed a great importance on a values-based education. Being raised in the American Midwest in a family that attended church every Sunday and where family life revolved around Christian teachings, the notion of working in this type of environment was both familiar and very comfortable. It also fondly reminded me of my wonderful professional appointments I had early on in my career at two prominent Catholic universities in the U.S.

The strength of the Maronite traditions assimilated at NDU was clear to me from my very first meeting with President Moussa and Dr. Rihani in Washington DC this past February, that being my very first contact with NDU and its people. As our interview process continued through various meetings and forums over the next four months, it was made obvious to me that NDU's mission is committed to advancing academic excellence, expanding liberal and professional knowledge, creating a diverse and inclusive community, and preparing leaders dedicated to ethical conduct and compassionate service. This mission is grounded in Catholic social teachings, a tradition of thought and action that affirms NDU's commitment to work for a just and peaceful society. As Vice President for Academic Affairs, it is my own personal mission to always have the lives and spiritual growth of our students at the top of our agenda--always encouraging tomorrow's citizens and leaders to explore how faith and reason are compatible in education and to develop strong moral convictions to support their future life endeavors. I have it as a credo that human rights, social justice and economic equity are perfectly compatible with modern capitalism and that an NDU education should champion these ideals.

During my interview process, and reinforced while I was on campus last week, President Moussa highlighted that he wanted me to (especially) accomplish the following goals: 1) develop and implement a University-wide strategic plan, with clear goals and priorities, 2) begin the process of achieving US-based institutional accreditation in a reasonable time frame and 3) utilize all ways and means to improve the quality of academic activities at NDU. Clearly this is an ambitious, and far-reaching, agenda for change at the institution, one that will require a good deal of hard work and long hours from all of us.



Dr. Geoffrey Mills

My vision and efforts for NDU's future will be to help it become one of a small number of genuinely outstanding universities in the Middle East, so that when people talk of the very best schools in the region they will place us in this group. We have the foundation, the people and the resources to achieve this vision within a reasonable time frame.

I am very pleased to report that President Moussa appointed a 40-person Strategic Planning Steering Committee in early October and that it has been hard at work for the past 10 weeks. The Committee has completed a SWOTS (Strengths-Weaknesses-Opportunities-Threats) analysis and an environmental scanning activity for NDU, and we are now in the process of drafting preliminary goals and strategies for the University. The working title of the strategic plan is "Achieving Distinction - 2012" and as the title indicates the scope of the plan extends for the next half decade. The Committee will have completed its work this spring and will set the plan before the Board of Trustees by mid June.

Parallel to the planning effort the administration has embraced the process of institutional accreditation by approaching one of the six regional accrediting agencies in the USA. We have exchanged information with the Executive Director, and have extended an invitation to them to visit our campus. After this benchmarking period is over we plan to formally enter the process of Candidacy whereby we can then begin to formally prepare ourselves for an accreditation visit. I have been asked on any number of occasions what the timetable will be for this effort and I have refused to speculate. The campus needs to get the strategic plan in place and begin that implementation process, and we need to affiliate ourselves with an accreditation agency before we will have a firm idea of a time line.

In the meanwhile there is much to be done. Fortunately the weather has been splendid this fall term. As I write this sentence, I am looking out the window at a bright sunny sky in temperatures of the mid 60's. And despite the difficulties and hardships suffered by the country and its people these past few months there is a quiet spirit of optimism and progress within the campus community. I believe, and my colleagues do as well, that the best years for NDU lie in front of us.

I must admit, though, that the best part of this turn my life and career has taken at this time, is for me to have the joy and honor to live in this beautiful, multifaceted land of Lebanon. Of course, it goes without saying, but I will say it anyway, that Lebanon is rich and proud in its culture and traditions and it is a privilege to live in what is one of the most fascinating cities of the Mediterranean. But certainly, the jewel that I discovered in Lebanon's crown is its people. I walk away from my first semester at NDU, Beirut and Lebanon with a great fondness and respect for its people. I have been inspired by everyone I live and work with in this hospitable country, and I am respectful of the gift of living in Lebanon at this stage of my life.

On a personal note I want to thank all of those who have helped to make this next chapter in my career a reality, and I am looking forward with eager anticipation and high hopes for the future. All best wishes to you for a productive, happy and prosperous holiday season.

Dr. Geoffrey T. Mills
Vice President for Academic Affairs

Another Approach to the Notion of Citizenship

In a recent issue of the Journal of the Center for Coordination of Research published by the International Federation of Catholic Universities, a thorough study on "Citizenship Today" was published in several languages. The study discussed the challenges of citizenship, citizenship in the world, models of citizenship, citizenship and governance, citizenship and civil society, the devolution of powers, sharing of governance, and citizenship education. These concerns are very significant and timely. They constitute part of the total cultural responsibilities of higher education worldwide today.

WA major dilemma is more obvious nowadays in determining citizenship: it is whether the governing body works for the citizen or the citizen works for the governing body. When the citizen in an advanced country voices his objection to a certain attitude or decision taken by his government, he can use the argument that the money spent on this particular issue has been taken from the taxpayer without the latter's approval for the way the money is spent. In a similar situation in the developing countries the citizen, in most cases, accepts, allows, obeys, even if not agreeing on what the government is doing. In other words, accountability is much more vital, imperative and appropriate in developed countries. As a result transparency is one of the key issues that govern the genuine and straight relationship between the citizen and the government.

This relationship between the two parties, citizen and government, in any country around the world, is the issue that should be always reviewed, reformed, and developed. The clearer this relation becomes, the more advanced a community, society or country, we shall reach attain and enjoy. A clearer relationship means a more accountable and a more transparent rapport between the individual member of a certain society/country and the government of that country. This explains paradigms of freedom, democracy, human rights, equal opportunities, and justice. This explains the difference between a developed and a developing country.



Dr. Ameen A. Rihani

It is a foremost role of higher education to highlight the value of accountability and transparency in order to train undergraduate and graduate students in the proper social and professional attitudes, starting within the campus and ending within their own community, society and country. This is becoming a crucial issue of teaching/learning and research directly related to the realm of higher education today more than anytime before.

Dr. Ameen A. Rihani
Vice President,
Sponsored Research and Development

Towards an Institutional-ized Research Venture: The Center for Applied Research in Education (CARE) at NDU

Background

In recent years, education in Arab states has made three discernible quantitative leaps expressed in the following: (i) increase of enrolment rates; (ii) wider female access to schooling; and (iii) a remarkable expansion of schools and higher educational institutions, particularly private ones. These recent achievements have at the same time caused eyes to be opened to certain deficiencies in education. Concern regarding the quality of education has come from two sources, external and internal. External concern gained momentum after the tragic event of September 11th when the editorial pages of many American newspapers lodged sharp criticism against what they described as stagnant Arab education systems that had bred anti-American sentiments and nurtured pillory, intolerance and hostility towards the West. Perhaps a less-info-biased critique against Arab education systems came from a World Bank study conducted in 2000. The study enumerated a number of shortcomings in the Arab education systems. These were:

- The failure of education in Arab states to impart the higher-order cognitive skills such as flexibility and problem-solving abilities;
- Teaching marred by what Freire described as 'narration sickness';
- Learning by rote with little or no relation to Arab indigenous context and the use of texts tinged with alienating verbosity;
- University preparation and training failing to prepare students adequately for the dynamics of the labor market;
- Arab universities producing little knowledge adapted to local circumstances.

A recent Harvard study of Arab higher education the

concluded that the lack of a research culture in many Arab universities prevents the education given from achieving the optimal application of theory into practice. In a related vein, internal critiques were reported by numerous scholarly studies conducted in Arab states by Arab researchers and research institutions. The majority of these studies and reports insisted on the excessive learning by rote and on the failure to produce new knowledge. Nahas (1997) attributed the lack of knowledge production to the lack of research centers in Lebanon and neighboring Arab states and of institutions that catered for research activities

At present, there is a dynamic dialogue taking place throughout the Arab World about several aspects of education and about reform measures that are needed to ensure quality education, particularly in higher-education institutions. In this context, concepts such as accreditation (American), quality assurance (British) and quality enhancement (Australian) have started to infiltrate vigorously the Arab higher-educational scene. Indeed, among the proposed measures is the needed promotion of research which could do much to coordinate efforts in the ways towards educational reform. The scantiness of data banks in educational research in Arab states together with the distinct paucity of indigenous research efforts for the development of an epistemology congruent with the ontological realities of indigenous could blight the hopes chances of change and educational reform.

Historical antecedents immediately attest to the inseparability of university life and research. To mention but a few examples, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) is distinguished, among other things, for its comparative linguistic research center. Additionally, the University of Geneva is well-known for fostering the research ideas of Jean Piaget, whose cognitive development theory introduced drastic changes into the pedagogical approach underpinning children's cognition. These experiences point to the importance of institutionalizing research in institutions of higher education. In fact, the various scattered nuggets of private piecemeal initiatives in educational research need to be institutionalized in order to support the use of research outcomes through the dissemination of findings. Thus, educational research centers should be vested with the responsibility of providing information and empirical research data that can contribute to the production of knowledge. From this broader framework, Notre Dame University President Father Walid Moussa proposed the establishment of an education research center at the University. This vision was further crystallized through discussions with the Vice President for Sponsored Research and Development, Dr. Ameen A.

Rihani and other scholars concerned at the University who collectively endorsed the need for establishing the research center. At a later stage, President Father Walid Moussa vested me with the directorship of the Center, aided by Dr. Ramzi Nasser as Associate Researcher.

Mission

The mission of CARE is to promote excellence in education.

Objectives

The objectives of CARE are the following:

- To promote and conduct multi-disciplinary research in education;
- To disseminate research findings to the local, regional and international academic communities;
- To prepare and submit research grants for educational studies in Lebanon and Arab states coordinated and executed by NDU;
- To provide NDU with self-study reports needed for accreditation;
- To construct a data-bank of educational studies in Arab states conducted to date;
- To build up a statistics data-bank of students' profiles in schools and higher educational institutions, both locally and regionally;
- To conduct analytical studies on curricula development in Lebanon;
- To conduct policy-making studies in higher educational institutions in Lebanon and Arab states;
- To build up a data bank of the occupational status of NDU graduates;
- To develop a refereed, indexed and abstracted applied research journal in education;
- To organize local, regional and international conferences on education in Arab states;
- To provide publications of empirical reports, books and journal articles;
- To build up a comprehensive fieldwork data bank of Catholic schools in Lebanon.
- To utilize our established personal contacts with regional and international academic communities to conduct joint cross-cultural research activities and submit bids for financing these activities;
- To liaise with local, regional and international scholars to establish a modicum of educational research networks;

CARE will work closely with the Faculty of Humanities in order to achieve the above objectives while being open to cooperation with all faculties, academic offices and units at Notre Dame University.

Output

Through our realization of the above objectives, it is hoped that CARE can provide the following:

- A sharper awareness of educational issues and concerns in Lebanon and their possible solutions;
- A more systematic documentation and dissemination of empirical data of educational documents and researches that can be accessed by researchers, faculty members and students;
- A more proactive approach to institutional research;
- A rich data bank of self-studies for accreditation;
- A wider community outreach through the dissemination of data and policy papers to the community interested in enhancing education in Lebanon;
- An international, regional, and local dissemination of educational research papers through the establishment of a refereed indexed and abstracted journal in applied research in education.

Structure

The structuring of CARE can be determined in three main phases. These are as follows:

Phase 1:

- Establishing the physical structure of the Center;
- Establishing the staff composition of the Center and assigning the role of each;
- Proposing the type and range of activities to be coordinated with Faculties at the University;
- Writing the by-laws of the Center, including mission, objectives, foci of work, relationship with faculties and reporting.

Phase 2:

Based on phase 1 above, the Center will set its priorities in consultation with the University President, the Vice President for Sponsored Research and Development, and the Faculty of Humanities.

Phase 3:

This phase is concerned with the implementation process.

Conclusion

Finally, without substantial progress taking place in the field of educational research at the University, other developments might be ephemeral.

Dr. Kamal Abou-Chedid, Director, CARE

WEERC Roundtable Lebanese Coast Oil Spill Pollution

A scientific seminar was held on October 4, 2006, under the title "Lebanese Coast Oil Spill Pollution: Impact and Crisis Management" was jointly organized by the Water, Energy and Environment Research Center (WEERC) at NDU and the Ministry of Environment. The seminar was held under the auspices of Reverend Father Walid Moussa President, of NDU; H.E. Mr. Yaacoub Sarraf, Minister of Environment; H.E. Mr. Joe Sarkis, Minister of Tourism; Mrs. Mirvat Tellawi, Executive Secretary, ESCWA; Dr. Fadi Comair, Director General of Hydraulic and Electric Resources, Ministry of Energy and Water; Mr. Ghattas Akl representing the Minister of Agriculture H.E. Talal Sahili; Engineer Farid Karam representing the Minister of Public Health H.E. Dr. Mohammed Khalife; and Mr. Samir Doumit, President of the Order of Engineers, in addition to a considerable number of UN and FAO experts and representatives.

To begin with, Ms. Rebecca Abi Nader, who opened the proceedings gave the floor to the Director General of Hydraulic and Electric Resources Dr. Fadi Comair. The latter affirmed that the international community is still facing the difficult task of finding efficient ways to protect the environment and promote development at the economic and social levels. He pointed out that countries have several ways of protecting and managing natural resources, and that a number of these countries such as Lebanon, deal with these issues in cooperation with the ministries concerned and civil organizations, based on the national, local and international policies in order to achieve sustainable development. Israel for its part had tried to fuel the tension in the Middle East by attacking Jiyeh Thermal Power Plant, which resulted in the spill of around 20 thousand tons of oil into the Mediterranean, provoking a crisis that entails several long term risks. At the end of his speech, Dr. Comair said that efforts were being deployed today in order to face this crisis and mobilize the international community to respond practically to this environmental issue.

Father Walid Moussa, President of NDU then stated: "Those who have suffered death, destruction, hunger, displacement and tears in times of war voice their feelings by using another language. It is the language of distress, pain and faith that is more powerful than any speech and more honest than any political talk." He underlined that war is not over yet; cannons,

rockets and air attacks had ceased but the war was still present in destruction, damaged houses, empty schools and wrecked hearts... as well as in the "pollution issue that we are discussing today". This issue goes beyond political disagreements and is associated to the national public concern since it affects all people, the young and the elderly, men and women, fighters and peacekeepers, without any discrimination on the basis of identity, citizenship or confession.

ESCWA Executive Secretary Mrs. Mirvat Tellawi went on to say that Lebanon is "A country that has hosted a multitude of civilizations and will always enjoy this special dimension due to its geographical and historical particularity. However, this country has undergone many wars, being located at the heart of a politically unstable Middle East." Mrs. Tellawi also praised the courage and solidarity of the Lebanese people facing the adversity of war and struggling to safeguard their national unity. Furthermore, she alluded to the fact that Lebanese citizens have always amazed the world by their intelligence and great capacities revealed even in the worst and most horrible conditions and situations but "what happened was a blatant violation of international law; the international community is required to assume the burden and it is for the Lebanese state to insist upon this." Fisheries and tourism need support as the damages registered in these two sectors are impacting the Lebanese economy. Mrs. Tallawy mentioned the UN contribution to the containment of the oil spill crisis through cleaning a number of shores, and announced that ESCWA had prepared two concept papers, one on the restoration and treatment of marine environmental damage resulting from war in Lebanon, and another on various ways that would help Lebanon regain its normal position, in cooperation with the Ministry of Environment, with emphasis on the competitive edge that Lebanon enjoys. She acknowledged that the information was still scattered and needs to be arranged and updated because donor parties and civil organizations seek organized information. At the end, she underlined that Lebanon would overcome this aggression and reclaim its healthy environment and the Lebanese people would feel secure again.



Group of audience

The Minister of Environment Yaacoub Sarraf also voiced his concern regarding unorganized construction works which threaten human security. He said that when we talk about oil spill pollution we have to recall the barbaric aggression that Lebanon suffered in July 2006. He affirmed that the solution put forth in the UN resolution 1701 remains incomplete if we do not take into account a comprehensive vision of the aggression and all its aspects. Mr. Sarraf insisted that Lebanese citizens were facing this adversity while international interests were directed towards other areas. Students now have to play a key role in the face of this crisis because they represent the new generation that politics and greed have not contaminate yet. In addition, H.E talked about the oil spill crisis on the Lebanese coast, commending the government's efforts, particularly the Greece conference organized four days following the issuance of resolution 1701 and the decision on the urgent need to clean oil spills. He focused on the role of ESCWA in providing donations from the international community and thanked all countries for helping Lebanon to contain this crisis.

The UN expert Dr. Darco Domovic presented the principles of oil spill management crisis in Lebanon, pointing out at the latter's need for international cooperation concerning the oil spills, which were not directly treated and, as a result, have spread over wide areas and aggravated the problem: "We needed to recruit qualified employees and use efficient mechanisms but no such resources and or even strategies were present." Dr. Domovic affirmed that we need to launch a small crisis management operation room by forming first a qualified work team assigned to cooperate and coordinate with the competent parties concerned and prepare a skilled crisis management staff capable of taking prompt decisions and curbing fear in emergencies.

Colonel Michel Al-Hashem, Navy Deputy Commander, presented a documentary on the Lebanese Army's action taken in response to the MoE demand. He mentioned the Equipment Department which was put at the disposal of the Ministry. According to him, Israel intended to pollute the Lebanese coastline by attacking Jiyeh Thermal Plant and causing oil leakages from tanks, and is consequently responsible for paying the damage it has caused to Lebanon.

Dr. Hosny Khordagui, Head the of Water & Environment Team, ESCWA, discussed the plan proposed for the repairing of environmental damage resulting from military confrontation in Lebanon. He shed light on the damages caused by the Israeli deliberate attacks on Lebanon which, in the first place, resulted in oil spill pollution, and then in degradation of soil quality and the deposition of individual mines in the sea water, focusing on the need to activate the treatment of solid waste, contaminated nutrients and marine pollution.

Engineer Farid Karam, who was representing the Minister of Public Health, discussed environmental and health issues. He stated that these issues are interrelated and oil deposits have caused an economic damage to the fisheries and agriculture sectors alike.

Mrs. Nohal Homsy, WHO Environmental Health Coordinator, talked about the effects of oil spill pollution on health and environment: "Oil spills entail short- and long-term effects revealed in smoke pollution, soil pollution and fisheries."

Director General Mr Ghattas Akl, who was representing the Minister of Agriculture, discussed the issue of marine products: "we have carried out a comprehensive survey on fish in Lebanon two years ago, we took samples of fish from both rocky and sandy shores in Beirut, Jbeil, North and South Lebanon and we have not detected any microbial pollution in any of the mentioned regions. Moreover, we examined several minerals and found that they fall within tolerable limits which have no negative effects on fish living in rocky environments.

Dr. David James, an FAO expert, talked about fish quality and safety in Lebanon. According to him "pollution rates started to decrease progressively right after the crisis occurred."

Dr. Musa Nimah from AUB University discussed the issue of bacteria causing diseases due to ineffective control measures, considering that all kinds of products must be controlled and that clear cut objectives must be set forth in the program.



The lecturers

Students themselves must find meaning in a particular text significant to the teacher.

*Mary Ellen Weiner
Pennsylvania State University*

H.E Joe Sarkis, Minister of Tourism, presided the closing session. He said: "At the outset, we cannot but mention the numerous reports and appraisal studies issued by public and private institutions on the economic damages resulting from the July War on Lebanon. However, the accurate and final appraisal of the volume of war damage and costs is still delayed by varying indicators and actual effects noticed in several productive and social sectors. This damage can be translated into figures yet the reality that we are still uncovering post war repercussions that are more serious than those described in reports. I am not saying this out of pessimism, but out of responsibility and awareness of the reality we are living every single day along with all categories concerned, particularly tourism. The tourist sector, with all its forms, categories and diversity across the Lebanese regions from the coast to the mountains, was expected to witness a remarkable growth this year that started to show as of January. The figures we had in prospect concerning the expectation of more than one million tourists were actual figures based on the numbers of reservations in hotels, furnished apartments, travel agencies, and airport and seaports traffic. Hence, the gross total of losses in the tourist sector which amounts to around 3 billion dollars is not illusory; it is a realistic estimate of the anticipated proceeds of all kinds of private tourist institutions and other institutions directly linked to the economic cycle, not to mention the income projected for the public treasury through transit taxes, customs and value added tax, to cite a few..."

He added: "Today we are witnessing the reconstruction of destroyed bridges and houses, yet we cannot see the same pace in the reconstruction of Lebanon's bright picture. Tourists have lost confidence in Lebanon. The joint efforts of the government for the purpose of achieving development and reconstruction and consolidating internal and external bonds are the key to rebuilding confidence in Lebanon; these efforts will bring all productive sectors together to work as one and restore Lebanon's privileged positions."

Moreover Mr. Sarkis described the environmental catastrophe that was caused by oil spills as an undeniable catastrophe at the tourist level. He said: "In addition to the direct material damage in facilities and investments, economic damage including the total paralysis of public utilities and the threatening possibility of their final closing also has a negative impact on the economic and social activities that are directly dependent on these public utilities." In conclusion, he affirmed that "marine tourism has become one of the most important tourist attractions in the Mediterranean Sea region; it is triggering competitiveness among many countries and many governments and private sectors are allocating significant human and financial resources for its protection, development and improvement. Our

major challenge in this context consists of (1) facing this catastrophe by channeling public and private efforts for cleaning the coast in an organized way (2) preventing the risks of pollution in the environment, (3) re-establishing a cluster of administrative and financial measures to enable institutions located along the coastline to resume their activity and repair the damages. Finally we all have to exert strenuous efforts to rebuild bonds of confidence in Lebanon for the perpetuity of the nation and the Lebanese people on their territory."

Finally, Mr. Jean Beyrouthy, President of the Tourist Maritime Establishment Syndicate, closed the roundtable, pointing out "the enormous damage" in the tourist sector. He mentioned that "nothing but political solutions would be effective in this situation; we must seek temporary solutions to exit this dark tunnel distressing our lives and we must benefit from the donations and acquire five- year operating loans to overcome this crisis."

Financing Elections: What Role do Expatriates Play? Battling Corruption and Regulating Campaign Election Funds

Marcin Walecki, Senior Advisor for Political Finance, International Foundation for Election Systems (IFES), presented a lecture "Financing Elections: What Role do Expatriates Play" organized by the Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) at NDU, on October 12, 2006.

The lecture was moderated by Dr. Eugene Sensenig-Dabbous, Assistant Professor at NDU. He introduced Dr. Walecki as the in-charge for designing, developing and implementing anti-corruption and political financing programs at IFES. He has accumulated a vast experience in political and finance-related programs in many countries. Holding a Doctorate of Philosophy in politics from St. Anthony's College at Oxford, and a Masters in Law from the University of

Warsaw, Dr. Walecki is the author of numerous works on corruption, political financing and political parties. His publications include Money and Politics in Poland, Party Finance and Corruption, and Campaign Finance in Central Eastern Europe.

Dr. Walecki pointed out that problems of political finance are at the heart of the debate on elections, parties, political corruption and democratization. He argued that every democratic system has to regulate the flow of money, for if the political system does not regulate and control money, money will control and regulate the political system. Rules and procedures governing the funding of parties, election campaigns and even individual candidates should be implemented.



Mr. Marcin Walecki

Foreign governments such as those of the US, France and Japan funded parties in elections in Europe, especially Solidarity in Poland, while on the other hand the Soviet Union also influenced elections especially through Communist political movements in Italy and France. These are just two examples of different ideologies providing foreign funding to promote their own interests.

Dr. Walecki stressed the importance of transparency, mentioning Lithuania as a fine Eastern European model where each financial contribution and expenditure is recorded within forty-eight hours on a website report. Political parties and political organizations there are banned from receiving foreign donations or political donations from companies with foreign investments. Migrant Lithuanian citizens can fund political parties and organizations while political party divisions can be established in locations inhabited by Lithuanian communities.

In some cases the diaspora can contribute, influence and corrupt the system, even radicalize it through first or second-generation beliefs. Large non-transparent donations could serve as undesirable motives or

influence policies in the future. Small donations are the healthy way of supporting politics, even if they are ideologically based.

In conclusion, Dr. Walecki again stressed that the diaspora can make a positive contribution by diversifying and balancing corrupt funding. He believed that democracies should encourage small and transparent private donations and warned that politics should not become a domain of business projects for private benefit, immunity or gaining wealth.

He warned that the fight against corruption and the infusion of transparency is a long term process taking up to a decade. He referred to the lessons learnt in Eastern Europe and Lithuania in particular as being easily applicable in Lebanon, especially as Lebanon has been experimenting with forms of democracy for more than half a century.

Answering to questions that followed, Dr. Walecki stressed the importance of continued migrant contribution and political participation, the size of contributions, preferably made through individuals, autonomy and accountability, the elimination of secret funding and the implantation of a clear and transparent system to help fight political corruption in the 21st century.



Group of audience

The human factor given to educational assessment will enhance accurate student evaluation.

*Derek C. Bok
President Emeritus
Harvard University*

The Impact of the Summer 2006 War on Migration in Lebanon: Emigration, Re-Migration, Evacuation, and Returning

A Study by Guita Hourani

This study discusses the circumstances that led to the re-migration and emigration of thousands of Lebanese residents and migrants during the Summer War of 2006. It also reviews the non-combatants evacuation operation undertaken by embassies and international organizations and the role of the safe havens, i.e. Syria, Jordan, Turkey and Cyprus in the evacuation processes. Furthermore, it exposes immigration issues such as abolishing dual citizenship, evacuation cost, loyalty of dual nationals, temporary protected status and the like that surfaced in different countries of immigration due to the evacuation of such large numbers of dual citizens during the Summer 2006 War in Lebanon. Moreover, through a self-administered questionnaire, the study provides information on the Lebanese who left concerning the impact of the war on their decision to leave, on their health, and also the conditions required for them to reconsider returning to the country. The study extracts personal stories from the filled-in questionnaires that illustrate the opinion and feelings of the evacuees. The study

ends with a summary of key findings with policy recommendation.

The study aims at capturing the impact of the war as it was unfolding. The study will be complemented by another in-depth study which is commissioned by the European Commission.

This study offers two major assets. First, it offers an immediate insight into the assisted departure of Lebanese expatriates and foreigners of Lebanese origin during and following the war. It deals with the situation in Lebanon, as well as with events and developments in the transit and host countries. Based on a comprehensive media overview and feed-back from a handful of embassies, the public face of forced migration has been surveyed and evaluated.

Secondly, this study permitted those forced to leave to give accounts of their personal experiences during and immediately after the war. This insight into the evacuees' opinions and assessments of their situation with respect to Lebanon is unfiltered by the events which occurred in the months after the cease-fire. This is indeed a document of historical significance. This study has made clear that the Summer 2006 War will have a long-term impact both on Lebanese emigration and the willingness of Lebanese in the diaspora to return home.

The Impact of the Summer 2006 War on Migration in Lebanon: Emigration, Re-Migration, Evacuation, and Returning, by Guita G. Hourani; paperback. Published by Lebanese Emigration Research Center, NDU Press, 2006. ISBN 9953-457-55-7

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To purchase a copy of the study, please e-mail or fax your order(s) to Mr. George Mghames P. O. Box 72, Zouk Mikhael, Lebanon gmgghames@ndu.edu.lb Fax: 961-9-224803



The book cover

Mass evacuations drive Western states to review dual-citizenship policies

By Nour Samaha
Daily Star staff
 Tuesday, November 28, 2006

BEIRUT: A recent study conducted by the Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) at Notre Dame University on the impact of the July-August war with Israel on migration shows some countries are reviewing their dual-citizenship policies as a result of the mass evacuations undertaken this summer.

«The Impact of the Summer 2006 War on Migration in Lebanon: Emigration, Remigration, Evacuation and Return,» a preliminary study completed by LERC's associate director, Guita Hourani, has highlighted the debate under way in countries in which Lebanese citizens hold dual-nationality about potential «immigration abuse.»

The study points to the fact that at the outbreak of the war there were 50,000 Canadians in Lebanon, the majority of which are full-time residents of Lebanon, rather than Canadian tourists visiting the country.

The question of whether Canadian taxpayers should foot the bill for the evacuation of thousands of Lebanese-Canadians who reside in Lebanon has been discussed at length in the Canadian media and by politicians in Ottawa.

The same issue has also been raised by Australian officials after receiving several complaints in Beirut over Canberra's sluggish evacuation efforts.

Who should cover the considerable expenses for such evacuation efforts was identified by the study as the main point of contention within both Australia and Canada.

Canadian MP Garth Turner was quoted as having said the issue of citizenship needed to be reassessed, «possibly by having citizenship expire after a certain period if a Canadian citizen chose to reside elsewhere.»

In findings more related to the war's effects on Lebanon, the study said the country's latest conflict «will change the course of many lives by creating a new <push> factor to compel those residing in the country to leave and a <pull> or deterring factor to discourage those migrants living elsewhere from returning.»

The «Lebanese government much recognize the potential role of migrants and returnees for the country's development and devise appropriate policies to encourage their participation,» the study offered as one of several recommendations on how to return economic and political stability in Lebanon.

A LIFE-LONG RELATIONSHIP NDU ALUMNI

Celebrating the 20th Anniversary of NDU provides an ideal moment to look back at our efforts and triumphs and to project forward but it is also a time to enjoy all that we who love NDU have accomplished together.

In 1987, the Maronite Mariamite Order with Fr. Boutros Tarabay carved out a new alternative on higher education. That's what we are today. With the eagerness of Fr. Walid Moussa, the current President, NDU is now moving ahead confidently.

In this matching innovative spirit, NDU is pleased to announce the establishment of the Alumni Affairs Office, reporting directly to the President. "There are the true trustees of the University", says Fr. Walid Moussa. "Alumni are important members of the Notre Dame University Community".

There are about 10,000 NDU graduates around the world. The majority live in Lebanon. However, approximately 30% live abroad and the largest groups of NDU Alumni outside Lebanon can be found in the Gulf. The distance or proximity of the Alumni to their University shapes the way in which they interact with each other and the University.

A new generation of NDU Alumni is beginning to make its mark on the cultural, political and social landscape in Lebanon and the Middle East.

The Mission of the Alumni Affairs Office is a call to

- serve the needs of Alumni;
- maintain close relations between the University and its Alumni;
- coordinate with NDU Alumni Association;
- organize professional, networking and social activities for NDU Alumni;
- communicate Alumni views, needs and interests back to the University.
- mobilize Alumni to meet the University special needs; and
- expand Alumni participation in publicizing the strengths of NDU to the World at large.

NDU Alumni Affairs Office will develop a strategic plan, shaped in large part by Alumni themselves, who will be polled in early 2007 about their feelings about NDU, their needs as Alumni, and their current engagement with the University.

New appointments at NDU

The NDU Alumni Affairs Office will assist in planning or sponsoring alumni activities such as Campus Tour, Alumni Magazine, Alumni Annual Awards, fundraising, Mentor Program, class reunions, Alumni Day, Alumni House, Alumni Exhibitions, and career counseling. The list could go on and on, yet it needs to be stressed that these projects cannot occur accidentally. They need the collaboration of all NDU family to work towards its wellbeing.

One of the first projects of the NDU Alumni Affairs Office in the near future is to create an NDU Alumni website, enabling the Office to update graduates with recent NDU news and allowing them to connect with their mother institution. The site will be a gateway to news about the NDU alma mater, as well as information about a variety of Alumni benefits, services and events.

The NDU Alumni Affairs Office is located above the Student Affairs Office in the building comprising the Admissions Office.

The personnel of the Office are devoted professionals who strive to develop a meaningful and lasting amity among NDU Alumni. Graduates are already familiar with their names: Mr. Simon Abou Jaoude has been named as Director of the NDU Alumni Affairs, and will be representing the University in on- and off-campus Alumni events. Prior to his appointment, he has served in a number of roles, including Senior Lecturer in the Social & Behavioral Sciences Department, Psychology Program, and Director of Student Affairs Office; and Mrs. Rose Mady, whose face is familiar to all NDU former students, has been a very active staff member in different departments since 1985. She will be providing administrative management and support to the Director of the Office. For any ideas or suggestions please do not hesitate to contact the NDU Alumni Office at the electronic mail: ndualumni@ndu.edu.lb or sjaoude@ndu.edu.lb

A wise man once said, **"Any good thought you have is a prayer."**

Some of the most rewarding experiences of university life begin at graduation, when former students enter the Alumni community. Responsibility for strengthening the relationship between NDU and its more than 10,000 proud graduates is vested in the Alumni Affairs Office.

Simon Abu Jawdeh
Director,
Alumni Affairs Office



Dr. Antoine G. Farhat, Ph.D, Assistant Professor

Dr. Farhat held a doctorate degree in Nutrition from McGill University, Montreal since 1999. He did his Postdoctoral research at Pennsylvania State University and worked for the agri-food industry as a Research and Development director for three years and moved back to academia in 2003. He joined NDU as a fulltime faculty member in the Nutrition and Dietetics program in the Department of Sciences, Faculty of Natural and Applied Sciences.



Mr. Walid Zakhem, Lab instructor, CCE

Mr. Walid Zakhem, graduated from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, USA, with a Masters degree in Electrical Engineering in 1992. From the same university, he graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in the same Major with Minor in Mathematics in 1989.

He worked at Mideast Data Systems, Abu Dhabi, UAE, as a Senior Sales Engineer and at Network and Communication Systems, in Beirut, Lebanon, as a Sales Manager.

He started teaching at NDU, as a part time faculty member, in Spring 2004. During the Fall semester 2006, he was assigned as a Lab Instructor in the Computer, Communication and Electrical Engineering Department at NDU, North Lebanon Campus.

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