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Official Photographer: Mr. Abdo Bejjani

A WORD FROM THE **PRESIDENT**



The "consumer society" wants to allow no brake on human appetite. It simply wants to sell. It has no concern for human health. Hamburgers are advertised as giant or "whopper" while in western countries one third of the population is now clinically obese, laying itself open to an excess of cholesterol in the blood and heart disease. Delicacy and refinement of table manners are practically a thing of the past.

But all three revealed religions have insisted on periods of fasting and abstinence, for example Lent for Christians and Ramadan for Muslims. Even those whose faith is weak must admit that behind these prescriptions lie long human experience and wisdom. If a child, instead of sitting down politely at table, simply receives money to gorge itself on whatever food and drink it has seen cunningly presented on television, and never learns control of its appetite, how in later years will it resist the appeal of drugs, addictive smoking, alcohol and the unbridled sex outside of holy marriage that modern society is taking for granted, particularly in the mass media? Children grow up! Pleasure in itself is not wrong but it has its place, and must be submitted to the will.

With the approach of Lent, we are glad that so many of our staff and students follow the precepts of their respective religions where fasting is concerned. But we urge those who have charge of children to teach them by precept and example some self-denial in ways appropriate to their age. We know the case of a Catholic priest, director of a school where Muslim pupils were in the majority, who himself fasted Ramadan as an encouragement.

All of us have a mission in this world to do God's will and to help our fellows. John the Baptist prepared himself for his mission of making straight the ways of the Lord by fasting in the desert (Matt. III, 1-4) and so did Our Lord himself before starting his public preaching (Matt. IV, 1, 2, Luke IV 1, 2). Their example was followed by the Apostles (Acts XIII, 3 and XIV, 22, II Cor. VI, 5 and XI, 27) and by the Church, clergy, monks, nuns and laity, down to the present time. In this way we work not for our own self-satisfaction, but in a spirit of humility, knowing that good in the world can come only through the grace of God.

Reverend Boutros Tarabay
President

NDU OFFICE IN WASHINGTON DC



Father Boutros Tarabay, NDU President, leaves the new NDU premises

December 1st, 2003 marked a decisive step forward in the development of NDU with the opening of NDU Office in Washington DC, after it had been earlier blessed by NDU President **Father Boutros Tarabay** during his visit to the US capital. In all this **Father Roger Chikri** played an important role. This office, which may be considered one of the most attractive executive office suites in DC, is located on 1717 K street, Suite 600. It is under the direction of **Mr. Ray Richards**, who has an MA in Public Administration with in addition seven years of practical experience. It is foreseen that all the faculties and departments of the University will contribute towards making the

Office a centre of vital activity.

Among its various functions will be the following:

1. Following up on contacts and projects already discussed between NDU and universities in USA.
2. Receiving book orders from NDU and publishing ads. for teaching vacancies.
3. Following up with research institutions already contacted by research centres of NDU.
4. Contacting between the three Chapters of the American Friends of NDU, namely Washington DC, Michigan and Connecticut.

The address is as follows:


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Tel.: (202) 349-1705

Fax: (202) 331-3759

Email: dcoffice@ndu-usa.org

If an email is sent to the DC Office and there is need for the Office of Research and Development to follow up, the appropriate email should be transmitted to the latter Office (cc).

Information kindly supplied by **Dr. Ameen Rihani**, V.-P. for Sponsored Research and Development. 

TRIP TO USA

October 27 - November 21, 2003

This visit to the USA by officials of our University, which included the setting up of a permanent office in Washington, takes an important place in the history of NDU and will therefore be described in some detail.

I. NDU in Washington D.C.

Oct 27 - Nov. 10-14 & Nov. 19-21:

Mr. Patrick Lang, President of Global Resource Group (GRG), invited Dr. Ameen Rihani to attend the annual convention of the Knights of the Holy Cross Sepulcher of Jerusalem (U.S. Catholic Church), where he gave an address introducing NDU, its role and its mission to a distinguished audience of some 500 prominent businessmen from D.C. and other districts and States. Meanwhile, Fr. Roger Chikri was making arrangements for the new NDU office.

Senator Ray LaHood (Chicago) received Dr. A. Rihani and Fr. R. Chikri to discuss the role of NDU in Lebanon and the Middle East and to confirm his visit to NDU for the Graduation Ceremony of July 2004, to be preceded by a one-day programme on the campus.

While negotiations continued with GRG, other university contacts took place, principally with the Catholic University of America (CUA) and Georgetown University. A Memorandum of Agreement was reviewed and completed with CUA, signed subsequently by the two Presidents. A degree program for religious studies was discussed with three CUA administrators, namely the Dean of International Programs Dr. John Kromkowski, the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies Dr. John S. Grabowski, and the head of the Council for Research in Values and Philosophy Fr. George McLean (*vide* Issue N° 27, p. 6). Recommendation was



From left to right: Mr. Ramzi Rihani, AFN President Washington DC, Mr. Nadim Salti, CPA, Father Boutros Tarabay, President NDU and Mr. Albert Mokhaiber, NDU lawyer in USA.



From left to right: Dr. Ameen Rihani, Fr. Boutros Tarabay and Mr. Ray Richards, Office Administrator in Washington DC.

made for a follow-up between the NDU Dean of Humanities and the CUA Dean of Arts and Sciences, together with the CUA Dean of International Programs and the NDU Director of International Academic Affairs.

Contact was made for the same purpose with the Chairperson of Religious Studies at Georgetown

University Dr. Chester Gillis, who referred the case to the Dean of Arts and Sciences, who was then out of town.

A visit was made to the Institute of International Migration (IIE) to meet Dr. Susan F. Martin, Director of the Institute and Dr. Elzbieta M. Gozdzia, Research Director. There was discussion about future possible



The NDU President in the new office.

cooperation between LERC/NDU and IIE, with participation in each other's conferences and an invitation for LERC scholars to publish in the IIE research journal.

There were basic changes in the AFN (American Friends of NDU). **Mr. Dana Pratt** resigned from his post as President (*vide* Issue N° 29, p. 9) for personal reasons and the Association elected Mr. Ramzi Rihani to replace him. Suggestions were made for the recruitment of new members.

Upon the arrival of NDU President **Father Boutros Tarabay** in Washington there were meetings in the new NDU office, including an official inauguration of the new premises. Among the participants were the NDU lawyer in USA **Mr. Albert Mokhaiber**, the new AFN President **Mr. Ramzi Rihani**, Office Administrator **Mr. Ray Richards** and CPA **Mr. Nadim Salti**. Papers for the bank account were signed by Father Tarabay at the Citibank, in the same building as the NDU Office. Father Tarabay also attended a reception offered by Citibank to its new customers, during which he met the bank's Vice-President, **Mr. Caesar R. Montrose**.

Father Tarabay and Doctor Rihani also visited the Catholic Information and Publication Center in Washington, three blocks from the

NDU Office, where the Director, the **Reverend Father John McCloskey**, invited the NDU delegation to a book signing by a former Protestant minister converted to Catholicism, a unique event. The author described his experience as a "celebration of absence" and confirmed that "God is in nowhere in the universe as clear as He is in the Catholic Church." Father Tarabay suggested the translation of some of the Catholic books and the sending to the Center of copies of NDU's English Catholic publications. This was to be discussed further with the Director of the Center's library, **Ms. Elizabeth Szollosi**.

On his last day in Washington, Father Tarabay invited several guests to a business luncheon at the Mayflower Hotel in Connecticut Avenue, two blocks away from the NDU Office. Guests included the above-mentioned Mr. Patrick Lang, Mr. Ramzi Rihani, and Mr. Albert Mokhaiber, and also **Mr. William Wagner**, GRG Vice-President.

On leaving Washington DC after such a busy schedule, NDU administrators could rightly feel that NDU was now well established in the leading world capital and had entered into relations with the icons of higher education, think-tanks, research centers, libraries, publishers and American-Lebanese communities all over the continent.



Dr. Nabil Chalhoub from the American Friends of NDU, Michigan, giving his presentation.

II. NDU in Michigan

Oct. 17-30, Nov. 1-11:

After Father Chikri had made the necessary contacts on his arrival at Ann Arbor, the Chapter of the American Friends of NDU (AFN) was re-established and there was discussion about a plan of action. A meeting was fixed for mid-December which was to elect the new Executive Committee of the Michigan Chapter.

Father Chikri also made the necessary arrangements for a meeting with the Lebanese Community at St. Charbel's Church in Warren,



From left to right: Cynthia Pollard, Gary Zamuda, Nouf Abou-Dib and Nabil Chalhoub, with Father Chikri behind.

Michigan. This took place on Saturday, November 8th, when Father Chikri, Doctor Rihani and **Doctor Nabil Chalhoub** spoke in their different capacities to introduce NDU, its mission and its role in Lebanon as a unique Catholic University in the region adopting the American system of higher education. After this a 10-minute PowerPoint presentation was given and **Ms. Theresa Michael** from Petersburg, Pennsylvania shared with the audience her experience as a former student of NDU. Dinner was offered by **Chorbishop Michael Kail**, who had officiated at the ceremony, where more than 75 participants had taken part in the discussion.

The contacts of Father Chikri with the **Institute of Thom Monahan** led to the re-occupation of the office presented by Mr. Monahan himself. This office is furnished with a computer set, printer and telephone facilities. It is now at the disposition of our clergy in Ann Arbor and of the Executive of the AFN Michigan Chapter.

One full day was spent at the University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Indiana, three hours' drive from Ann Arbor. **Doctor Michael Kenney** of the Ave Maria School of Law and **Mr. Gary Zamuda** from the Ave Maria Foundation accompanied Father Chikri and Doctor Rihani. Meetings took place with **Doctor John Affleck-Graves**, Vice-President and Associate Provost, **Doctor Debbie Maslowski**, Senior Assistant at the Office of International Student Services and Programs, **Doctor Hal Culbertson**, Senior Director of the Joan Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, and **Mrs. Gay Dannelly**, Associate Director for Resources and Collection Services (University Library).

It was agreed to follow up with the Kroc Institute in order to discuss a proposal involving the Faculty of Political Science at NDU. Doctor Rihani received a letter from Vice-President Affleck-Graves encourag-

ing future cooperation between NDU of Lebanon and the University of Notre Dame of Indiana.

The University of Notre Dame Library agreed to support NDU Library with regular donations of books and suggested a memorandum of agreement in this connection. The draft of the memorandum is under preparation and signature is expected by the New Year.

A meeting also took place with the South Lebanon community in Dearborn, Michigan, at the invitation of **Mr. Joe Baydoun**, the

with Catholic high schools hosting American/Lebanese students at graduation level.

III. NDU in Connecticut: November 14-19

The NDU Connecticut schedule began on Saturday, November 15th with the Lebanon Day Ceremony at the Waterbury Town Hall in the presence of the Mayor the Honorable **Michael Jarjoura** and included an opening invocation by Father Tarabay and a closing bene-



From left to right : Dr. Ameen Rihani, Fr. Boutros Tarabay and Mr. Michael Jarjoura, Mayor of Waterbury, Connecticut .

Assistant of **Mr. Guido**, Mayor of Dearborn (site of the famous Ford automobile factory. For the visit of Mayor Guido to NDU, *vide* Issue N° 29, p. 8). Father Chikri and Doctor Rihani addressed an audience of more than fifty, introducing NDU, its mission and its role for the rising generations of Lebanese at home and in the United States. Contacts were also made with the East Michigan University (EMU) through the intermediary of **Father Ziad Fahd** which are to be followed up from the AFN Chapter in Michigan as well as from the Office of Research and Development at NDU, Lebanon.

The Lebanese community in Michigan were thrilled with the visit of the NDU authorities and made many excellent suggestions, such as regular visits and special contacts

diction. Among the speakers were the Honorable **Thomas Dunn**, Mayor of Wolcott, **Mr. Joseph Carrah**, President of the Ehdén Lebanese-American Club, **Mr. Thomas Saadi** of the Council of the Lebanon Club in the city of Danbury, **Mr. Salim Noujaim**, State Representative, and **Monsignor David George**, Pastor of Our Lady of Lebanon Church.

In the afternoon, Father Tarabay celebrated Mass in St. Anthony's Church, Danbury. A flyer was prepared and distributed among the congregation by **Mr. George Hajjar**, NDU Visiting Lecturer at CCSU (Central Connecticut State University). Father Tarabay introduced NDU and its mission and a presentation was given by Doctor Rihani.



Fr. Boutros Tarabay addressing the audience at the Waterbury Town Hall, Connecticut.



Fr. Boutros Tarabay speaking to the congregation in the Church of Our Lady of Lebanon, Waterbury, Connecticut.



Fr. Boutros Tarabay and Dr. Ameen Rihani with the Knights of Columbus, Waterbury, Connecticut.

On Sunday, November 15th Father Tarabay celebrated Mass together with Monsignor David George in the church of Our Lady of Lebanon. He then addressed the congregation,

emphasizing the role of NDU in the United States, in particular among the Lebanese-American communities. Doctor Rihani followed with a talk explaining the visit of the NDU

authorities to Connecticut and the earlier visits to Washington DC and Michigan.

On the same day Father Tarabay announced the official launching of the Third Chapter of the American Friends of NDU. The Connecticut Chapter met with the attendance of Father Tarabay, Doctor Rihani and Mr. George Hajjar and there was discussion of a plan of action.

On Monday, November 17th, Doctor Rihani gave a lecture on Arab-American Literature at the invitation of the Ezra Stiles College at Yale University. This was followed by a "Master's Tea" and by a dinner in honour of the NDU delegation. This lecture was the first intellectual activity organised as a result of cooperation between the prestigious Yale



First official meeting of the AFN Chapter in Connecticut.



Professor D. Marodokh at Yale University and Doctor Ameen Rihani.



Doctor Rihani giving his lecture at Yale University.



From left to right: Mr. George Hajjar, Fr. Boutros Tarabay, Mrs. Selma Frohn, Dr. Richard Judd, Dr. Ameen Rihani and Dr. Ghassan El-Eid (CCSU).

University and NDU. The audience included scholars and students from the Departments of English Literature, Middle Eastern Studies, History, Philosophy and Cultural Studies.

On the same day there was a meeting in the office of the Mayor of Waterbury. As well as Mayor Michael Jarjoura, Father Boutros Tarabay and Doctor Ameen Rihani, there were present **Doctor Richard L. Judd**, President of CCSU, **Doctor Francis G. Brennan**, President of the University of Connecticut (UCON), and **Doctor Jon Jay De Temple**, President of Teikyo Post University. Opening the meeting, Mayor Jarjoura insisted on the importance of the NDU visit to Connecticut, having as it did the purpose of establishing firm education links and academic relationships involving a private Lebanese university adopting the American system of higher education. For his part, CCSU President Richard Judd confirmed the significance of the agreement signed between NDU and CCSU at a time when interest in the Middle East was growing day by day. CCSU was very pleased to have chosen one of the safest, shortest, most vivid, dynamic

and open-minded ways to explore Lebanon and the Middle East clearly and in its best image, through a young and flexible university such as NDU.

Father Tarabay thanked Doctor Judd and assured him of the readiness of NDU to start implementing the agreement with a project of common concern for both Universities.

Doctor Rihani explained that NDU's visit to the USA at this specific time, particularly to Connecticut, was based on the belief in its significant role, paving the way for students, professors and scholars to explore the site knowledge of Lebanon and the Middle East through education and research provided by NDU.

President Francis G. Brennan of the University of Connecticut confirmed his readiness to cooperate with NDU on specific projects in areas of knowledge related to practical research such as water and environmental studies and practical learning such as continuing education. He suggested distance learning for specific courses as a starting point between the two Universities

President Jon Tay de Temple of

Teikyo Post University assured that he was most willing to discuss with NDU possible ways of cooperation between NDU and Teikyo Post.

On Tuesday November 18th, Father Tarabay, Doctor Judd and Doctor Rihani together took part in a one-hour TV talk show with **Mrs. Selma S. Frohn**, during which they discussed the cooperation between NDU and CCSU as a pioneering academic joint endeavour in Lebanon and the Middle East.

In the evening of the same day, Dr. Richard Judd offered a dinner honouring Fr. Boutros Tarabay in the Connecticut Dining Room, Memorial Hall. More than fifty personalities attended the ceremony during which the Official Memorandum of Agreement was signed by the two University Presidents. Among the distinguished guests were State Representatives the **Honorable Delim Noujaim** and the **Honorable William Hamzy**.

This visit of NDU administrators to the USA made during November 2003 was one of the most successful yet made, being full of promise and of great potential for both the near

and the more distant future.

PLAN OF ACTION SUGGESTED AT THE AFN-CONNECTICUT MEETING OF SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2003

1. Contacting academic libraries for book donations.
2. Contacting universities in the area with a view to possible cooperation in student and faculty exchanges.
3. Contacting research centres specifically in areas of ethnicity and human rights, water and environmental studies, and political and economic studies.
4. Building a network of academic

professors of Lebanese descent.

5. Collecting information about Lebanese Associations and Clubs in Connecticut.
6. Encouraging students to join NDU for one semester or one year.
7. Introducing the 6-week Summer Arabic Program and the 4-week Summer Lebanese Cultural Course.
8. Contacting high schools with Lebanese students for transmitting parents' entrance applications to NDU.
9. Suggesting names of distin-

guished American professors to be invited for one week as guest speakers in their specialist field.

10. Suggesting names of prominent American figures for them to be invited as guest speakers at NDU conferences and Graduation Ceremonies.
11. Calling for general meetings of the Lebanese community for showing the 10-minute video, giving a PowerPoint presentation and answering questions.
12. Providing the community with NDU news: conferences, lectures, events, publications, etc..

IV. NDU in Canada: November 21-25.

Fr. Boutros Tarabay paid a visit to Montreal, Canada, where he met the Lebanese Community, including graduates of NDU. After several reunions, Father Tarabay announced the launching of the Montreal Chapter of the Canadian Friends of NDU. The new Chapter started contacts with universities and members of the Lebanese communities to introduce NDU's programmes and activities.



Fr. Boutros Tarabay with members of the NDU Canadian Association, Montreal, Canada.

Agreement with Commercial Insurance

On November 5th 2003, an agreement was signed between NDU and the **Commercial Insurance Company**, with NDU President **Father Boutros Tarabay** acting for the former and **Mr. Max Zakkar** for the latter. Also present at the ceremony were **Mr. Suheil Matar**, NDU Director of Public Relations, **Mr. Edgard Barakat** of the FBA&E, and **Ms. Diane Zakkar**, **Mr. Roger Zakkar** and **Mr. Habib Daccache** from the Commercial Insurance Company.

The protocol covered cooperation in a number of fields, which included the following:

1. Marketing research,
2. Actuarial Science,
3. Conferences dealing with insurance matters,
4. Student training,
5. Student employment,
6. Student conferences and activities under joint auspices,
7. Public awareness concerning insurance, and
8. Cooperation with all University faculties as occasion demands. ☞

THE COLOMBIANS' RETURN

Ex-President and Senator Son

On Wednesday 12th November, the former President of Colombia **Julio Cesar Torbey**, his First Lady, their son former Senator **Julio Cesar Torbey Junior**, Her Excellency the Colombian Ambassador to Lebanon **Georgina el-Chaer de Mallat**, the Lady President of the Lebanese-Colombian Friendship Association **Céline Rahal**, the President of the Condina Marca University **Doctor Alfonso Santos** and officials of the Embassy were given a reception in the NDU Friends Hall by the University authorities, deans, faculty members, staff and students, with in particular the Assistant General of the Maronite Mariamite Order **Father Elias Kmeid** and the President of the Association of the Tarabay (Torbey) Family **Attorney Aziz Tarabay**.

After the playing of the Lebanese and Colombian national anthems, the NDU Director-General of Public Relations **Mr. Suheil Matar** presented the visitors, saying that Julio Tarabay's father had departed from the town of Tannourine in Batroun caza with dreams of glory that his son brought to realisation before returning to Lebanon. Torbey, he said, was the model of the Lebanese emigrant who succeeded in implanting Lebanon in every part of the world.

In his turn, NDU President **Father Boutros Tarabay** declared that the day's meeting corresponded to three aims. These were first national, for President Torbey was an example of the Lebanese who bore Lebanon in their heart and sought to spread it through culture and humanity throughout the world, then educational and academic because of the University's faith in learning and cultural development, and finally human so that Lebanese-Colombian relations could be a model of international relations based on cooperation, solidarity, justice and peace.

Senator Torbey then spoke of his pride and satisfaction on visiting the land of his ancestors, insisting on the role of the Lebanese community in spreading learning and culture. Doctor Santos outlined the situation of universities in Colombia and agreements with the American, European and now Lebanese universities.

Thanking the authorities and family of NDU for their reception, former president Torbay remarked that of the forty-four million Colombians, four hundred thousand were of Lebanese origin, in accordance with whose wishes he himself had come. He called on Lebanese to strive for good relations in view of their expertise, as Lebanon had spread civilisation and learning throughout the world ever since the time of the Phoenicians.

Julio Cesar Torbey stressed the fact that he was a self-made man of the second generation of Lebanese immigrants and although coming from a community that numbered only a few thousand he had yet managed to become President of a republic numbering 44 million inhabitants. Further, he had entered the Administration poor and left it poor.

He then urged the Lebanese people to strengthen their unity in order to ensure the prosperity of their country, justice for its people, and overall development. He went on to highlight the value and importance of love and loyalty towards one's country and its

Alumni Association of Jeddah

When the NDU officials were passing through Jeddah, a meeting was held on 12th December, 2003, for the establishment of a Jeddah NDU Alumni Association, with the

presence of the NDU Director General of Public Relations **Mr. Suheil Matar**, the Director of the Admissions Office **Ms. Elham Hasham** and the Consul of Lebanon in Jeddah **Mr. Rayan Saïd**, together with a number of NDU graduates. They discussed various activities, focusing on the establishment of a core for bringing NDU graduates together.

people for their general good and their future. In this respect, he was addressing a "brotherly" lesson to the Lebanese people, to whom he owed allegiance as well as love. In the words of **Doctor George Abu-Jawdeh**, Vice-President of the NDU Board of Trustees and former UN Ambassador, the noble character of this outstanding personality was evident in his culminating visionary message when he emphasised moral values in running state affairs and the respect due to human beings and their right to enjoy the fruits of modern civilisation. To that end, he called upon humanity to achieve peace according to the principles of the United Nations Charter. He ended his speech by asking the people of Lebanon to be united and to work for the greatness of all peoples, whether their origin be ancient or modern.

Father Boutros Tarabay then presented President Julio Torbey with a commemorative plaque bearing the NDU name and logo.



NDU graduates in Jeddah.



Settling down to business.



The Consul of Lebanon in Jeddah, Mr. Rayan Saïd.

NDU and Colombian University

On November 18th, 2004, NDU received the visit of **Doctor Alfonso Santos**, President of the Condina Marca University of Colombia, accompanied by the President of the Lebanese-Colombian Friendship Association **Ms. Céline Rahal**. They were received by NDU Vice-President for Academic Affairs **Doctor George Eid** and the Director General for Public Relations **Mr. Suheil Matar**, as well as by **Doctor Shahwan El Khoury**, Dean of Engineering.

Discussion centred on university matters, in particular an exchange of experience in the field of engineering and the strengthening of ties with Colombians of Lebanese origin for cooperation with the NDU Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC).

Doctor Santos then visited various NDU institutions and met University students. 🇩🇪

ADMISSIONS IN ACTION!



Ms. Elham Hasham with Mr. Fady Ziade, Lebanese Consul General in Abu Dhabi, UAE, an NDU graduate.



The Lebanese Ambassador to Saudi Arabia H.E. Ahmad Shamah at the NDU stand.



This is the season of school visits, orientation sessions, open doors, forums and exhibitions for the Admissions Office at all three campuses of NDU. Participation in the Hariri Fair this year was once again very fruitful and productive. Files have been studied and letters of admission for Spring 2004 have been issued. The number of admissions from abroad is increasing.

The feedback from schools after the distribution of the joint letter from the Association of Admissions Directors has been extremely productive and positive. In the light of our requests for a more healthy and effective meeting, we suggested that schools welcome universities as an open door activity, which will avoid the stress of having to schedule individual universities on separate days. To enhance this interaction, the Association continues to meet on a regular basis to maintain quality and

has established itself as an official reference for Higher Education.

A significant event during this period was the annual Gulf Trip under the patronage of the Minister of Education represented by **Miss Suheila Tohme**, Secretary General of the Equivalence Committee. The event was extremely fruitful, with stops at Kuwait, Abu Dhabi, Riyadh and Jeddah. The venue in each city was the Lebanese Embassy and all officials and the Lebanese community, in general, were very helpful and obliging. There was constant media coverage both locally and regionally. The ambassadors in each country demonstrated commitment to quality education and the intention of highlighting the seriousness of higher education in Lebanon. Attendance was rigorous by students, parents and administrators.

NDU graduates are well known in the Gulf and hold high positions.

There were meetings with our graduates to enhance Alumni relations and to encourage interaction. There were also meetings with school principals and teachers at which we discussed the issue of equivalence and requirements. NDU was commended by all for its strict adherence to government regulations. This was supported and assured by Miss Tohme. There was a specific visit to Thamer International School and a meeting with the Principal, **Mr. Abou El-Hessen** and his staff. The school was presented with the NDU shield, NDU having many Thamer students.

After contacts with parents in the Gulf during the tour, there were four students in Lebanon who were able to pass the entrance examinations on December 12-13 in preparation for Spring 2004. We have already started to receive applications from the Gulf for 2004-2005.



Mr. Suheil Matar, NDU Director General of Public Relations and Ms. Elham Hasham with NDU Alumni in Jeddah.



The NDU team with colleagues from LAU, Mr. Kriedeh, Miss Tohme and H.E. Ambassador Shamati.



The NDU shield offered to Thamer International School.

The organizer **Mr. Samir Kriedeh** offered a dinner at his home with all University representatives present. The dinner honored the Lebanese Minister of Higher Education **H.E. Mr. Samir Al-Jesr** and Their Excellencies the Ambassadors of Kuwait, KSA and UAE, to whom honorary shields were offered on behalf of the delegation. Contacts were made with these ambassadors to arrange for future meetings. A visit was also paid to **Mr. Gebran Tueni**, who was offered a shield for the contribution of *Al-Nahar* in sending a reporter to accompany the tour. A

visit to Prime Minister **Mr. Rafiq Hariri** was also put on the schedule.

The NDU Director of Admissions **Miss Elham Hasham** attended the Annual College Board Forum, 2003 in New York. The College Board is a non-profit membership association whose mission is to prepare, inspire and connect students to college success and opportunity. Founded in 1900, the Association is composed of more than 4,500 schools, colleges, universities and other educational organizations. Each year the College Board serves over three million students and their parents, 23,000 high schools and 3,500 colleges through major programs



The Director of Admissions with the staff of the three campuses off for a Christmas dinner.

and services in college admissions, guidance, assessment, financial aid, enrollment, and teaching and learning. Among its best-known programs are the SAT, the PSAT/NMSQT and the Advanced Placement Program (AP). The College Board is committed to the principles of excellence and equity, and that commitment is embodied in all of its programs, services, activities and concerns. The current President is former Governor of West Virginia **Gaston Caperton**. The presence of Notre Dame



With the President and Membership Committee of the College Board.

University was acknowledged and appreciated and the official announcement of NDU's membership was made final at the Forum, with a presentation given by Ms. Hasham. Contact was established with at least one hundred Admissions representatives from colleges and universities in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut – the Tri-State area.

Various interesting and informative seminars pertaining to admissions practices were attended, among them the following:

- Blending Information and Intuition to Manage Recruitment, Resources and Retention.
- Instructional Leadership: Structuring Schools to Provide a Rigorous Education.
- Focused and Leveraged: Twenty-First Century Enrollment Management.
- At Odds with College Admissions Practices.
- Testing Accommodations – Models for Appropriate Documentations Incorporating Socioeconomic Factors.
- The Unpredictable World of College Admissions.
- The Use of Qualitative and Quantitative Data in Admissions.

There were several prominent keynote speakers, including **Lee Bolinger**, President of Columbia

University; **Bob Kerrey**, President of New School University, New York; and **Ruth Simmons**, President of Brown University. Dr. Simmons will be visiting Lebanon soon and was extended an invitation to come and visit NDU. Moreover, there was direct contact with the Directors of Admissions of Princeton and of Notre Dame, Indiana.

What is exceptional in the outlook of the College Board is not only its mission to prepare, administer and supervise international examinations but also its commitment to maintaining quality and equal educational opportunities regardless of race, religion and background. This specifically coincides with the mission statement of NDU.

The College Board displays an extremely high degree of teamwork and collaboration to reinforce professionalism and collaboration at all levels of the education system. There were inspirational awards given to certain schools for the overwhelming contributions of their teachers and counselors. Student gave testimony to this, something which has instilled a spirit of motivation for everyone involved. Consequently, the transitional path from school to university means bearing less of a burden for both teachers and students.

The College Board similarly acknowledges individual contributions and offers praise where it is deserved. This can only enhance



MDU Director of Admissions Ms. Elham Hasham with Mr. Gaston Caperton, President of the College Board.



Ms. Hasham with the Assistant Provost/Admissions of the University of Notre Dame, Indiana, Dr. Dan Saracino.

performance and give encouragement to be more creative in the pursuit of offering high-quality services to students. Education is an ongoing quest for knowledge that should instill enthusiasm in individuals to reflect upon the community at large.

While she was in New York, Ms. Hasham was contacted by the Director General of the National Apostolate of Maronites (NAM), who is adamant about seeing NDU



Ms. Hasham with Dr. Ruth Simmons, President of Brown University.

present at the coming convention in July. The Executive Secretary of the NACA (National Admissions Counseling Association) was contacted and arrangements are being made for institutional membership. Ms. Hasham has also finalized the membership procedures for AACRAO (American Association of College Registrars and Admissions Officers) so now NDU is officially a member in time for the annual conference in April.

The former ambassador to the US and current counselor to the Deputy Prime Minister, **Dr. Abdallah Bu Habib**, has expressed his admiration for the professionalism of the Admissions Office and feels confidence in the open awareness of our academic system. The secret of the Admissions Office continues to be teamwork and the staff are all to be commended for their ongoing contributions to the enhancement of NDU.

Above information kindly provided by **Ms. Elham Hasham**, Director of Admissions, NDU. 🍷

Historic Day for NDU

Notre Dame-Louaize University has received many distinguished visitors, but Friday, 30th January, 2003 was exceptional for the number of prominent figures and their importance. The occasion was a Synod called to discuss the Lebanese Synod of 1995, the Pope's *Apostolic Exhortation* of 1997, the Constitution, Taëf, inter-confessional relations and human rights in Lebanon, and was marked at its opening by the presence of no lesser persons than H.E. President **Emile Lahoud** and H.B. Patriarch and Cardinal **Nasrallah Sfeir**. Among those taking part were the ministers, former ministers deputies and experts **Michel Eddeh, Issam Fares, George Frem, Abbas Halabi, Boutros Harb, Issam Khoury, Albert Mansour, Saoud al-Mawla, Nayla Moawad, Shakib Qortbawi, Michel Samaha**, Bank of Lebanon Governor **Riad Salameh** and **Mohammed Sammak**.

There was much frank speaking about failure to apply the *Apostolic Exhortation* and Taëf and to protect human rights and freedoms. A more detailed report will be found in the Arabic section of *NDU Spirit*.

V D N V R O W E W

MEMORANDA | From the President's Office

30 September, 2003:

Appointment:

Dr. Johan Gärde as Director of the NDU Institute for Social, Religious and Civil Society Studies (NDU/ISRCS), with effect from 1st October, 2003.

13 October, 2003:

Appointment:

Dr. Fadi Comair as Director of the Water, Energy and Environment Research Center (WEERC), with effect from 1st October, 2003.

It is a pleasure for *NDU Spirit* to report the presentation of the important **Souad Sabbah Award** to **Dr. Ameen A. Rihani**, NDU Vice-President for Research and Development. The announcement was made by the American University of Beirut Alumni Association on AUB Founder's Day. The Alumni Secretary, **Dr. Jacob Thaddeus**, pointed out that the Souad Sabbah Literature and Science Award had become one of "the awards eagerly followed by AUB graduates in Lebanon and the world."

The Souad Sabbah Award is divided into two parts, the Literary and Cultural Award and the Scientific Achievement Award. The conditions of the Award state that all nominees should be AUB graduates and that the work eligible for the Award has been published within the last three years at most. The Award Committee is made up of the Alumni President, the Secretary, the Chairpersons of the Club Committee and the Graduate Affairs Committee, and **Dr. George Geha** representing the Souad Sabbah House of Publishing and Distribution. On this occasion the Committee had commissioned **Dr. Nadim Naimi** and **Dr. Souheil Jabbour** to act as judges and to choose the first- and second-place winners in literature and science. The winners were presented with souvenir shields as well as the monetary value of each prize.

The Award for Literature, year 2002-2003, First Place, (with US\$ 6,000 attached) went to Professor Ameen Albert Rihani of NDU for his book *The Forgotten Fountains (Al Yanabee' Al Manssiah)*, published by Riyad Al Rayiss Publishing House, Beirut.

In the official report and the press reviews, stress was laid on the one-hundred-and-fifty page introduction, in which Dr. Rihani details the reasons for emigration and the cultural motives that lay behind emigrants writing in English. He discusses the methodological approach to their literature and the questions forming an introduction to an independent study of the meaning of identity and of the fusion of civilisations, cultures and languages. One critic compared his introduction to those of Suleiman Al Boustani in his study of the Greek *Illiad*, of the philosophical works of Charles Malek and of Sheikh Abdallah Al Alaylee's study of the Arabic language, among other important introductions in contemporary Arabic literature.

As mentioned on a previous page, **Dr. Ameen Albert Rihani**, NDU Vice-President for Research and Development, gave a lecture at Yale University, USA, at the invitation of the Ezra Stiles College of the Faculty of Arts. His lecture was part of a series of Humanities Lectures at Yale University which had previously included ones given by such personalities as former President Bill Clinton, Noam Chomsky (described on the BBC as no doubt the world's leading philosopher), and the widely-known Arab-American writer Edward Saïd. Dr. Rihani had already given another lecture in November in Washington at the American Forum for Human Rights, taking as his subject *The Problem of Knowledge and Higher Education in the Middle East*.

Introducing Dr. Rihani, the Dean of the Faculty of Stiles, American researcher Ray Maradokh, pointed to the circulation of his works among American scholars specialised in Middle Eastern studies and in the dialogue of cultures because of the importance of the cultural and intellectual amalgamation in his referential studies.

The title of the Yale lecture was *Prophetic Voice or Inverted Orientalism*. He based his approach on migration literature that aimed at achieving two primary goals, namely the breaking down of the wall of silence and confusion and then the celebration of the returning self, or the identity recaptured among ethnic swamps. Referring to a UN report by American scholars of Arab descent and the statistics it contained, he asked why only 1% of the world's books should be published in the Arab world, given that Arabs formed 5% of the world's population. Also, why should the distribution of newspapers and magazines published in the Arab world in three languages be only 20% of what might be expected and why should there be so few Ph.D. holders compared to what was to be found in other countries.

However, the speaker also pointed out that, although one hundred years ago, at the time of Lebanese and other Arab emigration to America, the picture was darker still, nevertheless the emigrant authors had something to say and said it to the West in the language of the West. They said it in America in the language that America understood, and so Arab-American literature was born.

He stressed that the intellectual conflict in this literature had been triggered with the beginning of the twentieth century and evolved from a conflict between a great city built on spiritual and rational factors and a utopic, mystical and sophist city. This was to become a struggle between a great globalised city and a confronting Orientalism. The quest remained for a coveted leading city, whether it was called New York, Orphalis or Beirut.

The lecture closed with a discussion between Dr. Rihani and professors from the departments of English Literature, Middle Eastern Studies, Philosophy, History and Civilization Studies.

American Studies and the Arab University: The Challenges of Contemporary Critical Theory

The papers of which the following abstracts are given were presented at the American Studies Regional Conference (The Binational Fulbright Commission in Egypt) "Developing American Studies at Arab Universities: Resources, Research and Outreach," held in Cairo, Egypt, January 24-26, 2004. They are to be published in the conference proceedings.

(NDU was represented at this conference by both Dr. Boulos Sarru, Dean of Humanities, and by Dr. Paul Jahshan.)



Dr. Boulos A. Sarru', Ph.D.
Abstract

WALT WHITMAN'S HIERARCHICAL DEMOCRACY IN LEAVES OF GRASS:
AN AMERICAN AMBIGUITY

Walt Whitman's work has been dealt with rather comprehensively. Critics have discussed the major concerns which Whitman addresses in his writings, concerns such as freedom, esotericism, good and evil, and, most importantly, democracy. This criticism ranges from simple analysis of the literary text to a historical documentation of the background and influences that have contributed to the creation process. Prominent among these criticisms is the consideration of the theme of democracy. The fact that democracy is believed the backbone of the American nation, and that Whitman labeled himself "democratic", explains why most studies have concentrated on Whitman's democracy. Such studies are supported by substantial evidence provided by Whitman's own statements concerning the equality of body and soul, man and woman, black and white, to the end of a long list of "equals".

Despite this evidence, however, there is enough reason to believe that Whitman's democracy was not an absolute one. Whitman's statement in his "One's Self I sing"

One's self I sing, a simple separate person,
Yet utter the word Democratic, the word En Masse,

suggests democracy as the equalizing force in the world. But in the light of evidence that recurs in Whitman's poetry, this democracy is not an absolute one; and the equality of body and soul is but a temporary step to reach the ultimate union with God. It is, then, a hierarchical democracy that attributes importance to the world of matter in all its forms only as a stepping board to higher and more sublime realities. Following in the footsteps of the British Romantics, namely Samuel Taylor Coleridge, and the American Transcendentalists, namely Ralph Waldo Emerson, Whitman places the world of spirit on the elevated level of Plato's world. And it is in this placement that the American expression/experience of democracy is enigmatic.

Paul Jahshan, Ph.D.
Abstract

An unmistakable link connects American Studies with critical theory, especially critical theory of the continental flavor. What is called "French Theory" has been so intimately adapted by American academia in general and by American studies in particular that any discussion of the latter must almost obligatorily involve issues and practices developed in critical theory.

Yet what constitutes one of the undeniable strengths of American studies also proves to be the major challenge facing the implementation and teaching of such a discipline in Arab universities. Concepts such as power, discipline and punishment; the loss of center; and gender issues are expected to be met with considerable resistance.

This paper explores the challenges facing the Arab university as it is introduced to American studies and aims to sketch the obstacles which have kept it from effectively moving abreast of new developments in critical theory. The question whether American Studies, with its rich accompaniment of a methodology firmly anchored in critical theory, can be effectively taught in Arab universities will be the focus of this investigation. 🐾



MILLENNIAL LECTURE SERIES

2003 2004

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES, DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL STUDIES



The Millennial Lectures are organised by the Faculty of Humanities and its Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences. This academic year, 2003-2004, all the talks will be centred around the subject of Orientalism. The first presentation on this theme was given on Thursday, 29th January, 2004 by **Dr. Eugene Sensenig-Dabbous** and had as its title *Orientalismus, German and Austrian Orientalism in Comparison*. He quoted two authors as follows.

Edward W. Said, *Orientalism* (New York: Vantage, 1797).

“Any work that seeks to provide an understanding of academic Orientalism and pays little attention to scholars like **Steinthal, Müller, Becker, Goldziher, Brockelmann, Nöldeke** – to mention only a handful – needs to be reproached, and I freely reproach myself. I particular-

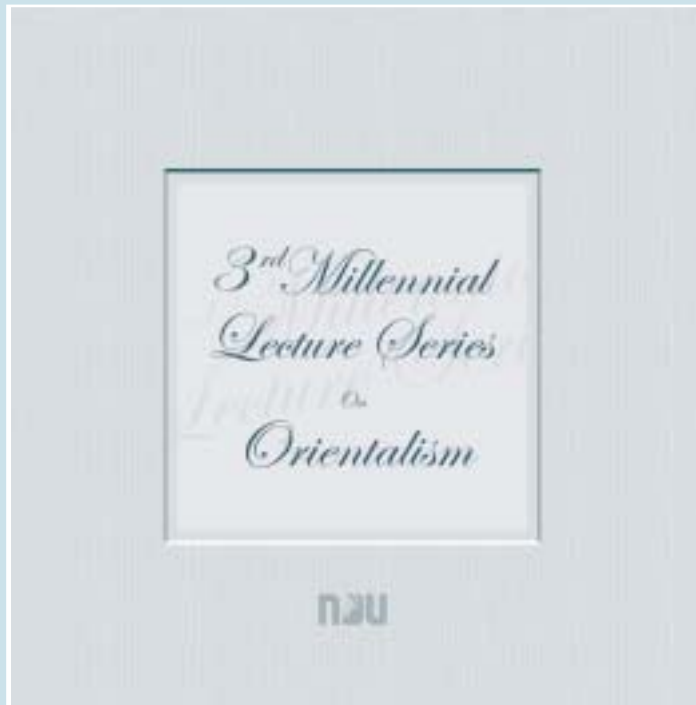
ly regret not taking more account of the great scientific prestige that accrued to German scholarship by the middle of the nineteenth century (...)

“By the 1830 (...), German scholarship had fully attained its European pre-eminence. Yet at no time in German scholarship during the first two-thirds of the nineteenth century could a close partnership have developed between Orientalists and a protracted, sustained national interest in the Orient. There was nothing in Germany to correspond to the Anglo-French presence in India, the Levant, North Africa. Moreover, the German Orient was almost exclusively a scholarly, or at least a classical, Orient: it was made the subject of lyrics, fantasies, even novels, but it was never actual, the way Egypt and Syria were actual for Chateaubriand, Lane, Lamaartine, Burton, Disraeli, or Nerval. There is some significance in the fact that the two most

renowned German books on the Orient, Goethe’s *Westöstlicher Diwan* and Friedrich Schlegel’s *Über die Sprache und Weisheit der Indier*, were based respectively on a Rhine journey and on hours spent in Paris libraries. What German Oriental scholarship did was to refine and elaborate techniques whose application was to texts, myths, ideas, and languages almost literally gathered from the Orient by imperial Britain and France. Yet what German Orientalism had in common with Anglo-French and later American Orientalism was a kind of intellectual authority over the Orient within Western culture.” (Said 1978, 18-19)

Richard A. Bermann alias Arnold Hollriegel, *Die Fahri auf dem Kataraki: Eine Autobiographie ohne einen Helden* (Vienna: Picus Verlag, 1998).

“I had never been to Bosnia before and found the country intoxicatingly beautiful. Its exceptional Austrian



administration had turned Sarajevo into a modern city, that means it had a hotel free of lice, a few soberly modern buildings, schools in which Austria had educated the young Bosnian revolutionaries who were responsible for the assassination of 28 June 1914, and there was a garrison that was intended to keep them under control. The city had stores in which one could purchase Viennese products: coffee houses whose selection of newspapers included the *Neue Freie Presse*.

“But just take one step off the main boulevard and the most colourful of Orients began. Fountains could be heard splashing in the courtyard of the city’s mosques. Sitting in the narrow alleyways of the Bazaar, clothed in picturesque costumes, the Eastern Jews were selling nobly crafted copper and brass vessels as well as their marvellously soft Bosnian carpets, a product of Sarajevo. I spoke with these Jews in

their mother tongue, the antiquated Spanish of Cervantes. Everyone else in the Bazaar wore similarly colourful costumes. Those in the know could distinguish the Roman Catholic Croats from the Serbian Orthodox based on their fez, Turkish trousers and vests; and again distinguish them from the Serbian speaking Moslems, who here were referred to as Turks, although they had stopped being so long ago. The “Turkish” women were deeply veiled when in public, a scene I had observed in Cairo and Delhi.

“I had already visited many Islamic countries, but none had appeared as genuine to me as Bosnia still was in the middle of World War I. Here you did not find the Negroid-Arabian Islam of Egypt or Morocco, but rather that of the traditional Turks, enjoying their status as overlords in the midst of their subjugated Christian peoples; with tolerant arrogance, warlike traditions, and

despite their casual grace, conservative to their very souls. They had got along well with my fellow Austrians and had proven to be extremely loyal to our ageing emperor, who had formed an alliance with the Turkish Sultan. In their eyes this entire war, which had begun with the shots fired on a bridge in Sarajevo, was nothing more than an attempted rebellion instigated by their traditional subjects, the Bosnian Christians. (Bermann 1998, 212-213)



2003-4 STUDENT ELECTIONS



The Patriotic list



The Freedom list

ELECTIONS

The student elections for the academic year 2003-2004 took place on November 14th, 2003 in a very democratic manner. Two lists competed, namely the Patriotic List and the Freedom List. The elections were preceded by a public debate which presented members of both lists to much of the student body. The SAO Director, **Father Boulos Wehbe**, set the debate in motion with a few words, after which the two parties outlined their programmes and answered various questions posed by the audience.

The SAO anticipated the elections with a very precise set of rules concerning campaigning and the electoral process. Consequently the elections took place in a very calm and democratic manner, regarding which **Mr. Suheil Matar**, Director of Public Relations and Information, remarked, "We hardly felt that there were elections taking place; it was one of the calmest days at NDU." The results favoured the Patriotic List, which reaped 19 seats, leaving the Freedom List with two. Over 80% of the students voted, which was a sign of interest on their part and of a healthy democratic spirit.

The newly-elected body later had a meeting with the NDU President **Father Boutros Tarabay**, who gave his directions and advice on how it was to operate. The new **Student Union**, as the



Studing voting

The new Student Cabinet with Father Boutros Tarabay, Father Boulos Wehbe and Doctor Ziad Fahed.

name now stands, was sworn in before the President, the Vice President for Academic Affairs **Doctor George Eid**, and the SAO Director and Assistant Director.

The coming year holds promise for much cooperation between the SAO, the University Administration and Faculty at large and the new Student Union.

Student Cabinet Directory 2003/2004

Abi Nader Wissam, Abi Raad Elias, Al-Hajj Anis, Beaini Nohra, Boueiz Edmond, Boueiz Paul, Boustani Elie, Breidi Rony, Chlela Roack, Fahed Jack, Hajj Ramzi, Harb Jad, Haswani Roland, Hbeich Farid, Khoury Joy, Maalouf Rony, Matar Lisette, Rouhana Rawad, Saliba Joe, Sawaya Allen, Tawk Dany.

Information kindly supplied by **Father Boulos Wehbe**.



Students wait for their turn to vote.

New Hotel Labs at NDU

December 18th, 2003 stands out as a day of great importance for the academic and professional development of hotel management and tourism in Lebanon. On this occasion it was under the patronage of no less a person than **Doctor Ali Abdallah**, Minister of Tourism, that Notre Dame University inaugurated its hotel laboratories, which include a spacious professional kitchen, an amphitheatre for the demonstration of culinary art and a classroom designed specifically for courses of reception, bedroom service and back office. Among those present at the inauguration were leading personalities from the hotel and tourist sector and representatives of the various professional syndicates, all of whom came undeterred by the stormy weather.



After an opening word by Tourism Minister Doctor Ali Abdallah, the guests were taken on a visit to the laboratories, where the cocktail service and various dishes were prepared and served by the students, who also assured the reception.

The central kitchen is designed according to the latest international standards of hygiene and progress, HACCP. It includes an area for the reception and stocking of merchandise, refrigerated rooms, a cold link, a professional dish-washer and a pastry section. The hall for courses of hotel management is a miniature hotel in itself, with a computerised reception desk, a complete bathroom and a room with all the latest technology.

Thanks to the sustained efforts of **Doctor Yussef Zgheib**, Chairman of the Department of Hospitality Management and Tourism at NDU, his far-seeing vision and strategy, and the support of the NDU authorities, the University is now in a leading position in hotel education for Lebanon and the Middle East.

FULBRIGHT FOR FAAD STUDENT



JOSEPH CHARTOUNI ARCHITECT
REPUT_ARCHITECTURE_TUMBLINIST: JUCH74@LONDON.COM 00961 3 921184



Mr. Joseph Chartouni, Architecture graduate of FAAD, NDU, received a letter dated 25.09.2004 from Elizabeth Wharton, Cultural Affairs Officer of the United States Embassy in Beirut, congratulating him on his nomination for the Fulbright student scholarship for the academic years 2004-2006. The letter pointed out that while the nomination was not itself a guarantee, it was rare for the Foreign Scholarship Board in the US to overrule such a nomination.


"The Fulbright Foreign Student Program is an international scholarship program sponsored by the United States Department of State Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs (ECA). The Fulbright Program, named for the late Senator J. William Fulbright, was established by the U.S. Congress in 1946 "to increase mutual understanding between the people of the U.S. and the people of other countries. Nearly a quarter of a million individuals have participated in the Fulbright Program since it began in 1946. ... Sponsored by the Public Affairs Section of the American Embassy, AMIDEAST Lebanon administers the Fulbright Foreign

Student Program for Lebanese citizens. Scholarships are awarded to Lebanese citizens who would like to pursue their master's degree at U.S. universities. The grant covers expenses incurred for travel to and from the United States, tuition and books, health insurance, and room and board." (AMIDEAST website)

Mr. Chartouni studied in NDU between 1994 and 2001 on a 6-year architecture programme extended one year in order to further develop his final-year senior project "Coextension of the Presidential Palace named *Generatrix*". This led him into a good preparation for the master's programme.

He told *NDU Spirit* that back in 1994 he was aware that he had no chance of studying abroad and of continuing his research-design objective unless he obtained recognition for a full scholarship. So from that time onward he was conceiving a clear structure for his future career and goals. He therefore deployed decisive efforts to explore and practise in different fields simultaneously. Along with architecture he practised photography and design; for example, some of his work in photography was

published in *Vogue Hommes International*, in the Italian *Abitare*, and in *Femme* and *Deco Magazine* in Lebanon. He also obtained prizes in local and international competitions in photography and in fashion and furniture design. He exercised his capacities to the full in order to continue financially and to surpass himself intellectually for ever better performance, so that finally in 2003 he was rewarded with first-rank nomination for the highly prestigious and competitive scholarship in the Fulbright Foreign Student Program 2004-2006. This, said Mr. Chartouni, would be a magnificent experience as he would be financially supported to share, improve and expand his knowledge in one of the high-status universities in the United States.

We of *NDU Spirit* warmly congratulate Mr. Joseph Chartouni and at the same time point out that this nomination will on the one hand give NDU students confidence in the high academic standing of their University and at the same time encourage them to take maximum advantage of the opportunities it offers them by striving for the best results. 

NDU STUDENT RECEIVES \$1000 REWARD



Working on his senior project, for which he was advised by **Dr. Ghazi Asmar**, Mechanical Engineering student **Mr. Charbel Maroun** of NDU received second prize among Mechanical Engineering contestants at the Sixth Industrial Exhibition of the LIRA program. The award was for his Coffee (and Tea) Maker, for which he was also awarded a Lebanese patent by the Ministry of the Economy and Trade. The Coffee Maker and the Patent Document are shown in the accompanying illustrations. For more information contact 03634440 or camaroun@ndu.edu.lb.



The Coffee and Tea Machine.



The Certificate of Patent.



Mr. Charbel Maroun receives the certificate of award and the congratulations of the judging committee.



H.E. Elias Skaaf, Minister of the Economy and Trade, appreciates a cup of Mr. Maroun's coffee.



The Coffee and Tea Maker is launched on its career.

NDU-MICROSOFT .NET CLUB

On December 17th, 2003, **Microsoft Eastern Mediterranean** launched the **.Net Club** at NDU, in collaboration with the University and with the presence of NDU President, **Father Boutros Tarabay**.

The .Net Club programme will help connect up IT students with the IT industry through student clubs that develop relations with **Microsoft** and local partners and opportunities for practical experience. Through support for the clubs, Microsoft aims at enabling graduate students to find employment and to fit into the workforce much more easily. "Microsoft .Net Clubs are run by students for students," said **Mr. Fawzi Baroud**, Director of the Division of Computing Services at NDU. "With guidance and assistance from the University and from Microsoft and its partners, students gain exposure to the working world and are kept updated on the latest technologies through club activities."

For his part, **Mr. Charbel Fakhoury**, General Manager for Microsoft Eastern Mediterranean, declared that Microsoft .Net Clubs aimed at facilitating peer networking among university students, local industry partners and Microsoft. Most students came out of the university with minimal work experience, but the .Net Club was there to help them realise their full potential.

Along with access to local Microsoft events and additional educational promotions on software, NDU club members will also receive pre-releases of software and be able to take part in Microsoft development meetings. Guest speakers and training seminars at the University will help students develop expertise on the .Net platform, while a .Net Club portal will allow students to collaborate on their own projects.

Two key initiatives are included in the programme: students will be able to take part in Microsoft-sponsored final year projects, giving them hands-on experience with Microsoft, and they will also be eligible to compete for summer internships with Microsoft. Mr. Fakhoury concluded his address by saying: "From our interaction with students, we felt a great deal of zeal and passion for learning more about technologies. The .Net Club helps us get closer to the students and the faculty so as to deliver on the Club's objectives."



Mr. Charbel Fakhoury speaks on Microsoft's potential and NDU students' passion.



A passionate audience for Microsoft.

Translation Students Get Ahead

From Dr. Carol Ann Goff-Kfour, Academic Advisor, Translation Students

Translation

Rosita Akl is an enterprising NDU translation student. She graduated with an emphasis in Translation in June 2003 and has returned to complete the Interpreting emphasis this Fall. NDU translation students have been trained to look for career opportunities in all areas of language mediation; Rosita did just that in Spring of 2003.

Al-Hayat, one of the Arab world's most forward-facing newspapers, sponsors "Madrasat Al Hayat", in which it invites the youth of the Arab world to write articles concerning a subject that they believe is of current interest. Working under the supervision of professionals at *Al-Hayat*, more than 400 students have already participated in this learning experience. *Al-Hayat* will invite the student whose work shows most promise to become an intern for one year, during which he or she will experience all the intricacies of journalism. At the end of the internship, the winner will be offered a full-time contract with *Al-Hayat*. Rosita Akl saw the poster advertising this learning experience on the NDU Humanities bulletin board, contacted Dr. Khaled Fakih, former Chair of the Mass Communication Department, and wrote an arti-

cle entitled "A Complaint about 'Oulog' علوج (ticks, parasites) facing the Translation Profession". The use of the term *oulog* in the title was inspired by the former Iraqi Information Minister, Mohammed Said El-Sahaf. Her article was published in the Tuesday, 17th October, 2003 issue of *Al-Hayat*.

In her article, Rosita reports on the interviews she had not only with NDU translation graduates but also with several faculty members whose opinions she took. Professional translators such as Nayla Younes and Souleima Ghorayeb were asked to give their views on the plight of professional translators in Lebanon.

According to Rosita's findings, the main problems translators face are linked to employment. There is no professional union for translators in Lebanon and therefore no clear-cut pricing system. Unfair competition has led to chaos in pricing. Moreover, in this unorganized atmosphere, new graduates are finding it difficult to find full-time employment.

Aware that finding work is not always easy, Rosita is doing her utmost to use her knowledge of languages to find a position in the workplace.

ROLE OF WEERC

as seen by Ministry Director



On Monday, January 8th, 2004, the NDU Water, Environment and Energy Research Center organised a talk and discussion, with **Doctor Berj Hatjian**, Director General of the Ministry of the Environment, as speaker. The audience consisted of NDU faculty members, administrators, staff and students.

The guest speaker was first welcomed by **Doctor Fadi Comair**, Director General of the Ministry of Water and Electricity Resources and Director of the NDU Water, Environment and Energy Research Center (WEERC). Doctor Hatjian then spoke about the work of his Ministry in the fields of water resources, reforestation and conservation of the nature reserves, and about the results of its support for NGOs in Lebanon. He stressed the importance of the WEERC in Notre Dame University because of the participation in its work of specialists in various fields which allowed it to have a general view because of its research and fact-finding.

Doctor Hatjian detailed the projects being undertaken together with NGOs, in particular those resulting from cooperation with the United Nations in order to teach farmers how to use substitutes for methyl bromide. He referred to government decree 8006 fixing public health institutions and their operation.

NORTH NEWS

Opening Mass for 2003-2004

Left to right:
Father John
Bushroush,
Father Boutros
Tarabay and
Father Mounir
Fakhry
concelebrating.



Part of the congregation.

Administration, faculty, staff and students were all invited to attend the Opening Mass for the academic year 2003-2004 at NDU-NLC. This was celebrated in the NLC Amphitheatre on Thursday, November 6th, with NDU President **Father Boutros Tarabay** officiating. Classes were suspended during the celebration. All joined in the prayers offered by Father Boutros Tarabay, sharing his hopes and wishes for a prosperous year.

Instructor Paul
Kadissi, Club
members and
guests at the
Iftar.



All enjoyed themselves at the Iftar dinner.

Aikido Iftar

With the collaboration of the Student Affairs Office, the Aikido Club of North Campus organised an Iftar for the faculty, staff and students at the new Florida Resort, Chekka, on Friday, November 7th. All enjoyed the abundant food and the warm and friendly atmosphere inside Al-Khayma.

New Students' Welcome Party

A party was thrown at the Siciliano, Batroun, to welcome new students at NDU-NLC. There on Saturday, November 14th, students had a great time enjoying the company of their fellows and making new friends.

Forum for the Tripoli Handicapped

On Friday, November 21st, the Student Affairs Office invited administrators, faculty and staff along with student volunteers to share with the **Forum for the Handicapped Association** of Tripoli an Iftar that was generously served in the NDU-NLC cafeteria. The occasion came under

Serving the handicapped expressed the true religious spirit of Iftar.



Helpers and handicapped come together for a group photo. True piety makes no distinction.

a programme of Integration of the Disabled and Handicapped in Society, in which vital social action NDU-NLC is giving its help.

Mr. Nabil Abed, the President of the Association, expressed his appreciation of the thoughtfulness underlying this invitation and in particular congratulated the organisers for the provision of an access ramp for wheelchairs. He added that his Association would welcome further cooperation with NDU for promoting such a good cause and especially for furthering the intergration of the handicapped in outstanding establishments and institutions such as NDU itself. The Iftar was a special occasion that everybody thoroughly enjoyed.



The right atmosphere: elections as they should be.

Student Cabinet Elections

November 21st was the date previously fixed for the NLC Student Cabinet elections and at first there was agreement on an unopposed list under the motto, "Whoever works for the good of the students and the University is the winner." But there was a last-minute change of heart and it was decided to proceed with the elections.

After prior notice of the dates and the procedure, there was a debate and then the elections. There was a very high participation, with about 98% of the students voting! The atmosphere was much less tense than might have been expected. The candidates conducted themselves in a friendly fashion and all profited by the experience.

The results for the academic year 2003-2004 were as follows:

SENIORS:

- Samer Frangieh, President
- Reina Bou Nehme, Coordinator

JUNIORS:

- Raed Badawi, Public Relations
- Wael Al-Khatib, Vice President

SOPHOMORES:

- Marie-Clare Alam, Secretary
- Fadel Saade, Treasurer

Information for the above items kindly supplied by **MRS. S. Dandan**, SAO, NDU-NLC.

Student Cabinet
Bake and
Juice Sale,
December 5th.



The Social Club stands in, December 22nd.

Fund-raising for the Needy

The Student Cabinet and Clubs at NLC participated in many activities throughout the month of December 2003, most of which were dedicated to raising money for the unfortunate, the elderly and the poor.

On December 5th, Student Cabinet members opted for a Bake Sale instead of the usual Halloween Party, with the intention of raising funds to buy food packages to be distributed among the needy. They also organised and shared in the Gift Exchange bash held on December 22nd.

Bake and Juice
Sale, December
5th, raising funds
for the needy.



At the Social
Club Cocktail
and Juice Sale,
December 22nd.



The Lottery Draw at the Cocktail and Juice Sale is supervised by Father Jean Abou Chrouh.

The Social Club arranged to raise money through its Cocktail Juice Sale on December 5th, the proceeds of which went to buying presents for the *Caritas* children, to be distributed during the lunch given for them during their visit to the North Lebanon Campus on December 19th.

The IAF Club rallied for a Lottery Draw and came up with many prizes for the winners. Enough money was raised to buy candy treats for orphans and food supplies for the elderly in surrounding areas. Some orphanages were visited, including Dar Al Ajaza and St. Jacob's Monastery for Orphans, Karm Saddeh, both in the Zghorta district.

Caritas Lunch
Decfl.19th, 2003



Professional entertainment goes with the gifts.

Caritas Christmas

The Student Affairs Office and the NLC Public Relations Office together organised a Christmas Lunch for *Caritas* children on Friday, December 19th, 2003. Four northern *Caritas* sectors were invited, namely Tripoli, El Koura, Zghorta El Zawyeh and Hadath El Jibbe.

Unfortunately, the El Zawyeh sector had to excuse itself due to other commitments on the same date. Also *Caritas* of Hadath El Jibbe was unable to keep the appointment due to the snow and the hazardous condition of the roads on that day, which was very upsetting for the children as well as for the organisers. However, the NDU-NLC family thought it would be a kind gesture to send the children

their presents with the three children who were the only ones who made it from El Hadath with their parent. The children who actually took part numbered 53 altogether out of the anticipated 110.

Student Cabinet and Club members were invited to join the event and to come up with little treats to welcome the young guests. The Student Cabinet helped with the decoration of the Cafeteria where the Lunch took place. The Social Club played the biggest part as its members offered the children warm winter gloves as presents together with Santa hats. Two professional children animators were brought in to entertain the children and their show was spectacular!



No lack of enthusiasm!



Cutting the Christmas cake.



Everybody helps themselves.

Helpers generous with their time and effort.



The Lunch Buffet was very enjoyable, presentable and plentiful. As the children's laughter rose throughout the hall and their faces lit up during their play and their delight in the show, the students who were in attendance said that it was a joy for them to see how happy the children all were. It was an occasion for what may be called the "true Christmas Spirit"!

Wishes for a Happy Christmas, with many future returns, were extended to the whole NDU family in all three campuses.

School Principals' Dinner

On January 9th, 2004, NDU/NLC Barsa gave a formal dinner for school principals and heads of secondary sections at Florida Beach Resort, Chekka. The dinner was under the patronage of His Excellency **Samir El Jisr**, Lebanese Minister of Higher Education, who attended the occasion together with **Father Boutros Tarabay**, President of NDU. Also pre-

sent were **Father Roger Chikri**, NDU Director of Administration, prominent figures from schools in the North and members of the University academic and administrative staff. Unfortunately **Doctor George Eid**, PVP for Academic Affairs, and **Mr. Suheil Matar**, Director General of Public Relations and President's Counselor, had to excuse themselves for reasons beyond their control.

NDU-NLC staff members ushered the guests to their designated seats at the tables, at each of which was a faculty or staff member to make the guests feel at home and to answer their enquiries about the University.

Mr. Edgard Harb, PR at NDU/NLC, warmly welcomed the visitors and then introduced Father Boutros Tarabay, who in his short talk insisted on the need to work "for the good of all", for Lebanon as a whole and for the individual. He referred also to the preservation of the country's cultural heritage, saying how proud future generations would be if now the right choice were made. The audience applauded the speaker's desire and hopes for better educational and ethical standards and for a higher level of Lebanese civilisation.

His Excellency Minister Samir El Jisr with Father Boutros Tarabay at table.



An audio-visual tape was then projected which outlined the history, progress and academic achievements of Notre Dame University, making a great impression on the audience.

A generous buffet dinner was served in a warm atmosphere and to the sound of soft music, all of which was highly appreciated. At their departure, guests were given a handy NDU bag with flyers of all the faculties and majors, together with the latest issue of *NDU Spirit* magazine. About fifty secondary schools were represented at the dinner and there was great general satisfaction with the proceedings.

The purpose of the occasion was to further acquaint the guests with the NDU Faculties, Schools and Programmes at the Main Campus, Zouk Mosbeh, and at North Lebanon Campus, Barsa, El Koura, and to reveal future plans and intentions.

Information for the above items kindly supplied by **Mrs. S. Dandan**, SAO, NDU-NLC.

SHOUF CAMPUS SHORTS



NDU President Father Boutros Tarabay officiating at Mass to open the academic year 2003-2004 at Shouf Campus.



Personalities from left to right: Elie Aoun, Nasr Zeidan, Nassib Lahoud, George Dib Nahme, Suheil Mater and Dr. Assaad Eid.



Enjoyment expressed on the faces of speaker and audience.

Deputy Nassib Lahoud on total liberation

Speaking at Shouf Campus on Friday, 21st November, 2003, Member of Parliament **Nassib Lahoud** considered that liberation of the South would be complete only with the return of the authority of the State there and the finding of a solution for the question of the Palestinian refugees. He also insisted on the need for small circumscriptions for parliamentary elections.

In addition to NDU Vice-President for Academic Affairs **Doctor George Eid**, NDU Public Relations Director General **Mr. Suheil Matar**, Campus Director **Doctor Assad Eid**, **Doctor Fouad Chedid**, faculty members, staff and students, those present included members of the Democratic Encounter in the persons of parliamentary deputies **Nabil Bustany**, **George Dib Nehme** and **Elie Aoun**.

In answer to a question, the guest speaker said that he did not consider Lebanon to be totally independent. True independence supposed national unity making a strong state. He thought the absence of Prime Minister Hariri from the Independence Day celebration to mark a beginning of division. Holding the military parade in Martyrs' Square was a good thing and all should attend.

As for his own ambitions, Deputy Lahoud said that he was not one of those who said that they had no intention of standing for the presidency. It was up to him as a politician to serve his country anywhere and his one desire was to see it governed democratically.

Answering a question about asking the high authorities and ministers for accounts, he said that this was not possible for those who had not placed them in power. Everybody knew who had placed them and Lebanese decisions were made in Damascus. Healthy relations between Syria and Lebanon would be assured by true parliamentary representation in Lebanon and by sound government unaffected by corruption. These would be at the same time the best guarantee for Syria.

Kalām en-Nāss comes to Shouf

On Friday, 14th November, 2003, at the invitation of the Shouf Campus and in the presence of **Deputy Nabil Boustany**, the now famous TV journalist **Marcel Ghanem** discussed a number of questions with students in the Campus Conference Hall.



From left to right: Mr. Tony Antonios (representing Deputy Nehme Tohmeh), Deputy Nabil Boustany, Mr. Marcel Ghanem and Dr. Assaad Eid.



Swearing in the new Student Cabinet.

The distinguished guest first thanked the University for its invitation and pointed out the role played **Deputy Walid bek Junblatt** in the region. He said that the rising generation was not one of despair but one living for freedom even though it were under stress. As for the media, they were partly free and partly under strict censorship.

Mr. Ghanem considered that Syria was interfering in Lebanese affairs, so it was necessary for popular representation to be reinforced in order to persuade the Syrians to depart. Finally he promised the students a future programme for young people "Revealing Facts".

Student Cabinet

The election of the Student Cabinet for the Shouf Campus took place on 3rd December, 2003. The candidates were as follows:

Sophomore candidates: **Naja Faysal, Mahmoud Bizri, Mario Rouhana, Rawad Hamadeh.**

Junior candidates: **Salam Abbi Hussein, Nizar Ghanem, Raed Awde, Nassib Takkiedine.**

The votes were counted in the presence of the SAO Officer, the Faculty representatives, the Registrar, the Admissions Officers and candidates' representatives. The voting results were as follows:

SOPHOMORE	NUMBER OF VOTES
Naja Faysal	44
Mahmoud Bizri	175
Mario Rouhana	193
Rawad Hamadeh	190
JUNIOR CANDIDATES	
Salam Abi Hussein	82
Nizar Ghanem	90
Raed Awde	83
Nassib Takkiedine	46

On the basis of these results, it was declared that the members of the new Student Cabinet for the academic year 2003-2004 were Mahmoud Bizri, Mario Rouhana, Rawad Hamadeh, Salam Abi Hussein, Nizar Ghanem and Raed Awde,

Above information kindly supplied by **Dr. Nabil Haddad**, Assistant Director, SAO.

Doctor Abi Khuzam on True Religion

It was with exceptional pleasure that on Tuesday 30th January, 2004 the Shouf Campus heard a talk from Druze **Doctor Anwar F. Abi Khuzam, Ph.D.**, Professor of Eastern Philosophies at the Lebanese University and Professor of Aesthetics in the Lebanese Academy of Fine Arts. His main theme was the possibility of peace between different beliefs after the errors of the past. Among other questions the learned speaker insisted on the importance of the aesthetic values of religions and opposed fanatical dogmatism. He pointed out that no peace was possible so long as man's destiny was menaced by ignorance, poverty, illness and fear. Doctor Abi Khuzam insisted on the safety of human life as a principle, saying that it could not be disposed off under any pretext. He added that without belief in God there could be no meaning in anything.

We regret that as the text came when we were going to press it has not received the fuller treatment it deserves and that photographs are not immediately available. -Ed.

COMMUNIO

A *Communio* meeting was held on December 8th, 2003 in the office of **Doctor Edward Alam**. Those present were Dr. Edward Alam, Mr. Pierre Azar, Ms. Thérèse Chbat, Dr. Tony Hage, Dr. Roger Hajjar, Dr. Habib Charles Malek, Mr. Kenneth Mortimer, Ms. Nouhad Rizk, Dr. Doumit Salameh, Dr. Eugene Sensenig-Dabbous, Ms. Nayla Sfeir and Fr. Boulos Marwan Wehbe.

The presentation was given by **Doctor Habib Charles Malek**, who will continue with his subject at the next meeting, namely the content of the *Communio* article “*Enough about Man*”: *Christians after their Modernity and the Post-Modern Objections to their God*, by Jörg Splett. The author of the article pointed out that one of the ways by which Christianity had prepared the advance of modern science was the “demythologization” of the cosmos and of “mother earth”. The Book of Genesis declares the heavenly bodies, revered by the pagans as sacred or even divine, to be mere luminaries in the sky, to “serve as signs and for the fixing of seasons, days and years” (Genesis I, 14.) Man’s task and privilege is to “subdue” the earth and “have dominion” over animals (Genesis I, 28.)

But the realisation of this fact exposed Christians to the opposite charge of responsibility for the wrongful exploitation of the earth, leading finally to the self-destruction of *Homo faber*. However, explains Jörg Splett, this comes from a misunderstanding of the words *subdue* and *govern*. From a consideration of the effects of medieval nominalism the author passes to consideration of “modernity”, namely its conception of freedom as emancipation, endless progress, progressive domination of nature, objectivism, the reduction of experience, hypothesization and naturalistic universalism.

Communio meetings are open to all irrespective of religion or confession, to scholars and undergraduates from inside or outside NDU, and to members of the public who attach importance to the intellectual understanding and application of religious principles. Information may be obtained from the office of **Dr. Edward Alam**, extension 2415 or 2505.

HONOURING YOUSSEF YOUNES

On Friday, 23rd January, 2004, the NDU Faculty of Humanities held its first cultural forum for the current scholastic year, on this occasion honouring the artist **Youssef Younes**. **Doctor Doumit Salameh**, holding the Chair of the Department of Social Sciences, expressed the hope that this would mark the start of another cultural line for the University, with forums being held on a regular basis.

Doctor Mansour Eid spoke of the excellence of Youssef Younes in literature and in classical art. The forum was attended by Younes’s son, also a poet, and by **Khalil Khoury**, Director of the National News Agency, both of whom expressed admiration for the artist’s work.

The programme for future forums is as follows:

Date	Subject	Speakers
2 March, 2004	Antoun Kazan	Dr. Anis Musallam, Dr. Fawzi Atwi
23 March, 2004	Anis Freiha	Mr. Ameen Zeidan, Dr. Mitri Boulos
22 April, 2004	Salah Labaky	Dr. Emile Kaba, Dr. Umar Al-Tabbah
18 May, 2004	Abdallah Al-Aalayli	Dr. George Trad, Dr. Muhammad Dakroub
1 June, 2004	<i>Kitab K'haled</i> by Amin Rihani	Dr. Ameen Al-Rihani, Dr. Mansour Eid, Dr. Latif Zeitouni

SAÏD AKL AWARD TO FATHER COMAIR

On 11th February, 2004, the distinguished poet **Saïd Akl** presented his weekly literary award to **Father Yuhanna Comair** in NDU Friends Hall. The ceremony was attended by former Lebanese President **Amine Gemmayel**, Deputy **Boutros Harb**, former Deputy **Manuel Younes**, Their Excellencies bishops **Boulos Matar** and **Chikrallah Harb**, NDU President Father **Boutros Tarabay** and a number of important public personalities.

The speakers on this occasion included NDU Director of Public Relations **Mr. Suheil Matar**, poet Saïd Akl and Father Yuhanna Comair.

WORK IN PROGRESS AT **FPSPA&D**

The Faculty of Political Science, Public Administration and Diplomacy has initiated an afternoon discussion series in which the current research of its teaching staff, as well as of the staff of other NDU faculties and of speakers from outside the University, will be presented, in a way highlighting methodology and critical discourse. The aim is to encourage the exchange of the results of research between the different faculties.

The first discussion was held in the afternoon of Monday, January 19th, 2004, under the title *Elite Prevention Policy* and concerned the attempts by majority power elites to prevent minority populations from developing their own elites.

General Elias Hanna (FPSPAD) said that the problem of the Middle East was that the military and other elites were trying to prevent the development of new elites. He compared the Arab World with Turkey, a country in which the military was pro-democratic. He also remarked that what was needed in the Arab World was a way to encourage civil society.

Doctor Paul Tabar (FHUM) spoke about the Lebanese community in Australia, saying that until around 1970 the Lebanese there could join the elite only if they ignored their Lebanese identity. Australia then introduced multicultural policies, according to which the Lebanese delegated representatives to join the elites. However, following the events of September 11th the situation has gone back to what it was originally, with the Lebanese expected to deny their identity.

Doctor Eugene Sensenig-Dabbous (FPSPAD) then described how the Austrian Labour Party had attempted to prevent immigrant minorities from developing elites. In Austria minority elites have been successful in the fields of economics, religion and the media but have been barred from effective political participation.

Information kindly supplied by **Dr. Eugene Sensenig-Dabbous**.

Messina Conference – 10 NDU Students Win Free Trip

The Central Connecticut State University/USA and the University of Messina/Italy have invited NDU, as the only university of its kind in the Middle East, to participate in the conference to be held under the following title:

Sources of Conflict and Prospects of Peace in the Mediterranean Basin.

This is due to take place on the island of Sicily between the 17th and 23rd of March this year. **Dr. Chahine Ghais** and **Dr. Eugene Sensenig-Dabbous** will be representing the NDU Faculty of Political Science, Public Administration and Diplomacy. The hosts have also invited NDU students to take part in this conference, all expenses paid. In order to select ten participants fairly and openly, an essay competition was carried out between November 2003 and January 2004. The three best papers will be presented in a formatted mini-edition to all conference participants.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Model US Election Debates to be held at **NDU** in the late **Spring** of **2004**

The American electoral process has been widely covered by the international press. In this year's general elections, American citizens at home and abroad will elect a President and a Vice President, as well as a member of Congress and, in one third of all states, a US Senator. While Lebanese dual nationals (US passport holders) are all permitted to vote in the elections of this Fall, the outcome will affect everybody living in Lebanon. For this reason a group of American professors of the departments of Political Science and of Public Administration (both FPSPAD) are inviting the entire NDU student body, including Freshman and Graduate students, to participate in the US Model Debates this year.

Two groups, a Republican Party Team and a Democratic Party Team, will be organized at the beginning of the Spring Term in order to study the key issues in this year's elections and to perfect their knowledge of "their parties'" positions on them. Issues include the US economy, employment and social welfare, education and family rights, ethnic and religious minorities, the ecology, human rights, foreign policy and in particular Middle Eastern policy.

The students will copy the debate format that we have all seen on TV recently. There will be a "show-down" between the Republican and Democrat teams covering the basic issues at the end of this Spring Term, in late May or early June.

At the outset of the Fall Term there will be a dual between George W. Bush and whoever wins the Democratic presidential nomination. May the better man win!

The **Republican Team** will be coached by **Dr. Akl Kairouz**, room B271, ext:2412, <akayrouz@ndu.edu.lb>.

The **Democratic Team** will be coached by **Dr. Edward N. Sayah**, room B292, ext: 2445, <esayah@ndu.edu.lb> and **Dr. Eugene Sensenig-Dabbous**, room B254, ext: 2322, <sdabbous@ndu.edu.lb>.

Information for the above two items kindly provided by **Dr. Eugene Sensenig-Dabbous**.

Best three papers on the topics

Sources of Conflict in the Mediterranean Basin
or
Prospects for Peace in the Mediterranean.

The winners:

First place: *The Water War* – **Alya Chehab** (7 points)
Arabs in Israel – **Bechara Melkoun** (7 points)

Third place: *Cyprus, The Troubled Island* – **Jean Angelopoulo** (4 points)

Nicole Fakhoury, Olivia Pennikian and Mariam Zgheib also were on the short list.

The Jury was made up of professors chosen from four different Faculties in order to guarantee accountability and transparency. They included **Mr. Nicolas, Dr. Hratch Hadjetian, Dr. Paul Jahshan** and **Dr. Eugene Sensenig-Dabbous**.

DEBATE CLUB AND AUXILIA AUXILIARIES



Presiding: student Debate Club members, Dr. Elie Shweifati and Mr. Suheil Matar.



A large crowd shows concern, with in the foreground Mr. Fawzi Baroud, Dr. Ziad Fahed, Fr. Boulos Wehbe, Miss Betty Hindi and Mrs. Grace Khalil.

On January 14, 2004, the NDU Debate Club held a meeting to launch an *Auxilia* social programme of help for large families in Lebanon which have lost their bread-winner. NDU President **Father Boutros Tarabay** was represented for the occasion by Public Relations Director General **Mr. Suheil Matar**, who told the crowd of academics, staff and students attending about the importance of this meeting with its humanitarian aims far removed from political considerations but motivated by noble character and love for mankind.

A video was then projected which showed the suffering of certain fatherless Lebanese families afflicted by neglect and deprivation, to the point where the mother was obliged to separate herself from her children. The video explained how *Auxilia* helped such families so that the children could return to normal life with their mother.

The President of *Auxilia*, **Doctor Elie Shweifati**, then appealed for help in rescuing hundreds of these families from misery by people obtaining membership cards for the *Auxilia* Cooperative and *S-mile*. This represented the best way of helping *Auxilia* children. Whoever bought from *Auxilia* cooperatives was contributing to the rescue of hundreds of families.

Closing the meeting, the student **Mr. Chady Dirani**, President of the Debate Club, announced the association of the Club with this project out of care for the national interest and for Lebanese society.

SPORTS OFFICE NEWS

NDU Home Championships

Between December 9th and 18th, 2003, NDU held its Inter-Faculty championships involving six faculties in the following fields: table tennis, mini-football, basketball and chess. Results were as follows:

Table Tennis

1 st place :	Souheil Abou Rejeily	FE
2 nd place:	Charles Maalouf	FBAE

Mini-football

1 st place:	FBAE
2 nd place:	FE



Player Georges Akiki receiving the Inter-Faculties Basketball Cup on behalf of the FBAE team from Fr Boutros Tarabay (NDU President) and Dr. Boulos Sarru (Dean FHUM), with beside them Dr. Elie Yashoui (Dean FBAE) and Mr. Suheil Matar.



Dr. Shahwan Khoury (Dean FE) and Fr. Boutros Tarabay presenting the Inter-Faculties Chess Cup to Charbel Saad.

Basketball

1 st place:	FHUM
2 nd place:	FBAE

Chess

1 st place:	Charbel Saad	6/6pts.	FE
2 nd place:	Olivier Rachwan	5/6 pts.	FE

Trophies and medals were distributed by NDU President **Father Boutros Tarabay**, the Director General of Public Relations and Information **Mr. Suheil Matar**, and Deans.

AUB Christmas Tournament

Basketball Men

¼ final:	NDU\USJ	85-65
½ final:	NDU\USEK	92-77
Final:	NDU\LAU	84-72

Ranking

1 st place	NDU
2 nd place	AUB
3 rd place	USEK

Volleyball Men

NDU\BAU	2-1
¼ final:	NDU\Balamand 2-0
½ final:	Antonins\NDU 2-1

Ranking: 3rd place NDU

Chess

Individual ranking:	
1 st place	Charbel Saad NDU
Teams ranking:	
3 rd place	NDU



The NDU Basketball Team with their coach Mr. George Nader



Hannadi Keirouz, 2nd in FSUL Skiing, Faraya.

TRAINING

Basketball: Between 1st and 22nd December 2003 the NDU basketball team organised an unbroken series of training sessions on Mondays and Wednesdays lasting from 3 to 4.30 p.m. in the covered stadium of *Dar al-Nour* school. These were attended by players Muhammad el-Sadiq, Fady el-Rotl, Antoine el-Khoury, Walid Mansour, Elias Srour, Khalid 'Aqad, 'Amer el-Hajj Youssef, Hussein Nashar, Rashid Abdallah, 'Azam Tabak, Rudolph Bou Faraat, Elie Ayoub, Samir Hayek, Ali Yaghi, Elie Antaki and Claude Fashkha.

Between 5.30 and 8 p.m. on Saturday 13th December 2003, the NDU team played a farewell match with the club Tourza el-Riada under the supervision of team instructor **Gaby Arida**, winning by 50/49 .

Football: Between 4.30 and 6 p.m. on Mondays and Fridays during the month of December, 2003, the NDU football team organised three training sessions held in the grounds of the above-mentioned school under the trainer Gaby Arida. These were attended by the players Hussein Nashar, Albert Nakkad, Pierre Mouossa, Jallal Bernard, George 'Amad, Tarek Majdhoub and Samir Ghosn.

CHRISTMAS BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Under the patronage of **Father Louis Samaha**, Director of the Zahleh campus of the Holy Spirit University of Kaslik, the University Sports Office organised a Basketball Championship of the Bekaa with the participation of most of the Bekaa universities and in addition the NDU Shouf Campus. In the final match, the USEK-Zahleh team won against NDU Shouf (79-49), which had won against the Lebanese University in the semi-finals. At the conclusion of the championship, cups and medals were distributed by the Director of the USEK Sports Office, **Mr. Fouad Saliba**, and **Dr. Nabil Haddad**, Director of Student Affairs, NDU-Shouf, both of whom had supervised the tournament together with trainer **Tony Maacaroun**. The matches were refereed by the Federation referees **Edgard Kourieh**, **Nicolas el-Maalouf** and **Nicolas Khairallah**.

FSUL SKI CHAMPIONSHIPS Faraya 17.01.2004

Men: 2nd place Walid Khalil NDU

Women: 2nd place Hannadi Keirouz NDU

LAU BEIRUT

Chess 17.01.2004

Ziad Abboud 2nd

Elie Abou Jaoudeh 3rd

Swimming 17.01,2004

Men: Rony Diab 2nd

Women: Sara Loutfi 2nd

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

The NDU Women's Basketball Team participated in the AUD-DSF International Tournament held between 3rd and 8th February, 2004. The delegation represented NDU in the best way possible as a Lebanese academic institution. The results were as follows:

NDU vs. ASD (American University of Sharjah) **87 – 35**

NDU vs. AUD (American University of Dubai) **73 – 32**

NDU vs. ASD (American School of Dubai) **60 – 25**

Final: NDU vs. ASD 75 – 31

Awards:

1st place in the AUD-DSF Women's Basketball Event.

MVP (Most Valuable Player): Magalie Safar (NDU)

Information kindly supplied by the **NDU Sports Office**.

A NUTRITION FAIR TO PROMOTE HEALTHY DIET



On Wednesday January 28th, 2004, Basic Human Nutrition (NTR 201) students organized a Nutrition Fair using the Dietary Guidelines as a theme, as part of their course requirement. Nutrition awareness can help people make healthy choices.

The purpose of the Fair was to apply principles that were covered in the course. This activity helps the students to understand the the food guide pyramid, the food groups and the concept of food serving, and to specify the particular nutrient contributions needed for planning a well-balanced diet. It provides a behind-the-scenes glimpse into the makeup of each food group and reinforces the concept of a healthy food choice by promoting the use of natural food rather than processed or canned food.

Accordingly, students presented nutritional information about vari-

ous topics such as:

- 1- A healthy eating quiz board
- 2- A food guide pyramid
- 3- A dietary fat reduction program
- 4- Self-assessment "BMI"
- 5- Food prepared by NDU cafeteria
- 6- Current nutrition topics
- 7- Estimation of food portions and serving sizes
- 8- Coffee stand: examining caffeine contents of different types of coffee
- 9- Comparison of energy values of food prepared by different techniques
- 10- Alcohol's effect on nutrients in the body
- 11- Medical problems associated with obesity

- 12- How to detect and avoid spoiled foods

Students from different majors at NDU as well as faculty members participated in the Fair. Students enjoyed the tasty food prepared by the cafeteria especially for the Fair.

NTR 201 students shared nutritional information with other students and answered questions regarding their stands. Students distributed brochures, leaflets and flyers about the various above-mentioned topics among fellow students.

This activity helped students to become more aware of the concept of a healthy diet and enhanced their public image of nutrition and its merit.

Special thanks are due to the cafeteria staff who prepared the food and decorated the tables on this occasion.

Information above kindly provided by
Dr. Najat Yahia.

G. CORM BLAMES SECTARIANISM

On Friday, November 28, 2003, Former Finance Minister **George Corm** addressed an NDU audience of administrators, staff, faculty members and students about Lebanon's political and economic problems. He took as the title of his talk *The Image of Lebanon Sixty Years after Independence*. Presiding were NDU President **Father Boutros Tarabay** and the Director General of Public Relation **Mr. Suheil Matar**, who introduced the guest speaker.

He described Lebanese sovereignty as being at present "bound and incomplete". He dealt with the politicisation of the communities, which he saw as a modern phenomenon in the history of Lebanon. The modern community system of Lebanon did not express democracy by consent but rather the balance of regional and international forces to which the country's economic and financial sovereignty was hostage.

He considered that during the Maanid and Chehabist periods Mount Lebanon reposed on trans-community rather than community structures, based on the feudalism of lords who collected the *jezia* tax for the Sublime Porte. At that time the communities did not form social and political bodies with direct power over their subjects. The communities became political with the increased power of European countries and the system of the *millets* and the Capitulations.

Minister Corm viewed the communities as an obstacle between the State and members of the public, and now forming the foundation of the system. The functioning of the State depended on the goodwill of the community leaders, who were under the influence of regional or foreign states. This was why Lebanese sovereignty was bound hand and foot insofar as Lebanon played the role of a buffer state, of an abces of stabilisation, as had been the case in 1840, 1860, 1958 and then between 1975 and 1990. Therefore its sovereignty demanded the depolitisation of the communities and separation between the political structures of the State and those of the communities.

Former Minister George Corm then spoke of the danger of the increasing economic dependence of Lebanon with the continued outlay by the public sector and the increase of the public debt, estimated at \$32 billion, on such pretexts as the reconstruction of the country and the expansion of the Army.

DR. HINDI: RELY ON DEMOCRACY

Leading a discussion organised by the NDU Phoenician Club on Monday, 22nd December, 2003, about the paper he presented at the Maronite Patriarchal Synod concerning "The Philosophy of the Lebanese Entity", **Dr. Toufiq Hindi** considered that Lebanon was a historical constant in the region and that the projects striving for fusion in Lebanon throughout its history were projects for confessional domination, whether or not their authors realised this.

He called for an end to enmity in relations between religious and confessional communities and for working together without being pressured to the limits of possibility to widen common ground.

Answering a question about the existence of Lebanon into the distant future, Doctor Hindi saw the solution to lie in democracy by agreement, with the present national and constitutional understanding constituting something like this democracy, though it was regrettably lacking in application.

MINISTER ARIDI APPEALS FOR HONEST ADMINISTRATION



Speaking at NDU at the commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the decease of Boulos Salameh, held under his patronage on Wednesday, January 14th, 2004, Culture Minister **Ghazi Aridi** called on officials in every position to be upright in their work in deed and not in words. Among the listeners were Administrative Reform Minister **Karim Pakradouni**, Deputy **Robert Ghanem**, Colonel **Assaad Nakhoul** representing the Commander-in-Chief of the Army, **Joseph Qasayfi** representing the President of the Press Syndicate and a number of political and social personalities.

After an introduction by **Mr. Suheil Matar**, NDU Director of Public Relations, NDU President **Father Boutros Tarabay** spoke of four aspects of the departed, his spirituality, his faith, his Christianity and his religion. He was followed by **Doctor Mansour Eid** and by **Alamat es-Sayyed Muhammad Hassan al-Ameen**.

It was then that Minister Aridi spoke, describing Boulos Salameh as a believer, mystic and ascetic, remarkable for the strength of his personality. He was writer, poet and historian. As his father had extracted stones from a quarry and built houses, so he had taken words to make poetry and prose. The Minister used the words of Salameh to address responsible officials, saying, "Fear God and follow the straight and narrow path in deeds and not words." He asked them to guarantee for Lebanese the service of banks both inside and outside the cities so that they could fructify their capital and of cooperatives so that they could face rising prices. He called on the authorities to have a care for the electric power so people could light their streets and places of production and profit from the current to exploit their creative abilities and for their insurance and hospital services. After an appeal for the preservation of the University for learning, thought, production, research and the benefit of the coming generation, Minister Aridi called for an end to corruption.

He insisted that, in a time of clash of civilisations, Lebanon should remain a land of dialogue between cultures and civilisations and a land of variety. All should be uplifted by the name of Boulos Salameh, for all who followed him believed truly in Lebanon.

The son of the deceased, **Attorney Rashad Salameh**, speaking on behalf of his family, then thanked the organisers of the event. Former ambassador **Fouad El-Turk**, then recalled the different periods of the long life of the deceased, who was an example of patience and deep and refined faith and bore suffering as a road to resurrection.

Former minister **Edmond Rizk** described Boulos Salameh as a genius with the marks of holiness, a man of letters and poet. Minister Rizk was followed by the well-known figures of **Samir Atallah**, **Fawzi Atweh**, **Joseph Abou Daher** and **Elias Qatar**. A film was shown about the life of Boulos Salameh and a recording was played of his voice reciting one of his poems.

HERMIT AND APOSTLE

Hermit and Apostle

Such was the title of the book by **Father Charbel Abi Khalil** concerning the life of the Mariamite Maronite monk Father Antonios Tarabay (1911-1998), presented to the public at NDU on 16th January, 2004. Speakers included the **Reverend Abbot François Eid**, Father General, **Father Boutros Tarabay**, NDU President, Governor of Beirut and Mount Lebanon **Yaacoub El-Sarraf**, representing the Minister of the Interior and Town Councils, **Father Charbel Abi Khalil**, and NDU Director of Public Relations **Mr. Suheil Matar**.

The occasion began with the projection of a film about the life of the hermit-priest, followed by a few words by Mr. Suheil Matar about the appropriate timing with the Feast of Saint Anthony the Great, about meetings with the hermit Father Antonios Tarabay, and about Father Charbel Abi Khalil himself. **Cor-bishop Mgr. Youssef Merhab**, pastor of Tannourin, declared for his part, "If after all those years of contempt for the body, austerity and prayer Father Antonios was not a saint, then who was?"

Abbot François Eid spoke about the eremitic tradition in the Universal Church, first followed in the West in the form of a complete break with community life and then followed in the Eastern Churches under another form, by Saint Anthony the Great who had left his hermitage in order to war against the Arian heretics and by the great Cappadocians. He noted that thanks to his Eastern theological and spiritual sensitivity, the author had picked out the distinguishing characteristics of Antiochean eremitic life.

In an address transmitted to the audience by Governor El-Surraf, **Interior Minister Elias El-Murr** said that he had known Father Antonios as a friend. He had performed many wonderful miracles and never complained of the life God had wished for him or shown repugnance. He was a light to guide and his life was a model.

Finally, Father Abi Khalil spoke briefly on two points, his relationship with Father Antonios from June 22nd 1968 until his death on June 20th 1998 and some of his sayings. After he had been presented with a souvenir portrait by **Mr. Youssef Saliba**, Father Sharbel Abi Khalil then proceeded to sign copies of his book

Among those present were the Armenian Orthodox bishop **Mgr. Kighan Hatcharian**, **Bishop Chikrallah Harb** and a large crowd of religious personalities and clergy.

SPIRITUAL RETREAT

It is the custom every semester of **Father Roger Chikri** to invite NDU employees to a spiritual retreat. It was the usual group of staff members that joined him on 13th December, 2003 at the Saint Teresa Priory at Sheileh. **Father Boutros Bou Nassif**, our spiritual guide, was there to give us some of his theological insights. He explained about the great love of God for his people, his creatures, and about how he sent on earth his only Son, Jesus Christ, to save us by his own sacrifice for us. For this reason God sent his Son, Jesus Christ, as a human being created with flesh, blood and soul. In this way there is a very strong and deep relationship between every human being and its Creator, but this relationship cannot be experienced except through our praying to God, loving God and feeling his influence on us every moment in our lives.

I wish to thank the two Reverend Fathers mentioned above for the company they offered us and also **Father Boutros Tarabay**, who before lunch celebrated the Holy Mass for us.

Fadia El-Hajj

Iftar – NDU for all

“This university is for all and not for any one group or denomination or district. Faith in God is far greater than those who try to exploit God for their own ends or to monopolise Him. God is greater than any one party opposed to another and sharing in our religious occasions and feast-days is a part of the Lebanese heritage that must be preserved ... At this joyful feast of Al-Fitr I can only hope that the days should pass over Lebanon and all Muslims, over this suffering region of the world, with happiness and calm. Amid all this smoke of torment and massacres it is our prayer that peace should reign over this earth, by the true fundamentals and not by fundamentalism, by faith and not by fanaticism, by joy in life and not by the carnage of death.”

These were the words addressed to the large number of University officials, deans, chairpersons, staff and students celebrating together at the Iftar given on NDU Main Campus by the NDU Director General of Public Relations **Mr. Suheil Matar**, who was representing NDU President **Father Boutros Tarabay**, unable to be present as he was travelling abroad.

Christmas Dinner

On 19th December, 2003, the staff of the Office of Research and Development met at Manuella Restaurant to celebrate the approaching feast of Christmas. The Reverend Fathers Boutros Tarabay, Samir Ghsoub and Roger Chikri were also invited, but unfortunately Father Chikri was unable to be present as duty called him elsewhere.

Members of the Office with their friends and families were thrilled at being able to meet each other informally, as usually they see each other only when busy with their work and their engagements. The restaurant provided an ideal ambiance for an abundant and tasty meal, relaxation and plenty of lively conversation (ears not being *blasted* by “the sound of music”!)

Information kindly sent by Ms. Fadia El-Hajj.

Chili dinner, hot not chilly!

On 5th December, 2003, *Chili's* restaurant in Ashrafiyeh welcomed the staff of the NDU libraries at Main Campus, North Lebanon Campus and Shouf Campus for their Christmas dinner. The atmosphere was as warm as the sauce on the Mexican food was hot, with all members of the staff appreciating the glow of the coming Christmas and the friendship shared with such congenial colleagues at work. The Acting Director of NDU Libraries, **Mrs. Houeida Charara**, offered the dinner and all the staff joined in giving her a token gift.

The Library personnel wished all the NDU community a Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year.

Information kindly supplied by **Mireille Kassis**.



Library staff- a joyful NDU crowd



The Christmas cake (without chillis!)

CHRISTMAS AT NDU



Father Boutros Tarabay and Father Samir Ghsoub celebrate the Christmas Mass.



A large congregation for the Christmas Mass.

Keep us informed!

We deeply regret the omission in the pages of *NDU Spirit* of any activities of general interest. So we trust that departments, clubs and individuals will keep us informed and send us summaries. Authors of articles and items of information are kindly requested to add their telephone numbers. Contact ext. 2481 (mornings) or 2444.

At NDU Main Campus, Christmas was marked by religious celebration and by various forms of entertainment. At midday on December 23rd, 2003, NDU President **Father Boutros Tarabay** officiated at a solemn Mass celebrated in the Registration Hall which was attended by members of all branches of the NDU family. After the reading of the Holy Gospel, Father Tarabay preached a sermon in which he said that on this Feast what was demanded from us was renewal; during her apparitions the Holy Virgin insisted on renewal in the spiritual life of every one of us. It was important that we should all make very effort in our work to be as a firm rock and to act in a spirit of love.

In the evening entertainment was provided for the children of the NDU family. This was attended by **Father Boutros Tarabay**, the NDU Director of Administration **Father Roger Chikri**, **Father Jean Bou Chrouch**, **Father Salim Raji** and SAO **Father Boulos Wehbe**, as well as by NDU employees and their children. After an opening appropriate to Christmas, animation was provided by Minimum Troop, who sang Christmas music, danced and played with the children until Father Christmas came to hand out gifts to all the little ones.



Father Boulos Wehbe knows how to charm his young audience.



A paternal presence at the children's party.



NDU staff contributed to the entertainment.

CHRISTMAS FIESTA

Eighteen NDU clubs took part in the Christmas Fiesta organised by the SAO on 18th-19th December, 200 in the Registration Hall. Each club had its stand selling gadgets, Christmas Cards, candles, CDs of Christmas carols, marinated potatoes and cookies. Students danced and sang to the sound of music and the whole event provided a rich variety of entertainment and plenty of surprises. The photographs show a selection of club stands.



DISCOVERING SAIDA WITH DR. KARAM



By: George R. Azzi

It was a Saturday morning, I think, when a bus carrying some REG213 and SOL201 students, departed from NDU for a joyful, cultural and educational trip to the South organized by Dr. Clovis Karam. The journey was to cover mainly Saida (the city), Maghdouchy and Jezzine. The trippers' first station was at the "Baba" confectioner's shop in Saida for a "knafet djebn" breakfast. Afterward, they went deeper inside Saida for a visit to the famous Sea Fortress. Then, the students walked through the Old City until they reached the Dabbané palace, a special residence that overlooks the Old Town from one side and the New City from another side. Next, there was a half-an-hour free time designated for shopping, after which the ancient Greek Church was to be explored; a supervisor on duty there recounted that after the Greek Patriarchate of Antioch divided in the 18th century, a wall was built inside that church to split it into two: one for the Greek Orthodox (1/3 of the church) and the other for the Greek Catholics (2/3 of the church). Nearby the church, stands

a modest cell that was probably a one night's lodging for St. Paul during his journey to Rome, passing through Sidon. The guided tour culminated in a cultural aspect when the excursionists reached the Audi islet, a family compound that comprises three distinct, yet interconnected architectural entities: a traditional soap factory; a family residence dating back to the 20th century built above the soap factory; and various lodgings typical of the Medina (Old Town of Saida) that came to be grafted into this compound. The final destination inside Saida was Al-Omari-El-Kabir mosque (the Great Mosque), into which the trippers went barefooted, the girls among them wearing the veil. From the narrow streets of the city of Saida, the trippers headed for the wide hills in the proximity of Saida, for Maghdouchy, more specifically the monastery of Notre-Dame of Mantara. The last station during the journey was at Jezzine for a dinner in the Lebanese way. The following is a more detailed review of subjects discussed during the trip.

Known as the capital of Southern Lebanon, the city of Sidon, named Saidoon by the Phoenicians, Saida by the Arabs and Sagette by the Crusaders, is one of the famous names in ancient history. Sidon is of immense antiquity, but few remains of the ancient city have survived the ravages of time and Man. There is evidence that Sidon was inhabited as long ago as 4000 B.C., and perhaps as early as Neolithic times (6000-4000 B.C.). It was twice destroyed in war between the 7th and 4th centuries B.C., and again during the earthquake in the 6th century A.D.

Like most Phoenician cities, Sidon was built on a promontory facing an island, which sheltered its fleet from storms off the sea and served as a refuge during military incursions from the interior. In its wealth, commercial initiative, and religious sig-

nificance, Sidon is said to have surpassed all other Phoenician city-states. Glass manufacture, the city's most important enterprise, was conducted on such a vast scale that the very invention of glass has often been attributed to it. Remarkably vigorous, too, was the production of purple dye for the clothing of royalty; the small shell of the Murex trunculus was broken in order to extract the pigment that was so rare that it became the mark of royalty. Sidon was also famous in ancient times for its gardens and its twin-basin harbor.

Like other Phoenician city-states,



1- Sea Castle, 2- Khan El Frenj, 3- Hammam el Ward (Rose Public Baths)
5- Aicha Madrassah, 4- Greek Catholic Cathedral of St. Nicholas, 6- St. Louis Castle
7- El Omari Mosque, 8- Soap Museum, 9- Temple of Echmoun

Sidon suffered from a succession of conquerors. At the end of the Persian era in 351 B.C., unable to resist the superior forces of the emperor Artaxerxes III, the desperate Sidonians locked their gates and set fire to their city rather than submit to the invader. More than 40,000 died

in the flames. After this disaster the city was too weak to oppose the triumphal march of Alexander the Great down the coast in 333 B.C. It sued for peace and the Hellenistic age of Sidon began. Under the successors of Alexander, Sidon, the "holy city" of Phoenicia, enjoyed relative freedom and organized games and competitions in which the greatest athletes of the region participated. The city had the status of republic in the early days of Roman domination (64 B.C. - 330 A.D.) before passing into the hands of the Byzantines and, in 667, of the Arabs. In 1111, Sidon was besieged and stormed by the Crusader Baldwin, who was soon to become King of Jerusalem. Under Frankish rule, it became the chief town of the Seigniory of Sagette and the second of the four baronies of the Kingdom of Jerusalem. In 1187, the city surrendered to Saladin, but was recaptured by the Crusader Templars in 1287 before they abandoned it for good in 1291, after the fall of Acre to the Mameluk forces.

In the 15th century, Sidon was one of the ports of Damascus and it flourished once more during the 17th century when Fakhreddine II, then ruler of Lebanon, rebuilt it and made it his winter home, although he was obliged to fill in Sidon's harbor out of fear of the Turkish fleet. Under his protection and with his encouragement, a number of French



19th century engravings of Sidon



merchants set up profitable business enterprises in Sidon for trade between France and Syria, Sidon still being considered the chief port of Damascus. By the beginning of the 19th century, however, Sidon had sunk into obscurity and remained so until the First World War, after which it became a part of Greater Lebanon.

The Sea Castle of Saida is a fortress built by the Crusaders in the early 13th century on a small island connected with the mainland by a fortified bridge. The present bridge is of a later date. It was one of the many castles along the coast, which the Crusaders built to protect the harbors and to ensure the safe landing

of men and supplies from Europe. Today, the fortress consists primarily of two towers connected by a wall. In the outer walls, Roman columns were used as horizontal reinforcements, a feature common to many fortifications built on former Roman sites. The west tower is the better preserved of the two; the east tower has lost its upper floor. A further part of the castle was added during the celebrated visit of King St. Louis to Sidon. Old prints of the fortress show it to be one of great beauty, but little remains of the architectural embellishments and sculptures that once decorated its ramparts. After the fall of Acre to the Mameluks, all the sea castles were destroyed to prevent the Crusaders from re-establishing footholds on the coast.

The Debbané Palace, located in the old city of Saida, is considered as one of the rare testimonies to local architecture during the first centuries of Ottoman domination. The palace overhangs Souk Moutran, from which access is gained through a narrow stairway that leads directly to the palace inner court. Built at the beginning of the 18th century, this luxurious residence includes all the elements of the Arab-Ottoman 'dar' of that era; its layout and decor drawing have been inspired from monumental religious architecture, 'madrassahs' and mosques. An inscription engraved on the wall in one of the rooms gives the date of



The Sea Castle



Inside the Debbané Palace.

construction as the Hegiran year 1134 (1721 A.D.). The palace was originally occupied by the Hammouds (Ali Hammoud), a family of Ottoman 'aghas' of Moroccan origin, and it remained so until 1800, when Youssef Debbané purchased the residence from the Hammoud family. Two typical rooms border the east and northeast of the central courtyard: the 'Diwan', a summer room with a large open archway on one side and, the 'qaat', a T-shaped living room which is made up of a central room, or 'attabah', ornamented with a fountain, and three adjacent rooms or 'diwans'. In 1902, Raphael Youssef Debbané brought in Italian and French architects as well as craftsmen from Damascus to restore the family residence and add two new floors covered by a roof made of red tiles from Marseille. In 1968, the family residence was listed as a historic monument. From 1978 until 1983, due to the occupation of the palace by armed units, some sections and ornaments fell into decay, while others have deteriorated massively. In 1999, the heirs of Georges, François, Jean Debbané and Marie Debbané-Naggear set up the Debbané Foundation, the aim of which is to restore the palace as a building of historical and artistic significance and to turn it into a museum.

The Audi soap factory, part of the Audi islet, is a historic building that was constructed in different stages. The historical analysis of the structure confirmed that its oldest part dates back to the 17th century and that its first extension towards the East goes back to the end of the 19th century, after the demolition of the old city's ramps. In 1880, cousins Nicolas, Chucri and Hanna Audi bought the soap factory (it was already productive when it was purchased) and a few years later added two floors to be used for living purposes by the family members. The factory was rented in the 1970's to Hanna and Nicolas Jabbour, from Douma, who ran it for ten years. During the Lebanese war, due to the lack of safety, the factory was completely abandoned. In 1998, under the management of Raymond Audi, the Audi Foundation decided to convert the family's soap factory into an ethnographic museum that relates the history of soap in the area extending from Aleppo to Nablus, and illustrates the various stages of the production of traditional olive-based soap.

Toward the south from the souk, on the way to the Castle of St. Louis, is the Great Mosque, formerly the Church of St. John of the Hospitalers. The four walls of this great rectangular building (recently restored to their natural beauty) date back to the 13th century. Originally a fortress-like Crusader compound with its own chapel, it is still an imposing structure, especially when viewed from the shore. The palace of Fakhreddine was formerly situated on the terrace to the east of the mosque.

The Mantara grotto in Maghdouchy lies on a hill in the environs of Saida. The origins of the Notre-Dame of Mantara sanctuary go back to the early Christian era. The evangelists Matthew and Mark mentioned in their Gospels (Matthew 15: 21 and Mark 7: 24) that Jesus Christ left Israel "and went to the vicinity of Tyre and Sidon" where he met a Canaanite woman and cast the devil

out of her daughter. According to the Church's tradition, Mary, mother of God, accompanied her son Jesus during his trip to Phoenicia. However, Jesus Christ would not let his holy mother go with him into Sidon and Tyre, as Jewish women were not allowed to go to pagan cities, as these were considered to be sunk in sin. Therefore, he asked her to wait for his return in a cave located on a hill near Sidon, so that at the end of his journey he would come back to take her and head for Israel: "Then Jesus left the vicinity of Tyre and went through Sidon, down to the Sea of Galilee." (Mark 7: 31)

Besides the significance of Sidon's ancient monuments, the greatness of this noble city can be perceived in the writings of some authors acquainted with its history. In 1866, R.P. de Damas mentioned in one of his works that, "Apart from the invention of navigation and the written alphabet, Sidon is credited with the discovery of glass, joinery, stone dressing and wood carving." In 1880, another writer, T. R. Dumas said, "The people of Sidon were the world's first navigators. They built rafts, then rowboats, and the pines and cedars of Lebanon glided away on the sea to distant parts. A people whose trade embraced half the world needed a means of communication to convey messages from place to place. Phoenicia invented the alphabet; the first Greeks acquired writing from the Phoenicians as did all parts of the western world."



Discover the grandeur of the noble city of Saida

Congratulations to George Azzi, or his English Writing. – Ed.

Leaders Authors of Leadership

FATHER ROGER CHIKRI, ED.D.,
DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION, NDU

In his book "Leadership Is An Art" Max DePree profoundly describes leadership concepts, models and skills. The author indicates that leadership is more than a position held by individuals to lead organizations: "*Leadership is much more of an art, a belief, a condition of the heart, than a set of things to do.*" He believes in empowerment that makes people feel they are involved and needed in order to contribute. In their turn, people are supposed to have something to offer to the institution; the minimum they can provide is loyalty, professionalism and commitment to the mission and values of the organization.

He also thinks that participative management is not a tool, a technique; it is a way of life. In his words, "*Participative management arises out of the heart of a personal philosophy about people.*" The belief of a successful management is that employees make a difference in the process of reaching the required outcome. Participative management owes the employees a structure to the organization, but also develops personal relationships in order to make the individuals empowered and eventually productive.

On the basis of the above perspectives it is evident that dedicated, faithful and motivated members are crucial for carrying out the mission of the institution. Moreover, increased productivity is attained only through personal and team development. Staff development is the responsibility of both the management and the individuals; training and in-service sessions provide new skills and enhance performance and competence. In any professional career there is always a need to update knowledge, develop skills, and adopt positive attitudes toward self and toward the institution. The first few years of employment in a profession are critical since special support is necessary for acquiring positive habits that make people's careers start off on the right foot. The following time spent in a career is no less important than the first years and a person needs a constant desire to learn more about his field in order to become more proficient.

Leaders are like the invisible burning fuel of a running car that owes its speed to the combustible gas in the engine connected to different parts of the car system. Leaders are the authors and masters of their leadership model; the way they lead will produce the outcome of their policies and procedures.

The success of companies and institutions is not due merely to individual efforts, but rather to a joint endeavor. Leaders inspire their constituents by providing them with conditions and circumstances so that they can reach their individual and collective potential. In other words, the contribution of individuals to the institution is no less important than the input of the group, and the other way round is equally important.

There is an idea shared among authors and writers that leadership is acquired and cultivated with practice and experience. In addition, there are other effective leadership skills needed, which may be summarized as taking care of the people within the organization (people oriented) and getting the job done (task oriented). The people-oriented model considers highly the significance of the people working toward achieving the objective, while the task-oriented model sees the outcome as the ultimate goal and focus. Motivated people and defined

goals, which are strongly connected, set the desired future state of the organization. A harmonious integration between people and tasks provides a healthy environment, for what we do is the result of what we can be. Since it is the people in the organization who get the job done, their efforts and the outcome of their work will be the measure of the degree of their commitment to the institution.

Organizations, like the people who form them, are always in a state of transformation. Change in organizations is inevitable if they are to survive the challenges of competition and of the demands of the market. The transformational leadership model maintains the current effective elements of the structure and involves the changes necessary to be implemented in ineffective parts of the system to make it whole.

Leaders identify the set of goals and prioritize them into a plan of action. In our case of an educational institution, some of the challenges are administrative and some are academic. The administrative concerns are to create a thorough-going system of services that are well organized and effective. In academics they are to promote research inquiry to bring the curriculum up to date and to align it with the most efficient learning and teaching strategies. It is worthwhile stating that the ultimate goal of development is geared toward the enhancement of faculty teaching and student learning.

Their success and development depend on quality leaders who understand the mission and culture of their institution and clearly communicate their understanding to the members of the organization and make them embrace it both as individuals and as a group. People in any organization need directions and a clear map for their guidance. The absence of such directions will result in poor performance and in lack of commitment.

Where there is no vision, the people will perish (Proverbs 29:18). Effective leaders are ones with a high resolve to create a vision which their followers will strive to make a reality. The fulfillment of the vision requires a process that will lead eventually to the achievement of the objectives. A common vision brings people together to work towards the ultimate goals. Our vision at NDU is to integrate our Christian identity with the American educational system in a unique way so as to promote a variety of cultural academic experiences in Lebanon. The task is a stimulating one, for every day we move one step nearer our goal. There are many challenges and also up-periods and down-periods, but the unseen hand protecting and guiding our institution upholds our hope.

The NDU family is a dynamic learning community open to incorporating the different ranges of academic fields and areas of expertise. The learning organization notably values the development of members and the improvement of performance, all of which will reflect on a successful and flourishing institute of learning. There is a saying, "When you are through with learning, you are through!" Once learning becomes an ongoing and habitual experience for individuals, the learning organization turns out to be not merely a concept but also a reality.

Where do we stand?

To be continued!

Punctuation Problems

It is impossible to exaggerate the importance of correct punctuation. A simple comma by its presence or absence may change the meaning of a sentence. After long neglect, it seems that English-speaking people have suddenly woken up to this fact.

In Britain a certain Lynne Truss recently wrote a book about correct punctuation with the title *Eats, Shoots and Leaves*. Her publishing house, Profile Books, ordered the printing of a modest 15,000 copies, doubtful if even many of these would be sold. To their own surprise and that of many others, including the author, they have found it necessary to order the printing of another 510,000 copies; what is more, arrangements are being made for more copies to be printed in the United States!

The title of the book comes from a joke that begins, "A panda walks into a café..." The panda orders a sandwich, eats it and then fires a gun into the air. On his way out, he tosses a badly punctuated wildlife manual at the astonished cashier, directing him to the entry marked *Panda*.

The cashier reads: "Panda. Large black-and-white bear-like mammal, native to China. Eats, shoots and leaves."

News item kindly provided by **Ms. Sherry Blankenship**.

Les poèmes du temps révolu

Le Rapace Capturé

Antoine Y. Sfeir, *Lettres et Traductologie*

Ainsi, me voilà prisonnier d'une idylle
Sans avoir, pour autant, ni cherché ni voulu
Tels ces rapaces qui, au loin de ces îles,
Se rient des filets puis y cherchent leur salut!

Je fus ce rapace orgueilleux et hautain
Escorté dans mon ciel d'une nuée de butins.
Respirant sur les cimes des parfums insolites.
Les furies gardaient l'entrée de mon gîte.
J'habitais dans le froid d'un ciel orageux.
Audacieux dans mes vols, téméraire, courageux.
L'ouragan me suivait dans mes folles parties.
La tempête et le vent annonçaient mes sorties.

Je partais dans le vent; je partais dans la nuit.
J'ignorais la vertu, le vice et l'ennui,
Le mal et le bien et les peines humaines.
J'étais par delà ces valeurs bien vaines.
Je vivais!... Et par là, je pensais m'affirmer
Que j'existe par moi, sans nul besoin d'aimer
Pour prouver à moi-même que je vis, que j'existe,
Que je dure dans le temps, que tout par moi persiste.
Sous moi donc, je voyais les hordes des humains
S'agiter, se débattre de la tête et des mains.
Leurs cris parvenaient convulsifs jusqu'à moi
Pétrifiés dans les larmes et la peur et l'émoi.
Un fatal destin les achemine certes
Par un cours trompeur qui les mène à leur perte.



J'avais cependant un désir nostalgique
De suivre un mirage séduisant et magique.
A travers le nuage, je me vis bien descendre
Dans la vallée des larmes, de la mort et des cendres.
J'ai quitté mon haut-lieu et les cimes glacées
Où j'étais, semble-t-il, malgré moi placé.
Je souffrais après tout d'un manque de chaleur
Qui procure à mon âme la joie, le bonheur.
De rapace que j'étais, indomptable et cruel,
Je me vis tout soumis sans combat ni duel.
Sur la terre des mortels une voix m'appela.
J'avais le vertige du voyage, j'étais las.
J'écoutais à peine cette voix quand je vis
Ton visage Ô Madone! rayonner dans ma vie.

Je me vois aujourd'hui ce rapace capturé
Et les ailes dans le vent ne cessent de tirer.
Je me dis: Ô rebelle! Jette bas tes armes,
L'amour dans ton coeur te possède, te désarme.
Ô Madone! dont le nom retentit dans ma vie,
Je te remets un coeur rebelle mais ravi.
Sache le dompter, apprivoise ce sauvage.
Verse lui ce nectar. Ne fais point de ravage
Dans ce coeur qui, jadis très hautain et rebelle,
T'est soumis aujourd'hui, Ô Madone, Ô ma belle!



PROSPERITY, GOVERNANCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Dr. Rashid V. Saber

What are the reasons that have played a role in delaying or preventing the development of poor countries? Why do income levels differ dramatically across countries, some enjoying high-income levels while their neighbors do not? National borders mark areas of different economic policies and institutions which tell us something about the extent to which societies have developed economically or failed to do so. Is it the culture? Or are there other factors in the underdeveloped areas which restrain the governments, enterprises and private agencies from functioning efficiently?

At one time, the most plausible explanation for continued poverty in poor nations was the shortage of physical capital. This argument has come under serious scrutiny. Capital could always be borrowed from prosperous countries, and due to its scarcity it must yield higher financial return than in prosperous countries; so the weakness of this explanation of lack of capital has been proved time and time again.

The low economic growth in many developing countries that received foreign aid, and the low productivity of some modern factories built on their soil, have confirmed that shortage of capital is not the only reason

for their low marginal productivity rate; rather it reflects the political instability of those countries, their poor economic policy, and general mismanagement.

From the moment of his leaving the airport, the visitor to a developing nation will encounter a number of peddlers and merchants; also he will notice bazaars, market days and local village shops, yet the economy functions poorly and the locals are living in poverty.

What policies and institutions does a country need in order to change from an economy of peddlers to an economy of wealth? Poor people spend their entire incomes on survival and on meeting daily financial demands, with nothing left over for investment. The low level of per capita income will limit the market capacity to a small size, and discourage investment in large-scale production facilities, and so hinder reaping the benefits of the economy-of-scale status.

Some argue that poor countries suffer from a shortage of skilled manpower and advocate a reliable educational system to supply much-needed human capital. As a general explanation of the failure of most poor countries to develop, emphasis on human capital does not work, as may be seen from the following

observation. India graduates and has more trained engineers per capita than the U.S.A.; as a result, India has become an exporter of highly educated manpower to the industrial world, due to low wages at home and a shortage of compatible job opportunities in its domestic market. A poor country that lacks trained specialists in a particular business field can hire foreign hands as a temporary answer for its economic problems. Thus, human capital is considered an important factor for the development process but its lack cannot serve as a general explanation for the failure of poor countries to catch up with developed nations. Many of the poor countries have a higher proportion of educated people in their labor force than had in their early days many economies which are now well developed.

Researchers have wondered if the cultures in most of the poor countries are to be considered as an impediment to their own economic development. Cultural factors may have a profound significance on how some societies may be better prepared than others to respond to market incentives; in such cases the entrepreneurial initiative of these societies has the necessary ingredients for the functioning of an effective market system.

There can be no doubt that the cultures of poor nations will hardly produce a refined and disciplined professional, but rather a person whose loyalty to his family, caste or tribe will over-shadow all other duties. Consequently, cronyism, nepotism and other forms of corruption are more widespread in the few large-scale organizations of poor countries than in those operating in rich ones. So, as cultural norms are home-grown and difficult to change, researchers suggest a long term socio-economic plan to educate government institutions, business organizations and policy-makers in poor countries and to expose them to the cultural characteristics existing in successful societies. There is admittedly a tendency for societies to imitate cultures that are successful, and therefore cultural diffusion will take place.

However, the most essential element for economic development is a stable form of government, capable of providing law and order, protecting private property rights and overseeing the enforcement of business contracts. Better government of a nation will bring stability to the macro-economic environment, encourage foreign investment, favor domestic production, and consequently increase national income. Capital often flees from politically unstable regimes to more stable democracies, even though the former may be well endowed with capital and offers a modest return on investment.

Checks and balances in the political system, independence of the courts and guaranteed civil rights not only minimize the likelihood of autocracy but also protect property and contract rights. The political stability and greater freedom of true democracies do in fact attract entrepreneurs, businessmen, financiers and industrialists to venture in a secured environment.

With rising globalization, capital, people and ideas are moving more freely from nation to nation, with

less resistance in developing countries to foreign-owned business moving into their domestic market and participating in business opportunity. By buying equity in a business venture or by taking debt from a financial institution, with some interest payment, business practitioners will conclude transactions that will change people's spending pattern via motivation and disciplined business behavior. Social mobility is the result of a dynamic and open capital market. The great differences in the wealth of nations are mainly due to the differences of their economic policies and institutions. In a given country, the largest service provider is the local government. Government agencies are differentiated from firms in the private sector by the nature of their operation and the services provided to their customers. Bureaucrats and politicians in poor countries do not suffer personal bankruptcy, or lose their jobs for having made inappropriate business decisions; even, in most instances, they are not held accountable for the consequences of their disastrous business policy. Officials in the government enjoy the luxury of time to correct their mistakes, while the corporate executives cannot afford to make many mistakes and usually time does not work on their side.

The diseconomy policies adopted by some regimes manifest themselves in spending on construction of mega infrastructure projects, where highways are rarely used, airport facilities are short on traffic and visitors, schools and colleges graduate students to the unemployment lines, and sponsor studies are of no benefit to society.

Countries with a history of corrupt bureaucracy are inclined to have arbitrary authority, to confiscate private property, to frustrate the free market, and to keep the capital market closed, it being understood that opening it will disperse their power and bring along democracy.

It appears, then, that the working

environment of a poor country is inhospitable to large-scale business organizations, and this in turn will prevent the mass production and marketing of goods. A low per capita income in small countries tends to foster small-scale enterprise with a primitive level of technology and the production of a limited quantity of goods to service a small-scale market.

The sheer size of many multinational enterprises worries a number of countries, some of which generate revenues and operate assets exceeding the entire economy of many nations. Opponents of foreign direct investment accuse multinational corporations of social deprivation, environmental debasement, inequitable income distribution, and meddling in local government politics. On the other hand, the proponents of foreign investment link the corporations to higher government revenues, more job opportunities, exposure to the latest techniques and know-how, and improvement in the balance of trade of the host.

Most underdeveloped countries have few modern roads and only a poor rail system to link major cities, which makes the cost and efficiency of transporting manufactured goods risky and expensive. Similar observations have been made regarding the communication network; non-existent or poor infrastructures limit business activities and render them difficult to coordinate.

So the wide differences in per capita income across various countries cannot be explained simply by abundance of natural resources or differences of cultures. The only remaining plausible explanation is that great differences in the wealth of nations are mainly due to differences in the quality of their institutions and economic policies.

Adapted from a paper delivered at the NDU Conference on Poverty, Unemployment and Development in Lebanon, 4th April, 2003.

SOMETHING

for your **GREY** matter

CROSSWORD

CLUES

Across: 1. way out 4. sung right through 9. trivial 11. end of invocation 13. sent at Christmas 14. Japanese opera 15. where soldiers eat 16. black bird that caws 17. degree 18. and so on 21. conserve for cattle 24. symbol of slipperiness 25. able to hold no more 26. asking the reason 27. come down from the clouds 29. that is to say (Latin initials) 30. equality 31. high 34. US trooper 36. hails 38. Paradise lost 39. Dad (colloquial)

Down: 1. NDU faculty 2. mention on a list 3. genealogical table 4. gives you a lift 5. comes with a nib 6. you wouldn't lend him your money 7. before noon 8. skier's delight 10. that and no other 12. sufficient 17. done by a car 19. at 5 o'clock 20. TV short 21. long cut 22. absent without leave 23. looks at 28. belly button 32. cover 33. poisonous snake 35. anybody 37. completes an infinitive

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			39								

Solutions to the crossword in issue 29

Across: 1. Beatles 5. paw 8. arts 10. pat 11. greet 13. sated 15. trap 17. dissipated 21. aspect 22. eel 24. doe 25. leg 27. tap 30. plea 31. tore 32. dojo 34. up 35. amateur 37. seer 38. nesting 39. pest

Down: 1. Baghdad 2. err 3. ate 4. tsetse 6. ape 7. wade 9. BA, MA 12. trick 13. spa 14. tree 16. apt 18. isotope 19. spear 20. dell (valley) 23. Lee 26. garage 28. pear 29. notes 30. pout 31. tusk 32. Dane 33. jest 36. rip