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*Be whoever you want to be. But also let others be whoever they want to be. By respecting others, don't you expect them to respect your choices? Isn't life, with its burdens and changes, nothing but a succession of choices? The more we try, the richer we become. The harder we work, the more we go forward. The more our opinions converge and diverge, the more we build our common redemption. Being what you want to be is your right. And it is also your right to draw to your side anybody else, but not by any means... and above all not by Machiavellian means. See yourself in the other; the black bull knew his turn was coming when he saw the white bull killed by the lion.*

*Editorial Staff*

○ April 2009 | ○ issue 45

ndu  
spirit

*NDU Spirit* A periodical about campus life at Notre Dame University - Louaize.

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## The President's Message

### EDUCATION IS A MIRACLE

**I**t was supposed to be one regular day for the cripple, a day like all others. This man had suffered from paralysis from the day he was born. He had been carried along all his life. The entrance gate of the Temple was the place of his work, where he would spend his day begging from the people. All he would seek at the end was simply a few coins in his pocket. Throughout his many years, he had seen all kinds of people passing by. He had heard all kinds of words and comments on his condition. He was used to all kinds of reactions to his one request... That day, he did not expect that something totally different was going to happen to him. He certainly did not know that his whole life was going to change. That day was not indeed a regular day for the cripple.

It was a day when Peter and John were going up to the Temple for the prayers. There was the man crippled from birth begging as usual from the people at the Temple entrance. It was not the first time that Peter and John had seen him. Nor was it the first time for them to answer his plea. However, this time was very different. It was extraordinary and genuine. This signed the end of an era in the cripple's life and the beginning of a new one!

What did really happen that day?

“When the cripple saw them he begged from them. Peter and John looked straight at him and said, ‘look at us.’ He turned to them expectantly, hoping to get something from them, but Peter said, ‘I have neither silver nor gold, but I will give you what I have: in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, walk!’ Then he took him by the right hand and helped him to stand up. Instantly his feet and ankles became firm, he jumped up, stood, and began to walk, and he went with them into the Temple, walking and jumping and praising God (*Acts of the Apostles* 3:3-8).” This was the great unexpected gift Peter and John gave to the cripple, whose life was never the same after that. This was actually after Pentecost and was the first miracle that happened at the hands of Peter.

What does this story have to do with education? Well, that is how I understand our mission in education. It is to give to our students what we really have. It is to take them by the right hand and help them walk along with us into the Temple of Truth. It is to share with them the joy of the search for truth (*Gaudium de Veritate*). They are there waiting for us, begging from our knowledge and experience. Are we there for them? Are we making a difference in their lives? Have we been able to change their lives? Where are we taking them? Consequently, I ask myself the two interrelated questions: What are we giving? Where are we heading?

Remember that we can never give what we do not have and we can never guide to a place we do not know. Our students are waiting for the “miracle” at our hands!

○ | we can never give what we do not have

President  
Fr. Walid Moussa S.T.D.

## Visit to USA and Canada

On January 30, 2009, Fr. Walid Moussa and Dr. Assaad Eid went on a two-week trip to both the United States and Canada. On the agenda were several events:

- | A. The 2009 Annual Meeting of the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities (ACCU).
- | B. The 91st Annual Meeting of the American Council on Education (ACE).
- | C. Visits to Concordia University, University of Ottawa and Carleton University.
- | D. Meetings with the American and Canadian friends of NDU.

### □ | A. The 2009 ACCU Annual Meeting: Jan. 30 – Feb. 2

The 2009 ACCU Annual Meeting featured a number of plenary sessions and panels on "Higher Education: Hopeful Leadership and Unimagined

Challenges". During the three-day meeting, discussions among participants focused on the following issues:

- | *Catholic Higher Education as an 'Apostolate of Hope'.*
- | *University and Church: Facing the Future Together.*
- | *Fund-raising in a Climate of Volatile Investment Performance.*
- | *Inspiring the Next Generation of Campus Leaders.*

Also, the meeting provided excellent opportunities for presidents and vice-presidents to discuss and exchange views on better ways of enhancing partnerships and cooperative relationships.

▼ From left to right: Ms. H. Khalil, Mr. R. Rihani, Ms. J. Matta, Fr. Walid Moussa, Mrs. C. Haddad, Dr. Assaad Eid and some friends of NDU in USA.



### □ | B. The 91st ACE Annual Meeting: Feb.7-10

This year's annual meeting, titled "Collective Foresight", had been carefully programmed to allow all attendees to participate in sessions that identify emerging trends in higher education and the impact they will have on American universities as well as on those overseas. Areas of focus were the following:

- | *Access, success, equity and diversity.*
- | *Institutional effectiveness.*
- | *Lifelong learning.*
- | *Internationalization.*

The meeting provided excellent opportunities for participants to discuss ways by which partnerships and cooperative relationships might be enhanced.

### □ | C. Meetings at Concordia University, University of Ottawa and Carleton University: Feb. 4 – 5

On Wednesday, February 4, Fr. Moussa and Dr. Eid visited Concordia University.

Catherine Vallejo, Associate Vice President (International), Dr. Louise Dandurand, Vice President, Research and Graduate Studies, and Professor Lorne Switzer welcomed the visitors. At the start, Fr. Moussa gave a brief introduction outlining NDU's history, goals, achievements and future plans. In her introduction, Vice President Louise Dandurand thanked the NDU delegation for their visit and called for closer and more extensive cooperation between Concordia and NDU-Louaize. The meeting wound up with a new Memorandum of Cooperation, the draft of which will be communicated to NDU in the near future.

On Thursday, February 5, Fr. Moussa and Dr. Eid visited the University of Ottawa. In attendance were Gilles Breton, Associate Vice President, Academic (International), Professor Abdallah Obeid, Dr. Vicky Salloum, and Mr. Abdallah Abi-Aad. During the meeting, a new memorandum of agreement was proposed by Dr. Assaad Eid. The proposal was approved, and a first draft will be communicated to NDU before the end of May, 2009. In the afternoon, Dr. A. Eid visited Carleton University in Ottawa to meet with Dr. Karim A. Karim, Director of the School of Journalism and Communication. The meeting offered an excellent opportunity to discuss mutual interests and needs. It was agreed that a Memorandum of Understanding would be outlined and approved by both universities prior to setting future plans and activities.

o | **D. Meetings with the American and Canadian Friends of NDU: Jan. 31 – Feb. 10**

■ Several meetings with NDU's friends were held in Washington, DC, USA, and Montreal, Canada. Discussions focused on setting an action plan for the year 2009 which would help in –

- o | *Enlarging the pool of friends in the US and Canada.*
- o | *Building cultural and educational ties between the Lebanese emigrants and their homeland through providing financial assistance to students who wish to visit Lebanon and at the same time pursue their university studies.*
- o | *Providing financial support to NDU students selected to study abroad.*
- o | *Enhancing relationship between NDU-Louaize and American and Canadian institutions of higher education.*



▲ *Dinner with Fr. Sami Farah and friends in Montreal.*



▲ *Fr. Walid Moussa addresses friends in Montreal.*

◀ *Fr. Moussa, Bishop J. Khoury, Dr. Assaad Eid and Mr. S. Eid.*



## Arab Award for NDU Graduate

The following announcement was issued by the office of Dr. Assaad Eid, Vice President, Sponsored Research and Development, on 29th January, 2009:

This is to announce that Mr. Amine Moussa, an NDU Master graduate in Computer Science ('07), has prepared a research paper with his advisor Dr. Hoda Maalouf, entitled "Performance Optimization in Structured Wireless Sensor Networks", and his paper has been submitted, accepted and presented at the "International Arab Conference on Information Technology" held in Tunisia last December. The paper was selected among the best eight papers at this conference.

Join me in congratulating Mr. Moussa on his achievement and in wishing him success in his future endeavors.

- | **Dr. Assaad Eid,**  
Vice President,  
Sponsored Research  
and Development

The International Arab Conference  
on Information Technology  
General Secretariat



المؤتمر الدولي العربي  
لتكنولوجيا المعلومات  
الأمانة العامة

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No: 7167/292 الرقم:

Date: 12/10/08 التاريخ:

Dear Dr. Amine Moussa,

We are pleased to inform you that your paper

**Paper ID: 62**  
**Paper Title:** Performance Optimization in Structured Wireless Sensor Networks.  
**Authors Name:** Amine Moussa and Hoda Maalouf.  
 has been accepted for presentation at 2008 International Arab Conference on Information Technology (ACIT'2008) which will be organized by the research laboratory MIR@CE (Multimedia, Information & Advanced Computing Laboratory, www.miracl.mta.tn) in collaboration with the Institut Supérieur de l'Informatique et de Multimédia, University of Sfax, Tunisia on December 16<sup>th</sup>- 18<sup>th</sup> 2008. The decision was based on the reviewers' evaluation reports.

The final electronic version of your paper **must** be submitted using the ACIT OpenConf System at <http://www.acit2k.org/openconf/> **before Oct 15<sup>th</sup> 2008** in order to be presented and published in the proceedings of ACIT'2008.

The registration will be open during the period October 1<sup>st</sup> - November 1<sup>st</sup> 2008. Kindly fill in the registration form available at <http://www.acit2k.org/>. Papers with late registration (after Oct 15<sup>th</sup> 2008) cannot be included in the conference proceedings.

In preparing the final version of your paper, include the paper title, a complete list of authors along with their affiliations and countries, a brief abstract, and a set of keywords all in a one column format. The rest of the text follows in a two column format. You can refer to our web site at <http://www.acit2k.org/final.html> for more information and instructions in preparing your camera-ready version of your paper and for the sample paper that is prepared according to the instructions of ACIT. Following this template is mandatory for publication.

Thank you for submitting a paper to ACIT'2008 and congratulations on its acceptance. We look forward to meeting you in Tunisia for a very rewarding and professional stimulating conference.

Regards,  
  
**Dr. Emad Abu Elrub**  
 Secretary General, ACIT'2008



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## IEEE Lebanon Section

### Dr. Elias Nassar elected Chairperson

Dr. Elias Nassar, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering at NDU, was elected for a two-year term starting January 1, 2009 as the Chairperson of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Lebanon Section. The IEEE Lebanon Section consists of about 900 members who are engineers, faculty members and engineering students. A non-profit organization, IEEE is the world's leading professional association for the advancement of technology. Through its global membership, IEEE is a leading authority on areas ranging from aerospace systems, computers and telecommunications to biomedical engineering, electric power and consumer electronics among others. Members rely on IEEE as a source of technical and professional information, resources and services. To foster an interest in the engineering profession, IEEE also serves student members in colleges and universities around the world.

The members of the new elected executive committee of IEEE Lebanon Section are:

- | Dr. Elias Nassar (Dean, NDU), Chairperson
- | Mr. Ghassan Shaaban (Manager, Dar ElHandasah), Vice- Chairperson
- | Dr. Hadi Sawaya (Chairperson of INCI, ESIB-USJ), Treasurer
- | Dr. Imad ElHajj (Professor, AUB), Secretary
- | Dr. Usamah Farrukh (Professor, HCU), Membership Development Officer
- | Mr. Ahmad Adra (General Manager, Saudi Cables), Representative to the Government



◀ From left to right: Dr. Imad El Hajj, Dr. Hadi Sawaya, Dr. Usamah Farukh, Dr. Adnan Alaoui, Mr. Ghassan Shaaban, Mr. Ahmad Adra, Dr. Elias Nassar

For more information on the IEEE and IEEE publications visit:  
[www.ieee.org](http://www.ieee.org) | [www.ieeeexplore.ieee.org](http://www.ieeeexplore.ieee.org)

# Common Platforms for Bridging Cultures



▲ Mr. Kamal Darouni and Dr. Naji Oueijan.

## – NDU's Second Panel Discussion

Promoting research and scholarship at NDU, the Office of the Vice President for Sponsored research and Development and the Organizing Committee of the Second Panel Discussion, "Common Platforms for Bridging Cultures", invited faculty members and graduate and undergraduate students working under the direct supervision of faculty members from various fields of specialization (Humanities, Business, Political Science, Arts, Engineering, Natural and Applied Sciences, etc.) to make 20-minute presentations on January 21, 2009. Eighteen panelists (four faculty members and sixteen students) participated in the event and provided answers to the following question: *How important was/is the Middle Eastern world, more specifically the Arab world, to the West and vice versa?*

The Introductory Session was moderated by Prof. Naji Oueijan, Chair of the Organizing Committee, which included Dr. Leila Khalaf Keyrouz, Dr. Eugene Sensenig-Dabbous, Dr. Hassan Hamadi, and Mr. Robert Haddad. Prof. Oueijan confirmed that in the "fields of knowledge including science, mathematics, philosophy, law, astrology, medicine, literature, etc., which constitute the basic layers of cultures and civilizations, the East and West meet on

several platforms with interrelated influences. ... When we as scholars and students objectively study the interrelated influences between the East and West, we are not only advancing knowledge of Self and Other but also bridging world cultures; this by itself is significant because it promotes the culture of peace."

Prof. Assaad Eid, Vice President for Sponsored Research and Development, emphasized the importance of genuine research at NDU. He also added, "Universities have a special role in working across borders to help in bridging cultures through research and cooperation. Faculty members and students should become familiar with the world and make themselves known to the world. Such an endeavor is not quite easy because understanding culture or interpreting cultural differences can be a very challenging experience. This is due to the diversity and complexity of culture, as well as its constantly changing nature."

The Keynote Speaker and Director of International Office, Prof. Michael Nehme, presented a paper entitled, "Dialogue Producing Creativity vs. Discussion leading to Compromise". Dr. Eugene Sensenig-Dabbous moderated the first session, which included Ms. Najwa

Nammour, Mr. Elias Beaini, Ms. Sanaa Najm, Ms. Caroline Ashkar, and Dr. Thomas Scheffler, who made a seminal presentation entitled, "Christian Social Teaching: an Ongoing History of Exchange between East and West". The second session was moderated by Dr. Hassan Hamadi, who presented Mr. Elias Beaini, Mr. Wassim E. Maalouf, and Dr. Amal Saleeb Malek, who made a significant presentation entitled "The Effect of Western Education on the Lebanese Society". The third session was moderated by Dr. Leila Khalaf Keyrouz. Ms. Mirna Shoueiry, Ms. Christel Dahdouh, Ms. Rouba Douaihy, and Dr. Eugene Sensenig-Dabbous, and his students Mr. Elie Moussallem, Ms. Pascale Moussawbah, Mr. Hamid Abdulla, and Mr. Azzi Mourani, presented a paper entitled, "The Compatibility of Western Research Methods in the MENA Region". Prof. Assaad Eid and Prof. Naji Oueijan thanked the audience and the panelists and declared that the third panel discussion would take place by the end of Spring 2009.



▲ From left to right: Ms. Pascale Moussawbah, Mr. Hamid Abdallah, Mr. Elie Moussallem, Dr. Leila Khalaf Keyrouz, Dr. Eugene Sensenig-Dabbous, Mr. Azzi Mourani and Dr. Assaad Eid.



▲ Dr. Amal Malek, Dr. Hassan Hamadi, Mr. Wassim Maalouf, Mr. Elias Beaini and Dr. Assaad Eid.



## NDU ALUMNI AWARDS 2008



### o | Dr. Roch-Antoine T. Mehanna

BBA – Business Marketing (NDU) 1991

MBA – Finance (University of New Orleans)

PHD – Business Strategy (University of Louisiana)

Currently the Director of Graduate Studies, Faculty of Business Administration at NDU



### o | Michel Georges El-Murr

BS – Computer Science (NDU 1992)

Michel works in the family business, owner of one of the well-known libraries in the Kesrwan Region.



### o | Naji Joseph Sfeir

BBA – Business Marketing (NDU 1992)

MBA – Business Administration (NDU 1994)

DEA – Marketing (Université Libre de Bruxelles)

PHD – Tourism & Hospitality Management (Université de Perpignan)

Currently teaches at the University of Balamand and manages the family business – Al Medina, a Hotel & Beach Resort.

*With the NDU Alumni Award ceremony for the first time NDU graduates who distinguished themselves through personal and professional achievements were honored. Their personal stories portrayed in short documentaries were a source of inspiration for the audience. They were also a source of much pride for NDU's academic family and staff.*

*More than 350 alumni attended the NDU Alumni Awards 2008, and many had a story or two to tell when reconnecting with friends they hadn't seen for years, and were moved near to tears by the Alumni Award Recipients' acceptance speeches and award presenters through the evening.*

*The event began with the honoring of the NDU Alumni Association's former presidents; Dr. Roch Antoine Mehanna, Mr. Michel Murr and Dr. Naji Sfeir.*

The award presenter was Fr. Boutros Tarabay, MMO, Past President of NDU 1987-1993 and 1999-2005. The NDU Alumni Association was an initiative of his first mandate as President of NDU in 1991-1992. Fr. Tarabay served two terms in office.







○ | **Robert Mario Ohanessian**

BS Computer Science (NDU 1995)

Robert has been living in the UAE since 1997. In 2003, he joined Data Processing Systems (DPS), an aviation company specialized in airports system integration, which enhances airport safety navigation. He was a fellow founder of the Alumni group in Dubai, and currently heads the NDU Alumni Group - United Arab Emirates (UAE). Robert received the first Recognition Alumni Award for his hard work in revitalizing the UAE group.

The award presenter was Mrs. Mona Kana'an, General Secretary of the NDU Board of Trustees, Chairperson of the Development Committee of the Board of Trustees.



○ | **Nicole Edmond Tohme**

BA – Journalism (NDU 2002)

MA – Media Studies /Journalism (NDU 2004)

Nicole is currently working as a journalist in *Al-Nahar* newspaper. She practices the gathering and dissemination of information about current events, trends, issues, and people through a special programme *Absar* designed for visually impaired individuals.

What distinguishes Nicole is that she has been visually impaired from birth. Her determination and the support she got from her parents, from NDU and from the late deputy Mr. Gebran Tueini show that disability need not be the end of the world but can be the start of a new one.

The award presenter was Mr. Ghassan Hajjar, Chief Editor, NAHAR ASH SHABAB and An Nahar Youth and Education Pages editor.



○ | **Cynthia Jabbour Sfeir**

BA – Business Economics (LAU '91)

MBA – (NDU '97)

Cynthia started working in the Business Office at NDU in 1991. Currently she assumes the function of Head Accountant.

The award presenter was Fr. Bechara Khoury, MMO, NDU Director of Finance. Having been the Director of Student Affairs, Fr. Khoury understands students' needs and works on helping them with their difficulties in his current capacity of Director of Finance.



○ | **Annette Maalouf Rami**

BBA – Business Marketing (NDU 1991)

Annette belongs to the first graduating class of NDU. She started her career as marketing manager in a computer company, working there for six years. She moved on to establishing along with her brother the well-known Casper & Gambini. With her husband, she put together Water Lemon, Café Blanc and Living Colors. Annette's innovative concept of café-restaurant earned her an international reputation, for she was chosen one of the fifty top business women in the Middle East.

The award presenter was Dr. Roy Khoueiry, Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Business Administration & Economics.



○ | **Ziad Jean Akl**

MA – International Law (NDU 2004)  
MA – Public Administration (NDU 2005)  
Head of YASA Group

With a group of friends, Ziad started an awareness project aiming at safety promotion and injury prevention soon after the tragic death of Tarek Assi in 1994, a 19 year-old university student. This project was registered as the Youth Association for Social Awareness (YASA) – a non-profit non-Governmental Organization (NGO) – in Lebanon in 1996. In 2001, YASA International started its work through participating and organizing events and programs aiming towards safety awareness in various Arab countries.

The award presenter was Mrs. Nelly Alam, a mother of two NDU students who passed away in a car accident on their way back home on the Batroun Highway. They were dead on the scene. She urged the audience, mostly Alumni, to drive safely.



○ | **Mark Rafik Kozah**

Bachelor in Engineering –  
Mechanical Engineering (NDU 1999)

Mark has had a remarkable career as a professional basketball player. He is currently the Head of the Mechanical Engineering at SEG-Lebanon.

Mark is emotionally tough, physically tough, and spiritually tough.

The award presenter was Mr. Tony Baroud, former member of the Lebanese national basketball team. He is now a sports commentator and a TV entertainer with the Lebanese Broadcasting Corporation (LBC).



○ | **Hilda Georges Khalife**

BA – Advertising / Marketing (NDU 1997)

Hilda is one of Lebanon’s most famous TV personalities. Her career is riding high. Her professional and witty presentation of the Star Academy Program has undoubtedly brought her fame.

The award presenter was Mr. Simon Abou Jaoude, Director of Alumni Affairs Office, an active builder and tireless worker of NDU. He has known Hilda in the different capacities he has assumed at NDU.



○ | **Johnny Antoine Ibrahim**

BBA – Business Management (NDU ‘91)  
MBA & MIAD (NDU ‘94)  
MA– Diplomacy (Mediterranean Academy for Diplomatic Studies)  
MA- Public Administration (Ecole Nationale d’Administration -France)  
LLM – International Criminal Law. (Leiden University, Netherlands)

You can clearly perceive Johnny’s love for his alma mater in his words; you can also see it in his actions. His biggest fans are his wife Maya and his two children. He said, “Two truths are worth remembering; Lebanon is our country and I want my children to stay here.”



○ | Ara Boghos Khatchadourian

BBA – Economics (NDU 1996)

MA – International Relations (LAU)

Ara is currently pursuing Executive MBA at the Ecole Supérieure des Affaires.

Ara’s gracious persona has clearly played a substantial role in his career, and he always prides himself on being an NDU graduate. His future looks bright, to say the least.



○ | Fadi Joseph Ziadeh

BBA – Business Marketing (NDU) 1996

MBA – International Relations

Fadi is a public persona *par excellence*. He knows how to steal the spotlight.

The award presenter was Mr. Suheil Matar, Director General for Public Relations. Mr. Matar has been a major contributor to the NDU family and its academic establishment.



○ | Youssef Sami Haddad

BBA – Business Management (NDU 1991)

MBA – Business Administration (NDU 1994)

His becoming the youngest major in the history of the Lebanese Army speaks volumes about his maturity and leadership at such a young age.

The award presenter was Mrs. Lea Eid, Registrar.

Mrs. Eid is one of the pillars of NDU. She joined the University early on to shoulder one of the most difficult tasks. Mrs. Eid brought into being the Registrar’s Office as we know it today.

## ALUMNI BY CHOICE

One week after the Alumni Awards Ceremony, a spate of instant articles appeared in various magazines. Most repeated the same clichés about the event, which had been such a huge surprise, and about the award titled “Alumni by Choice”, which attracted much attention. The award was for those who had not studied in NDU. It could be a friend, a business associate, even a beloved sibling or spouse. They are special to the Alumnus/Alumna Association.

Mr. Tony Baroud, former member of the Lebanese national basketball team, is now a sports commentator and a TV entertainer with the Lebanese Broadcasting Corporation (LBC). In his acceptance speech, Tony brought a smile to the audience when he said that most people think he is an NDU graduate, because of his spiritual affiliation to the sponsoring society of NDU, the Maronite Order of the Holy Virgin Mary. In fact he is a graduate of the Notre Dame Louaize School rather than of the University.





Mrs. Nancy Zakharia Ohanessian was nominated by her husband Robert Ohanessian. In his letter, Robert said that the reason behind her nomination is Nancy's commitment and enthusiasm to assist in any NDU Alumni event as if she were a part of NDU. She always encouraged him in whatever gathering, activity or meeting with the alumni.

## 2008 EDITION – TOP 50 ALUMNI LIST

Notre Dame University (NDU) is the Alma Mater for around nine thousand students. NDU has seen a number of its graduates progress to make a great impact in the workplace. The list of the "Top 50 most notable Alumni (Male) of the year 2008" and the "Top 50 most notable Alumnae (female) of the year 2008" was compiled on the basis of NDU Alumni nominations.

### TOP 50 ALUMNAE LIST in random order

Mariana Angelini, Joyce Bou Sader, Karla Sfeir, Pamela Girgi, Nathalie Kallassy, Carole Assaf, Berthe Barakat, Joyce Jammal, Betty Hindi, Yvonne El-Hachem, Mona Zgheib, Danielle Khalil, Sherine Keyrouz, Lina Rahme, Christy Mady, Grace Ayanian, Pauline Sawaya, Stephanie Faysal, Tracy Damien, Sarya Rahme, Ghada Chidiac, Liliane Boustany, Nicole Bardawil, Valerie Aoun, Zeina Khoury, Jennifer Matta, Aline Helou, Angy Akly, Joana Nakhal, Fadia El-Hajji, Sandra Khoury, Nelly Derghazarian, Sandra Haddad, Cynthia Filian, Rania Sabeh, Stephanie Faysal, Amy Aoun, Pia Zeinoun, Jennifer Matta, Corine Farhat, Juliana Hawi

- Top 1 – Myrna Khayat
- Top 2 – Ward El-Khal
- Top 3 – Celine Zeinoun



The runners-up are Nicole Bardawil, Karla Sfeir and Betty Hindi

### TOP 50 ALUMNI LIST in random order

Dany Chakhtoura, Fady Elie Kana'an, Cesar Reshdan, Roland Khoury, Maher Khawkhaji, Jad Bechara, Elie Nasr, , Waleed Nassif, Ramzi Hage, Ghassan Beyrouthy, Marwan Keyrouz, Jihad Karam, Emile Moukarzel, Eddy Boueiz, Souhad Bou Chabke, Elie Hanna, Antoine Zarifeh, Rabih Farhat, Elie Daou, Nohra Beani, Halim Masrouha, Farid Haykal, Joe Baroud, Bassem Ghaoui, Tarek Karam, Jean Pierre Keyrouz, Abdo Ghaoui, Wissam Sfeir, Rock Hakim, Alain Rahi, Joe Saliba, Roger Jabaly, Rabih Dib, Sam Lahoud, Lucien Bou Rjeily, Yves Sfeir, Roy Malkoun, Sam Lahoud, Georges Abou Ghosh, Marc Mouawad, Elie Jurascovitch, Elie Sayegh, Ziad Zoghbi, Habib Rahal, Elie Matar, Nehman Hachem, Ziad Matar.



- Top 1 & 2 – two nominees with equal voting: Hady Hajjar & Youssef El-Khal
- Top 3 – Peter Tawk

The runners-up are Dany Chakhtoura, Roger Jabaly and Nohra Beaini





## NDU at 2nd Beirut Water Week

February 4 – 7, 2009 Beirut, Lebanon

*Under the patronage of H. E. the President of the Republic of Lebanon General Michel Suleiman and at the initiative of The Lebanese Ministry of Energy and Water (MEW) General Directorate of Hydraulic and Electrical Resources (GDHER), The 2nd Beirut Water Week "Meeting of Experts and Water Directors in the Mediterranean Basin" was held as a contribution to the Mediterranean Consultation for the 5<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum. This was organised by the Lebanese Ministry of Energy and Water and the Global Water Partnership - Mediterranean with the support of the Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative and of the Greek Government and of the French Government's French Development Agency. The conference was held at the Metropolitan Palace Hotel, Beirut, Lebanon. The NDU Faculty was represented by its members and NDU students from various disciplines also attended.*

At six in the evening on the Wednesday, there was an introductory session with the presence of H.E. Alain Tabourian, Minister of Energy and Water. It was co-chaired by Dr. Fadi Comair, Director General of Hydraulic and Electrical Resources at the Lebanese Ministry of Energy and Water, and by Professor Michael Scoullas, Chairman, Global Water Partnership–Mediterranean (GWP-

Med). This was followed by a cocktail.

Represented were MED EUWI/Greece with Mr. Emmanuel Kakavelakis, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Greece in Lebanon; GWP with Mr. Aly Kerdany, Network Officer; BLUE PLAN (MAP/UNEP) with Mr. Henri-Luc Thibault, Director; AFD with Mr. Francis Stephan, Director, Lebanon; RED Ethique with Mr. Hervé Lainé, President; OIEau with Mr. Jean François Donzier, General Director; IME with Mr. Hachmi Kennou, Executive Director; FAO with Mr. Ali Moumen, Representative of FAO in Lebanon; CDR with Mr. Nabil Al Jisr, President; SEMIDE with Mr. Walter Mazzitti, President; ESCWA with Mrs. Anhar Hegazi, Chief of Division, Sustainable Development and Productivity; and the League of Arab States with Mrs. Chahra Ksia, Chief of the Centre of Water and Arab Water Security Studies.

On Thursday morning, registration was followed by an opening session covering the context of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Beirut Water Week. With Professor Scoullas in the chair, speakers included Dr. Fadi Comair; H.E. Ms. Roza Ieremia, Ambassador, Directorate for International Economic Organisations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Greece; Mr. Mohamed Abdel Moneim Shehata Wahba, Minister's Office, Ministry for

Water Resources and Irrigation, Egypt; Prof. Michael Scoullos and Mr. Hachmi Kennou, Executive Director, Institut Méditerranéen de l'Eau, Regional Coordinator of the Preparatory Process for the Mediterranean Session at the 5<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum

After coffee break, the theme of the session was Water Governance in the Mediterranean, with emphasis on the Middle East and North Africa. In the chair were Prof. Selim Catafago, Chairman Litani River Authority, and Dr. Emad Adly, Arab Network for Environment and Development. Speakers included Mr. Vangelis Constantianos, Executive Secretary, Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean; Mr. Eric Mino, Coordinator, Euro-Mediterranean Information System on Know How in the Water Sector; Dr. Shaddad Attili, Chairman Palestinian Water Authority (message read by Dr. Emad Adly); Dr. Fadi Comair; Mr. Georges Kamar, Expert, MOTGE project.

For the session commencing at midday the theme was Climate Change Adaptation and Water Resource Management with Emphasis on the Middle East and North Africa. The session was co-chaired by Mr. Miguel Antolin,

Ministry of Environment, Rural and Marine Affairs, Spain, and Mr. Mohamed Bany-Mustafa, Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation, Jordan. Speakers were Mr. Ramiro Martinez, Mediterranean Network of Basin Organisations; Mr. Tarek Sadek, UN Economic and Social Commission for West Asia; Mr. Messaoud Terra, Director for Potable Water, Ministry for Water Resources; Prof. Wajdi Najem, Dean of Faculty of Engineers (USJ), and Mr. Michel De Vivo, International Commission of Large Dams.

The theme at the session after lunch at the Metropolitan Palace Hotel was Water Demand Management, with an emphasis on irrigation and water pricing in the Middle East and North Africa. The co-chairmen were H.E. Mr. Adel Cortas, Former Minister of Agriculture, FAO Expert, Lebanon, and Mr. Henri-Luc Thibault, Director, Blue Plan / MAP UNEP. The speakers Mr. Henri-Luc Thibault; Mr. Mohamed Abdel Moneim Shehata Wahba, Minister's Office, Ministry for Water Resources and Irrigation, Egypt; Mr. Gert Soer, Head, Regional Monitoring and Support Unit, MEDA Water Programme and Promoting Action for Water Demand Management; and Prof. Selim Catafago, Chairman, Litani River Authority.

The theme of the late afternoon session was Water Financing, with an emphasis on Public-Private Partnership for the management of the hydraulic infrastructures (contract and regulation). The co-chairmen were Mr. Walter Mazzitti, Ministry for Environment, Italy, and Mr. Mohamed

Moctar Ould Mohamed, Ministry of Hydraulics, Energy, Information Technology and Communications, Mauritania. The speakers Mr. Walter Mazzitti, Mr. Khaldon Khashman, Arab Countries Water Utilities Association, and Mr. Bassam Jaber, Former Director General of Exploitation (MEW), Lebanon. There was a visit to downtown Beirut before dinner.

The theme of the first session on Friday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, was The Role of Education for Sustainable Development and of Universities in developing a Water Culture. The chairman was Prof. Wajdi Najem, Dean of Faculty of Engineers (USJ) and the speakers Prof. Michael Scoullos; Mr. Jean François Donzier, Director General, International Network of Basin Organisations; Prof. Fadel Mohtsem, American University of Beirut, Lebanon; Prof. Jacques Harb (NDU); Mrs. Maya Aoun (AVSI); Dr. Jalal Halwani, Lebanese University, and Ms. Jeannette Prétot, Président, Ambassade de l'Eau, France.

The second morning session discussed Regional Cooperation for the Management of Transboundary Water Courses: Lessons Learned and the Role of Hydro-diplomacy in the Middle East and North Africa. In the chair were Dr. Fadi Comair and Ms. Chahra Ksia, Chief of the Centre of Water and Arab Water Security Studies, League of Arab States. The former spoke on Experiences from the Management of Transboundary Water Resources in the ESCWA Region. Other speakers were Mr. Jean François Donzier, Director General, International Network of Basin Organisations, Mr. Vangelis Constantianos, Executive



Secretary, Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean, and Ms. Angéline Fournier, Lawyer and Negotiator.

At midday the session opened for Conclusions and Recommendations for the Input to the Mediterranean Message to the 5<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum. This was chaired by Dr. Fadi Comair, H.E. Ms. Roza Ieremia, Ambassador, Directorate for International Economic Organisations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Greece, and Prof. Michael Scoullous.

The lengthy afternoon session covered The Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative in Lebanon with Results of Phase I of MED EUWI Country Dialogue on Reviewing the Lebanese 10-year Water Strategy and Launching the Drafting of the Lebanese IWRM Plan. The Session was supported by the MEDA Water Programme. This

too was chaired by Dr. Fadi Comair, H.E. Ms. Roza Ieremia, and Prof. Michael Scoullous, who introduced the session. Speakers were Vangelis Constantianos, Alain Tidière, Lead Water Expert, MED EUWI Team, with Michael Bakalowicz, Antoine Hreiche George Kamar, Experts, Med EUWI Team, and again Alain Tidière and Prof George Scoullous.

On Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, participants were received by H.E. President of the Republic Michel Suleiman.

The Beirut Input message to the Mediterranean Message to the 5<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum stressed the following points: the need for peace and security as prerequisites for sustainable management and allocation of water; the need for appropriate legal, regulatory and enforcement tools; the increased

pressures on water resources and infrastructure in coastal areas due to litoralisation and tourism; the pressures resulting from climate change; the need for checks on valuable ground water; keeping the Millennium Development goals in sight; investment needs; the need to protect ecosystems to ensure good quality water; the need for education on sustainable development both inside and outside schools and for a *culture of water*; the need for research on all aspects of water with reliable and comparable data and monitoring; the need for the media to play a more systematic and constructive role; and the need for international agreement on transboundary water bodies.

▼ Participants at the Conference with H.E. President of the Republic General Michel Suleiman.



■  
 In his speech of welcome opening the conference Dr. Fadi Comair, Director General of Hydraulic and Electrical Resources, Director of WEERC, Professor at Notre Dame University, and Director of the Organization Committee, pointed out that the Lebanese Ministry of Energy and Water–General Directorate of Hydraulic and Electrical Resources, with the assistance of regional partners, had initiated in Lebanon in November 2005 the Beirut Water Week, a Mediterranean multi-event which gathered around 200 delegates including Ministers, Water Directors and Experts, Parliamentarians members of COMPSUD, and representatives of national and international organizations. It served as a platform of dialogue for all the water stakeholders and identified challenges, needs and priorities for action related to key issues of Integrated Water Resources Management at regional and national levels, including in the context of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership.

At the recent Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Water initiated by the Union for the Mediterranean (December 2008, Dead Sea), His Excellency Minister Alain Tabourian had invited to Lebanon the water directors to discuss issues emerging from the Ministerial Declaration.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Beirut Water Week to be held now would serve these objectives, affirmed Dr. Comair. It was an initiative of the Lebanese Ministry of Energy and Water and the Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean (GWP-Med), with the support of the Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative (MED EUWI), the French Government, the French Development Agency, the UPM and other donors. It indicated the firm commitment of the Mediterranean water community to work in a peaceful and constructive way for the benefit of the entire sub-region.

The Ministerial Declaration stressed the urgent need to reduce inequalities in the distribution of water resources and to contribute to the development of the southern Mediterranean countries, in which the European Union and the Union for the Mediterranean would have an important role. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Beirut Water Week would contribute to addressing key IWRM questions particularly in the context of developing the new Strategy on Water in the Mediterranean. These could be summarized as –

- 
- | How to achieve good water governance at national and local levels around the Mediterranean Basin?
  - | How to limit the effects of climate change in the countries of the region and properly adapt?
  - | How to manage sustainably the scarce water resources, ensuring access to sufficient quantity and quality of water for the people and nature, through water demand management application?
  - | How to sufficiently finance the water sector?
  - | How to substantially promote education and public awareness on water issues?
  - | How to eliminate the spectre of water wars, particularly in the South-Eastern Mediterranean Basin, by encouraging governments to adopt a participatory policy in management?





## German Government publishes LERC Affiliate's Paper

Dennis Kumetat, Master's Student in Middle Eastern Studies at the Center for Arab and Middle Eastern Studies (CAMES) at the AUB, a LERC Research Affiliate last spring surveying Lebanese opinion about Germany, German-Lebanese relations, the emigration of Lebanese to Germany and the role of the German army in the UNIFIL, released his thesis in August 2008 titled *The Perception of Germany in Lebanon – A Qualitative and Quantitative Survey*. Parts of this work were published last December as a working paper called *Lebanese Perceptions of German Middle East Policies and the German Participation in the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon* for the Middle East and Africa Division of the German Institute for International and Security Affairs, a German government think-tank.

## IFP Group and LIBC Officials Visit LERC

By LERC Staff

On Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> December, 2008, LERC received Mr. Albert Aoun, Chairman of International Fairs and Promotions (IFP), and Mr. Bassam Kantar, Journalist and Media Planner for LIBC, accompanied by Mr. Danny Asfour. The purpose of their visit was to invite LERC as partners for the Planet Lebanon 2009 which will take place in Beirut on 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of July 2009, as well as to familiarize themselves with LERC research and information infrastructure.

The meeting with Ms. Guita Hourani, Director of LERC, dealt with the interest of the organizers of Planet Lebanon 2009 in having NDU represented by LERC as the academic collaborator.

The 2009 event will bear the name Lebanese-Arab Expatriates Networking Conference and will have as its patron H.E. General Michel Sleiman, the President of the Republic. The conference expects to attract entrepreneurs, businessmen, governmental and non-governmental officials, financiers, economists, bankers, academics and representatives of diverse national, regional and international institutions. The conference panels will discuss topics ranging from diaspora-homeland relations to finance, banking, development, ICT, real estate development, and tourism among others.

The visitors were introduced to the electronic Lebanese Emigration Archive and Database (LEAD), with Ms. Liliane Haddad presenting the diverse collections, from academic and intellectual texts to cultural and audio-visual subjects.

In the Lebanese Migration University Museum the visitors were introduced to LERC collections from around the world. Mr. Aoun showed great interest and was happy to have recognized photos of persons he knew. On leaving NDU, he expressed his amazement at the beauty of the campus and his admiration for what LERC has done so far.



▲ Ms. Haddad, Chairman Aoun and Journalist Kantar exploring the material in LEAD (Dec 2008).



▲ Left to right: E. Nabhan, B. Kantar, A. Aoun, G. Hourani, R. Khatlab, R. Araujo at the museum (Dec 2008).

## Visiting Malta Professor welcomed at LERC



▲ *Dr. Zammit pictured at LERC during his working visit to Lebanon (Feb 2009).*

Following the Memorandum of Understanding between NDU and the University of Malta, in February the Lebanese Emigration Research Center welcomed Dr. Martin Zammit for a two-week working stay in Lebanon. He is a scholar of Semitic Languages at the University of Malta specializing in Arabic and Syriac and a Senior Lecturer at the University's Department of Arabic and Near Eastern Studies.

He discussed future cooperation and in particular learnt details about NDU's Summer Arabic Language Program. He also familiarized himself with the Arabic and Syriac manuscripts that are digitized and held in the Center. He visited l'Université Saint-Espirit, Kaslik, to view the collection of Syriac and Arabic manuscripts, and Deir el-Sharfeh (Syrian Catholic Patriarchate) for the collections there. He visited the University of Balamand and the Center for Eastern Studies and Research (CERO) in Antelias.

Dr. Zammit has published a book *'Enbe men Karmo Suryoyo* (Bunches of Grapes from the Syriac Vineyard: A Syriac Chrestomathy), a volume of Syriac prose and poetry from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup> centuries A.D.. Intended primarily for students who have covered the essentials of Syriac morphology and syntax, it holds interest for anyone who enjoys Syriac literature in general. Dr. Zammit has also published *A Comparative Lexical Study of Qur'anic Arabic*. Dr. Zammit was granted an audience with His Beatitude Cardinal Mar Nasrallah Boutros Sfeir to present his book.

## Japanese Scholars pay visit to LERC

Thanks to the intermediary of the Japan Center for Middle Eastern Studies, on Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2009, LERC welcomed Dr. Aiko Nishikida and Dr. Takayuki Yoshimura of the Tokyo University of Foreign Studies. Dr. Nishikida is conducting her post-doctoral research on the Seven Villages while Dr. Yoshimura is pursuing his research work on the repatriation of the Armenians and the Armenian Diaspora.

The visit was the result of a relationship established by LERC and the Japan Center for Middle Eastern Studies several years ago. This relationship resulted in an invitation extended to LERC Director Ms. Guita Hourani to present two lectures in October 2007 on remittances and on the impact of the summer 2006 war on emigration from Lebanon. The aim of this relationship is to exchange academic experiences and to increase awareness of Lebanon among Japanese and to stimulate studies of common interest.

Following a fruitful meeting with Director Hourani, Drs. Nishikida and Yoshimura were shown on a tour of LERC, shown a demonstration of the electronic archives by Ms. Liliane Haddad, and taken on a guided visit to the Lebanon and Migration Museum at NDU by Mr. Elie Nabhan.

At their request they were also taken to NDU Library, where they were welcomed and shown the facilities. Both professors were impressed by the NDU library and by the research infrastructure of LERC.



▲ *Japanese scholars Dr. Yoshimura (left) and Dr. Nishikida at the Lebanon and Migration Museum at NDU (Feb 2009)*

## Prominent Nigerian Artist Invited to LERC

18<sup>th</sup> February 2008, LERC, NDU

o | By Elie Nabhan

The Lebanese Emigration Research Center has a vision. For the Lebanon and Migration Museum at NDU, it wants to promote the creation and collection of non-textual material pertaining to migration and Lebanon, including works of art.

With this in mind, Ms. Guita Hourani, LERC's Director, invited one of Africa's most recognized painters to express on canvass the subject of Lebanese migration to Nigeria, because, as the saying goes, a picture is worth a thousand words.

For LERC, the call for paintings is a joint venture being prepared together with the Faculty of Architecture, Art and Design (FAAD) at NDU. These paintings will aim at documenting in color the perceptions of Lebanese migrants in their host countries and the impressions these host countries have made on the lives of those Lebanese living abroad.

The painter himself, Mr. Kent Ideh, who studied at the famous Abyomi Barber School of Art in Nigeria, is one of the most prominent African artists, one whose paintings are housed at the Smithsonian in Washington, DC, among other museums. He is currently commissioned by renowned businessman Mr. Marcel Chaghoury to paint the Miracles of Christ to adorn the walls of the now famous holy shrine and church of Oum el Marahem (Our Lady of Compassion) in the North Lebanese City of Miziara. At the request of His Excellency Hameed Opoloyeru, the Ambassador of Nigeria, Ideh is also preparing for a solo exhibition on Nigerian tradition in Beirut and Tripoli this coming summer.

Mr. Ideh's work vividly representing people and places in Nigeria, the startling clarity of his craft, his bold use of shades and colors, recognized worldwide, encouraged LERC to approach the artist, first amongst many, for him to participate.

For their upcoming joint venture, LERC and the FAAD have declared, "The main objective of the proposed event is to contribute to bringing the Lebanese Diaspora close to its land of origin through an artistic venue..."

The exhibition "aspires to establish the first art gallery on the Lebanese Diaspora at the Lebanon and Migration University Museum of Notre Dame University-Louaizé. Participating artists are encouraged to donate their paintings to the gallery." The paintings exhibited will then be featured in an elegant book.

The event hopes to bring together the work of artists who are Lebanese or of Lebanese descent, and even international artists, for an exhibition planned for December of 2009.



▲ Nigerian artist Kent Ideh at the Lebanese and Migration Museum at NDU (Feb 2009).



▲ Kent Ideh's painting of a traditional Nigerian man calling out on a flute.



## IR Communications Director Visits LERC

On 4<sup>th</sup> March 2009, confirming the relationship between LERC and Relief International (RI), Ms. Joan Ablett, Communications Director of International Resources Group, visited LERC.

Ms. Ablett and LERC Director Guita Hourani discussed the importance of encouraging successful emigrants to partake in homeland development and the creation of appropriate mechanisms for RI's contacts with them.

Ms. Ablett was accompanied by Mr. Ali Hijazi, Senior Credit Officer at RI. On March 4<sup>th</sup> both Ms. Ablett and Ms. Chiraz Mougally, the Website Writer at RI, visited the Center and toured its facilities.



*(From left to right): Mrs. L. Haddad, LERC Indexer, gives a presentation of LEAD to Ms. Joan Ablett, Ms. Chiraz Mougally and Mr. Ali Hijazi (Mar 2009).*



*Ms Chiraz Mougally (left) with Ms. Joan Ablett at the Lebanon and Migration Museum at NDU (Mar 2009).*

## LERC Agreement with Relief International

On 10<sup>th</sup> December 2008, LERC and Relief International, an international non-governmental organization with headquarters in California, USA, signed a cooperation agreement whereby LERC, acting as a consulting agent to RI, is to provide for the EMLED project – Empowering Municipalities through Local Economic Development – conceptualization, survey development, orientation, data analysis, and reporting on Lebanese emigrants who are potential investors or donors to partner with RI's efforts. RI teams in the various villages are to administer the survey and collect the information needed.

Funded by USAID, EMLED encompasses 116 municipalities in Northern and Southern Lebanon, and aims to enable municipalities to support local level economic development through public-private partnerships, to increase employment opportunities and to promote effective democratic collaboration between municipalities and communities and between the public-private sectors.

To seal this agreement, Mr. Imad Hamze, Chief of Party/Director of Relief International, Mr. Mahmoud El-Zein, Program Manager, Mr. Ramy El Khoury, Senior Field Officer, Mr. Ali Hijazi, Senior Credit Officer, and Ms. Nadine Saba, Coordinator for the NBC at RI, visited LERC and NDU and discussed with LERC team the details of the joint efforts. Both RI and LERC owe their collaboration to Mr. Hijazi, who envisioned this cooperation and has seen it through.

LERC's research and technical knowhow was solicited by RI for this vital project. LERC Director Guita Hourani sees in this cooperation the achievement of one of the Center's objectives, namely capitalizing on the information and data being collected at the Center to assist Lebanon and its people.

► *Ms.Guita Hourani, LERC Director presenting Mr. Imad Hamze RI Lebanon Chief of Party with a collection of LERC Publications (Aug 2008).*



▲ *Ms.Hourani and Ms. Abdel Khalek (far end) meeting with the R.I Team in the presence of Mr. Imad Hamze (left), Lebanon Chief of Party at R.I premises, Hamra, Beirut (Dec 2008).*



## Said Akl Award

The Faculty of Architecture, Arts, and Design of Notre Dame University celebrated the presentation of the Said Akl Award on November 14, 2008, in Issam Fares Hall. The award was given to two students from the FAAD, Nathalie Halajian, Architecture, and Nayla Ziadé, Graphic Design.

The ceremony opened with a speech delivered by the Director General of Public Relations at NDU, Mr. Suhail Matar, in which he affirmed that everything in Lebanon could change except two things, the eternal lofty cedars and the youth Said Akl. Mr. Matar congratulated both students, asking them to conform to the ideals of Said Akl, ones which were held by the University itself.

For his part, the Dean of FAAD, Mr. Habib Melki, praised the merits of Nathalie Halajian and Nayla Ziadé and expressed his delight at the event. Mr. Melki considered that the students' parents, teachers and colleagues had all favored their success, and he thanked the poet Said Akl and the University's President, Fr. Walid Moussa, for giving the FAAD the opportunity to mark the success of its students.

The President of Notre Dame University Fr. Walid Moussa urged Art students to adopt the slogan "Innovation is the way for beauty and majesty", strongly advising them to take Said Akl as their model because he was the innovator and, as he innovated in the word, so they should try to innovate in their painting, music, sculpture, dance, and design.

The poet Said Akl then made a speech in which he expressed high respect for the University's President, Fr. Walid Moussa. He pointed out that he was looking forward to seeing the building of a country of holiness and beauty, for beauty was of the greatest importance at the present time, and he congratulated the two students for the efforts that they had made.

Afterwards, there were two speeches from the students who were being honored. Nathalie Halajian affirmed that she never tried to seek success, since what we must yearn for is excellence, which is the way for building a better human being. For her part Nayla Ziadé considered that this award made her realize the importance of seeking what is better in life, for failures and frustration must not be reasons for giving up hope.

At the end of the ceremony, the awards were presented to the two students.

◀ *Father Walid Moussa, Nayla Ziadé, Nathalie Halajian, Mr. Suhail Matar, Mr. Habib Melki, and in the forefront, seated, the poet Said Akl.*



## FAAD Exhibition



▲ Fay Kazzi

### Christian Art: 'Jesus, you are my Hero'

Fay Kazzi, a FNAS student majoring in Nutrition and Dietetics, followed successfully the Painting course FAP 201 at the FAAD. To encourage her in her amazing skills and endeavor, Ten of her artworks were displayed at the Administration Hall after the success of her exhibition On the FAAD premises.

### Fay, you are majoring in Nutrition and Dietetics in the Faculty of Sciences at NDU, did you ever plan to achieve an art exhibition at the FAAD?

I live in a very health-conscious family so it was almost inevitable that I would major in something related to health. That's when Nutrition came along. I never really had the time or opportunity to commit myself to a big project like this. It was always

something I wanted to do, although it's something I've only recently picked up through the FAAD opportunity to display my artworks.

### What circumstances led you to creating your exhibition?

The circumstances that led me to make this exhibition were unexpected and took me by surprise.

I was supposed to graduate in summer 2008. When I went to get my graduation certificate I was told that I could not graduate and that I was missing 3 credits! I wrote out a petition to take the FAP 201 Painting course at the FAAD in place of the Arabic History course. It's something I always wanted to do! To my delight, and if I may add to my surprise, the petition was accepted. At that point I was sure and determined to use this



◀ General view.

semester of one course to create my first exhibition. It took no time for me to decide on the theme. It was definitely going to be centered on my precious Hero, Jesus Christ. As I sat to decide on the theme of each painting ideas just flashed into my mind.

### What are the media used in your canvasses? Did you encounter difficulties in using them?

I wanted to use large canvasses because I wanted the images to be life-size as well as life-like. I used acrylic paints and oil paint. The oil was difficult to work with because it takes long to dry, so it was a bit frustrating having to wait three to four days before I could continue with the layering and details but of course the effect is amazing. Acrylic was easier to work with and it dries much faster. It was the first time I used oil paint, and it was the first time I worked on actual canvasses. I don't like to work in thick layers because I feel it limits the capacity to increase details. So working with thin layers on the canvas material was also a bit challenging. But all in all it was definitely an educational experience which I benefited from thoroughly.

### How do you figure out your talent?

My talent is a gift from God. I believe my ability to paint is not something I can take credit for. Many have asked me if I was previously taught and my answer is "No, it's not me, it's from God". I'm just a tool in God's hands.

#### ▼ General view.



### What's the one most important thing that you want to get across to the viewers after they've seen your paintings?

My aspiration in making this project was to touch viewers' hearts at NDU with the love of Christ through an academic artwork. I wanted to make it feel real in our time and age.

The love of Christ has been almost hidden under a banner of traditions, doctrines, and our modernized lifestyles. We don't see Him walking in and out of our 20<sup>th</sup> century lives. But the truth is He's the same now as He was when He walked on earth with His disciples more than 2000 years ago! I wanted the paintings to help open viewers' eyes and remove the veil of formalism to bring to life the realization that Jesus is our dearest most loving Brother. I wanted the characteristics of God's nature to shine in each painting. I wanted people to see sacrifice, pity, forgiveness, mercy, compassion, and supreme power all combined and perfectly represented in the Man who divided history. My hope is that people will have a desire to come close to the One who gave His life to save a lost and dying world.



### How does your art help connect students to Christian issues in their daily life on campus at NDU?

Although there are many who maintain their relationship with God, the majority of our generation may feel that they can live fine without it. What I have discovered is quite the opposite.

### Oh Really? Could you explain it in a tangible way?

A connection with God helped me cope with the social and academic stresses more comfortably and happily. At times I truly felt someone was

carrying me through the unpleasant times. It's like when you know you're being protected, it gives peace, joy, and a sense of comfort. There is something very special about having abiding, lasting trust. This is something all students on NDU campus would benefit from. There would be less fights, backbiting, gossip, distrust and resentment on campus. Principles, care, and unselfishness would be a part of the atmosphere and people would be at peace united under one banner of love stretching up to God. The delight and satisfaction I received from seeing so many young people express their enthusiastic appreciation and personal encouragement after viewing the paintings and reading the explanations was highly rewarding and fulfilling. I couldn't have asked for more!

### Do you feel better now that you've expressed yourself?

Yes!!! It has been one of the most wonderful experiences of my life to do this exhibition. It's not just about the paintings; it was about seeing people's reactions and appreciation of the messages portrayed.

It brought me such joy to watch students' and administrators' eyes as they scanned the canvases and when they would come up to me and say how touched and encouraged they were, and how they desired to be closer to God. I was personally very blessed.

In addition, while painting and seeing the concepts come to life with each passing hour it caused me to dwell



▲ With fellow students.



▲ With fellow students and Mariamite Father General in the background.



upon a single theme for long periods of time with full concentration which literally opened my mind to a better understanding and appreciation of the love of God. I reached points of scratching my head in amazement at how unfathomably deep God's love is for His erring children. It was exciting to believe that God's love is so real! It's electrifying to think that a Divine Eternal Being surrounded with thousands and thousands of angels with the issues of the cosmos to deal with could still have His caring eyes on the little sinful people of the world at all times! As a tender Father He is

stung by our pains. As a watchful guardian He smiles and delights in our innocent joy and appreciation of His love. Not one tear is shed that is not wiped away. Not one smile goes unnoted. To be so affectionately looked after by Divinity and then live life thinking we are not loved or that we are worthless is to make Christ's condescension and sacrifice for us a vain cause! What more can one do to show another that He loves them than to give up one's life to save them? John 15:13 says "Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends". To think that Jesus

even went a step further with His great love to lay down his life not just for his friends, but also for his enemies is mind boggling! I was asked why I only chose this religious theme for my paintings... I guess my answer is clear.

I thank God for this opportunity, for the FAAD, you Roula and for all the people who were encouraged by this project.

**Interview done by  
Roula Majdalani, FAAD**



▲ *All ready to share the burden of the Cross of Jesus.*



◀ *Refuge in Jesus.*



▼ *At the feet of Jesus.*

## Sustainable Tourism

Sandra Sfeir

On the 21<sup>st</sup> of January 2009, our class of TTM 445 (Sustainable Tourism Development) in the Hospitality and Tourism department held an exhibition in the Registration Hall with stands representing Lebanese cities and villages. This was with the view of promoting the idea of Sustainable Tourism.

Sustainable Tourism is a positive socio-economic change that does not undermine the ecological and social system upon which societies and communities are built.

Our aim was to translate academics into practicum through exploring different Lebanese cities and villages by planning sustainability and representing their natural and cultural aspects that must be responsibly sustained. The places represented were Kfardebian, Ehden, Rayak, Baakleen, Batroun, Saida, Bsharri and finally Kwakh.

Documents, pictures and samples of their food, norms, traditions, festivals, accents, animals, agriculture, production, folklore, rituals and historical and natural resources were displayed on our stands.

Finally, we celebrated the folklore wedding of a Druze sheikh, who was served with all the traditional food of the villages in the project. The groom lifted the *jarn* and people played traditional music, poetry, dabké and zaffé.



▲ *Bsharri delicacies.*



▲ *Products of Kfardebian.*



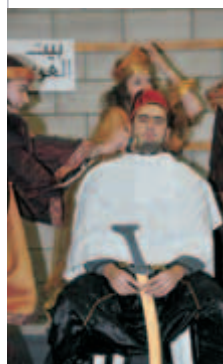
▲ *Wedding dance and song.*



▲ *Feat of strength at the wedding feast.*



▲ *Ghassan Beyrouthi (Chairperson Hospitality and Tourism), NDU President Fr. Walid Moussa and instructor Carol Assaf.*



▶ *Shaving the groom.*



▶ *Lebanese cooking with the saj for bread.*

## Testing Nahr El Kalb River Engineering Students Participate

Students from the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department have participated in a project conducted by The Association of Volunteers for International Service (AVSI), an international non-profit, non-governmental organization (NGO) and the Water Energy and Environment Research Center (WEERC) at NDU. The project aim was to study the water quality in the Nahr El Kalb (NEK) Watershed.

Four groups from the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department at NDU were working as volunteers with AVSI and WEERC on the NEK project from the 17<sup>th</sup> of August till the 26<sup>th</sup> of September, 2008. Students met regularly with Dr. Jacques Harb and the project manager Mrs. Maya Aoun to discuss the work activities accomplished on site and all the difficulties that they encountered.

Students had training sessions on needed skills, to which specialists were invited, such as Mr. Azzi who came to NDU to teach them on how to use the Global Positioning System (GPS). They were also trained on the use of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) so as to be able to enter the data and map them. After almost three weeks of collecting data, they started water testing in the CEE Department Laboratory at NDU, assisted by Dr. Elie Chakar and Mr. Elie Lahoud.

Joe Chahwan, one of the students participating in the project, said: We went to all the water sources and we took a lot of samples from the Nahr el Kalb River and carried them to the NDU lab to test them for coliform. The Nahr el Kalb project is a very important project and it was a really great experience for all of us, especially that it was the first outside exposure in our

major. Also, it taught us how to communicate with people and how to ask them for information, because most people were reluctant to give us information on how they disposed of contaminated water. The NEK project helped us to see what is wrong with the sewage system in Lebanon and helped us to think about a lot of ideas to solve this problem.

The students participating in the project were Joe Chehwan, Firas Abou Rafeh, Ghassan El Hajal, Houssam Alsayegh, Nancy Rahbany, Omar Abou Kasm, Paul Ojeil, Sami Aazain and Tony Salameh.

Information provided  
by Dr. Jacques Harb

► A brainstorming and data analysis session with Ms. Maya Aoun.



► Water samples collected from Nahr El Kalb waiting to be tested.



► Equipment in NDU Labs used in testing water samples.



◀ The Nahr el Kalb river basin.

## ESRI Award for Bernadette Dabbak

Bernadette Dabbak is a GIS graduate now majoring in the Civil Engineering Department of NDU, to which she has brought distinction by winning the Map Your Solution Contest held by ESRI on the annual GIS Day. Representing NDU, she was competing against major companies and studies presenting five maps. Bernadette obtained about one third of the eighty votes. Her first prize was an ArcView License with three extensions for a value of \$10,800. Further information about ESRI Lebanon may be obtained from its website [www.esrilebanon.com](http://www.esrilebanon.com) or [news@esrilebanon.com](mailto:news@esrilebanon.com).



### We quote from the **ESRI Lebanon Newsletter:**

GIS Day - ESRI Lebanon Success Story  
(As) {P}art of a nationwide event to promote awareness of GIS, and the use of this evolving tool to analyze our world and as a continuous tradition, ESRI Lebanon brought together a community of more than 100 GIS users from academia, business and government to its 2008 GIS Day entitled "Mobile GIS Solutions", at the Metropolitan Palace Hotel on the 26<sup>th</sup> of November. The event included presentations of professionals from the Balamand University, Electricité de Zahlé, Lebanese Armed Forces Mine Action Center, and Khatib & Alami CEC. Professionals, students and all public guests were hosted to many attractions and events including the Map Gallery Contest where special prizes were awarded to the best two maps as voted by the audience.





# NDU Pre-service Teachers

## in our Community Schools

Dr. Rita El-Meouchy

Because Education theory is of little use unless accompanied by practical application, our pre-service teachers in the Education department have been first armed with theoretical concepts and then sent to schools in our community for their first phase of teaching practice, namely to the center of actual learning.

This Fall 2008, our pre-service teachers were welcomed by the following schools: NDL, Jesus & Mary, St Joseph's, and Srs. Antonines- Ghazir.

Our appreciation goes to Fr. Naji Khalil, School Principal of Notre Dame of Louaize, to Fr. Joseph Tannous, Jesus and Mary School Principal, to Fr. Richard Bou Moussa, Principal of St. Joseph School, and to Sister Dominique Halabi, Principal of Antonine Sisters School.

During the gradual assumption of responsibilities for a suggested minimal length of one month, our student

teachers assumed responsibility for classroom management, planning and teaching lessons within the curriculum of the classroom. They excelled in using a variety of teaching strategies, all along providing for the individual needs of pupils in both planning and evaluation. This fall, we had a rich array of elementary teachers of English, Math and Physical Education for diverse grades ranging from G2 to G8.

As advisor of the BA Education, Teaching Diploma & Teaching Certificate, I strongly believe that it is not only by broadening the student teachers' knowledge of teaching, but also by encouraging reflection on practice through the consideration of educational alternatives and their consequences that our pre-service teachers are able to develop professionally throughout their educator careers.

What best but to provide our student teachers with genuine practical exposure in our community schools?

► *Naghm Daou holds the class's attention.*



◀ *Getting down to it with Priscilla Koueik!*



▼ *Rawan is encouraging the child to think!*



▲ *Rouba Maatouk at the blackboard with both eyes on the class!*



▲ *A helping hand from Moussa Nehme.*



## NDU Education Society

**Motto: "Once NDU Education Major, Always NDU Priority."**

The *Education Society* held its first event in the Auditorium Abu Khater on the 18<sup>th</sup> of February, 2009. The Regional English Language Officer (RELO) at the American Embassy gave a workshop on 'Material Development' to our pre-service teachers.

Mr. Rick Rosenberg– the current RELO – is assigned to cover Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, West Bank, Israel and Iraq; he works with local educational institutions to improve the teaching of English as a Foreign Language in the public and private sectors.

The *Education Society* at the Faculty of Humanities was

launched by its founder, Dr. R. EL-Meouchy, and its pioneer education major students on the 4th of December, 2008. The *Education Society* triangulated threshold, which comprises the Education Society's general aims/specific objectives, and members' benefits as well as members' duties, simply stemmed from our authentic educational NDU Environment. We must express our gratitude to our Dean, Dr. Carol Kfourri, and to our DETE Chair, Dr. Mary-Angela Willis, for without their support we would not have come this far. Still, the journey has barely started...

NDU Education BA / MA graduates as well as Teaching Diploma & Teaching Certificate majors need to feel that NDU always backs them academically

as well as in their teaching career. NDU has established their academic background and paved the way for their practicum exposure in teaching – a never ending journey towards attaining the teaching missions. It automatically follows that NDU will consistently act as its graduates' education patron in providing all possible assistance needed. The designated principles of the *Education Society* are as follows:

The *Education Society* is aware of the nature and needs of 'Teaching career building' and is committed to providing educational services that are grounded in relevant practices.

The *Education Society* focuses not only on the academic and



◀ *Dean of Humanities Dr. C. Kfourri, member of the Education Society, Mr. R. Rosenberg, (RELO) and Dr. R. EL-Meouchy, founder of the Education Society.*

▼ *Dr. R. EL-Meouchy opening the first event and introducing Mr. R. Rosenberg.*



professional needs/interests of the pre-service teachers but also on specific needs of the school districts from which the candidates come.

The *Education Society* members' feedback helps sustain the Education program in preparing an action-oriented, problem-solving curriculum with content and materials designed to produce change agents, particularly adapted to our immediate education setting.

The *Education Society* maintains that collaborative learning involves students in active learning which makes shared experiences interesting and enjoyable.

The *Education Society* believes that investing in our pre-service professional development is the surest means to establishing mutual academic benefits for futuristic projects. Our pre-service teachers might become school teachers of NDU future students if not NDU faculty members.

Thus, the *Education Society* at the

Faculty of Humanities aims at promoting the Education Department and establishing and solidifying mutually beneficial relations among schools and our Education Department through our pre-service teachers. In addition, it aspires to keep the Education majors intertwined through professional and social contact under an NDU educational umbrella. It is our plan to continuously enrich our members' academic repertoires with updated researches in their field, supervisory conferences and workshops that are linked to their teaching experiences in the classroom.

As advisor of the BA Education, Teaching Diploma & Teaching Certificate, I confidently affirm that a prospective teacher's education should not end at the student teachers' graduation; hence, I unhesitatingly support the idea of future professional development throughout an educator's career.

As Founder of the Education Society, I can vouch that the purpose and provisions of the

society will undoubtedly accentuate our Education majors' sense of NDU belonging; even after graduation, our pre-service teachers will be made to feel that NDU sustains their professional development.

All NDU Education majors and graduates are encouraged to apply to the *Education Society*. To apply, please contact me, Dr. R. EL-Meouchy, via NDU email: [relmeouchy@ndu.edu.lb](mailto:relmeouchy@ndu.edu.lb) or phone extension 2418.

Presently, we are 30 members, definitely educationally 'alive' and planning to master the art of professional academic 'kicking'! Wish us Luck!

**Education Society Members'**  
 Motto: "Once NDU Education Society Member, Always Making NDU Proud".



◀ Part of the audience: student Society members taking notes.



▶ Full attention!



## EDUCATION OF HEART : THE NDU OUTREACH

Notre Dame University has the vision of providing its students with a complete college experience above and beyond knowledge, culture, and coursework. The University's mission statement takes its spirit from the watchwords of the Virgin Mary, Mother of God: modesty, offering without limits, sacrifice, and working in silence. Within these parameters, NDU took added inspiration from the saying of the famous Antoine Saint-Exupéry, "One cannot see well except with the heart, the essential is invisible to the eyes," when establishing the Community Service Office (CSO) during the Fall 2008 semester. Essentially, the CSO will be the base for community outreach for NDU students. It will facilitate students' participation in the development of their local communities and has already begun establishing contact with non-governmental organizations (NGOs). By providing students with opportunities to directly benefit their society by working with its non-profit organizations, the CSO hopes to enhance the learning experience with an outlet for students to actualize their potentials by planning projects and seeing them through to fruition. This experience will allow students to transmit their shared

experience at NDU to their communities, countries, and families as well as instilling them with empathy, ethics, and social commitment.

### The CSO was officially launched in a presentation on December 2008.

Mr. Majed Bou Hadir, head of the CSO, introduced an audience made up of student representatives of the NDU clubs and their respective teaching staff sponsors to the vision behind the CSO. NDU seeks to suffuse knowledge education with an education of heart: a sense of empathy with the underprivileged and needy, a sense of responsibility for the betterment of our society, a sense of belonging to communities and country, and a sense of power in effecting positive change. NDU sees the CSO as an affirmation of its role and commitment in the development of Lebanese society and in the formation of its youth as instruments of this development. Ultimately, community service will become an integral part of NDU student orientation. In the meantime, the CSO's strategy involves building and achieving student-



▲ *Inauguration of the CSO, advisers and students.*



◀ *Mr. Majed Bou Hadir addressing the inaugural meeting.*



◀ *Students interested in helping the needy.*



▼ *A kind word from the Mariamite Order.*



based social projects. As a first step, the CSO reached out to NDU student clubs to launch the fall project Building Lebanon by Employment to Self-Sufficiency (BLESS) because the clubs are already established as units of productive student activity and are an effective means of generating awareness of the CSO in order to get more students involved. BLESS aims at providing employment for the severely underprivileged in the Naba'a-Borj Hammoud area, thus extracting them from the state of poverty, something originating with NDU's own Samer Sfeir.

For the inauguration of the BLESS project, its primary beneficiaries, a set of families under the care of Mar Mansour Charitable Organization, were invited to participate in the Christmas Fiesta. A committee made up of club and student cabinet representatives accompanied our guests through the Christmas Fiesta and to Christmas lunch. The eagerness with which students embraced the guests and the familiarity and warmth between them proved that the CSO was established on fertile ground. There was a palpable

feeling that NDU students had both the desire and the energy to be positive elements of change in their communities. The meal served to cement the bonds of brotherhood with our guests and served also as a pledge to improve their quality of life.

For the spring semester, the CSO formed a student committee from different majors and with different talents to initiate and organize student involvement in project planning. The CSO will also launch a project of rehabilitation at the Roumieh prison. This project will be addressed at faculties rather than student clubs and will utilize the students' different areas of knowledge, major by major, in order to succeed.

The Community Service Office is still taking its first steps, but the NDU spirit of love and commitment has already given its efforts a measure of success. NDU students have proven that they are willing to open their university home and their hearts to their communities.

[cso@ndu.edu.lb](mailto:cso@ndu.edu.lb)



▲ *Mr. Bou Hadir speaks to the guests with Louaize Monastery in the background.*



► *Helpers in the kitchen*

▼ *The guests gathered under Our Lady.*



◀ *Guests enjoying their meal.*



## Renewable Energy for Lebanon

With the support of the German Embassy, the Lebanese sustainability NGO Greenline and the German political foundation Heinrich Böll Stiftung organized a conference on the practical and economic aspects of wind energy policy in Lebanon.

The one-day conference Practical Options for Wind Energy Generation in Lebanon was held on Saturday, 20 December 2008, in Beirut at the Gefinor Rotana Hotel. Three professors (Georges, Assaf, Sensenig-Dabbous) and 18 students from the Engineering Faculty and FPSPAD took part in this event. The following article was written by Mohammad Al Shammari. The photos are from Al Shammari and Raghad Yakob Al Khory.

### Practical Options for Wind Energy Generation in Lebanon

The issue of power supply has been a global issue ever since studies showed the demand for the electricity is four times faster than the increase in population. This issue is important to Lebanon for the following reasons:

1. Environmental reasons: The unregulated consumption of oil leads to the phenomena of global warming, and to have an idea how that is related to Lebanon, we may consider that 1 meter rise in the level of the Mediterranean Sea will take 20% of Lebanon's land area.
2. Political reasons: During the oil crisis 1973, when the Arab countries stopped supplying the West with oil, it was obvious how powerful and effective this weapon can be, so adoption of renewable energy will give Lebanon political independence.
3. Economic reason: With the use of the renewable energy the money invested in

these projects will remain inside the country, and will be productive through providing new jobs to manufacture, maintain, update and develop this industry, and conducting infield research before and after installation of the unit (to find the most suitable and most efficient outcomes).

And here we should recommend the active participation of the NDU staff and students in that conference, where three professors and eighteen students from NDU, and various Faculties and the respective departments relevant for sustainable energy, including engineering, business, architecture, and the social sciences, have shown interest in that vital topic, and NDU was among the leading universities that conducted research for future adoption of the renewable energy to sustain the University power needs.



◀ *Greenline Director Ali Darwish with NDU professors Assaf, Sensenig-Dabbous and Georges, and eighteen NDU students.*

▶ *German expert explains details of renewable energy possibilities in Lebanon.*



# NDU 2nd Student Film Festival

Gilnar Doueik and Nicolas Khabbaz

Notre Dame University campus spread out its arms to welcome the various Lebanese universities to its Second Student Film Festival, which lasted for seven days and presented the audience with films of creative and talented students. It was held under the patronage of the Ministry of Culture at NDU Main Campus, Zouk Mosbeh, from November 9 to November 16, 2008. More than thirty short films of students from eight Lebanese universities competed for the first three awards (ALBA, AUST, CLET, IESAV, LAU, LU, USEK). NDU students' films were screened but out of competition.

This Second NDU Festival was in honor of Lebanese-Egyptian Director Youssef Chahine, to commemorate whom there was a ceremony at the opening on Sunday Nov 9,

2008 at 6:00 p.m.. At this, a world première was screened of a documentary about Youssef Chahine produced by Misr International Films and directed by Mona Ghandour.

In addition to the short films, a long feature film of Director Youssef Chahine was screened every night together with one of Mona Ghandour's documentaries about Chahine's cinema work, followed by a discussion with special guests.

## Jury:

The jury was constituted of universities' representatives in addition to professional directors, actors and cinema critics as follows: Mr. Emile Chahine (Head of the Jury), Mr. Joe Prince, Miss Lina Khoury, Mr. Georges Kehdi, Miss Lynn Kodeih, Mr. Toni Farjallah, Mr. Sam Lahoud, Mr. Joseph Chemaly, Mr. Nasri Brax, Ms. Mona Ghandour, Mr. Mohammad Hijazi, Mr. Georges Khabbaz, Dr. Antoine Seif.

## Winners:

1 <sup>st</sup> place	:	The Tape by Marc Sayegh from USEK.
Director	:	Marc Sayegh
Cast	:	Issam El Achkar/ Wissam Ayoub
Production	:	2007
Running Time	:	17 minutes
Synopsis	:	Hani, a 12-year-old, decides to watch a pornographic film. The electricity is cut and the tape gets stuck in the VCR! The father walks in to find the VCR damaged. He scolds Hani and takes the VCR to the repair shop. Hani goes off and makes various attempts to regain the tape before his father finds out.







2<sup>nd</sup> place : *Suspended Voices* by Rana Mouallem from ALBA.  
 Director : Rana Mouallem  
 Cast : Lamia Iskandarani / Ahmad Hamadi / Souraya Zakhariou  
 Production : 2008  
 Running Time : 21 minutes  
 Synopsis : As a result of the occupation of South Lebanon, a displaced family tries to recreate a world to re-live its past in the present.

3<sup>rd</sup> place : *Sana Helwa* by Lea Cremona from IESAV.  
 Director : Lea Maria Cremona  
 Cast : Betty Tawtal Sfeir / Issam Bou Khaled / Carmen El Badawi / Claude Mouawad / Pascale Succar  
 Production : 2008  
 Running Time : 18 minutes  
 Synopsis : Lucia, a sixty-year-old woman, waits for her family to celebrate her birthday. Walid's gift comes in the person of a mysterious girl. Baptist, a lonely 50-year-old man, is seeking for his mother's dog on her birthday. Maria runs through the whole town searching desperately for a cake. One night, four birthdays, the same feeling of disappointment.

### Special recognition for 5 movies:

- o | *Estefham* by Rania Atallah from NDU.
- o | *The Nine Commandments* by Elianne Maalouf from NDU.
- o | *One Chair for All* by Jessy Sakr from NDU.
- o | *Na3iman* by Salim Sadaka from CLET.
- o | *Tsharrafna bi Ma3reftak* by Yara Bou Nassar from LU.



Awards were distributed at the Closing Ceremony on Sunday November 16, 2008. In his speech the Supervisor of Audio Visual Facilities Mr. Sam Lahoud launched the Youssef Chahine Award for Cinema Excellence, to be given to a Lebanese student film director each year. Rules and regulations are to be announced later.

Under the bright sunshine of NDU's campus there is a promise that the coming years of the Student Film Festival will be highlighted with everlasting success.



## Christmas Spiritual Retreat

Fadia el-Hage

Once again, we of the NDU staff were invited to our bi-yearly spiritual retreat, held this time on 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2008. As usual the number of those attending was about fifty. Fr. Roger Chikri and Fr. Fadi Bou-Chebl had arranged for the retreat to take place in the Basilica of St. Paul, near Harissa.

We arrived on the appointed day around 8:45 a.m. and started our retreat at 9 o'clock. Fr. Bou-Chebl had drawn up a few prayers and hymns to start our day. We prayed in the Basilica and then headed to the conference room at 9:30, to meet Fr. Elie Abi-Aad, a

newly ordained priest from the Maronite Mariamite Order. His lecture was entitled *Incarnation is the Gift of Love*. The lecture was really impressive and made us to feel in the depth of our hearts the spirit of Christmas time. He gave us several examples from the Bible to help us truly understand that Jesus Christ became a Man of flesh and blood to save us from sin because his love is boundless and eternal. The following part is from the Gospel of St. John, ch. 4. It reveals the spirituality born of Jesus Christ, his love, incarnation, patience and forgiveness.

### John 4

*1Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, 3but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.*

*4You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. 5They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. 6We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood.*



▲ St. Paul's Basilica, Harissa.



◀ *Mosaics inside the soaring dome. Below the Fathers of the Church point upwards to the Mysteries they elucidated. Immediately above them are the Mysteries taking place on the earth. Above all up in the dome is the Christ Pantocrator, the Logos, by whom all things were made that were made (St. John, Ch. 1) The Virgin here is the Platera, in her eternal role as the door through whom Christ came from Heaven to Earth, hence the more austere ageless features.*

7Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 8Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. 9This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. 10This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. 11Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 12No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. 13We know that we live in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. 14And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. 15If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God. 16And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him. 17In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like him. 18There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. 19We love because he first loved us. 20If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. 21And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.

After this inspiring talk, we had breakfast and coffee. At 11:30 am, we met Father Elias Aghia, the Archimandrite of the Greek Catholic Paulist congregation. He explained to us the history of the Basilica, which was built in the years following World War II and has only recently been completed with the mosaics and icon screen.

overpowering architecture of the Basilica, express the mysteries of Divine Revelation. Father Aghia explained all this very clearly and took pleasure in sharing with us all his information. At 12:30 pm, we attended the Holy Liturgy and then had lunch on the terrace of the Monastery with our spiritual guides, all enjoying the superb view stretching below.

The details of the icons and mosaics, as arranged in the



▲ Father General Elie Aghia with Father Fadi Bou-Chebl.

▼ Prayer in the Basilica.



▼ Father Elie Abi Aad, newly ordained, giving the instruction.



► The Resurrection.





## New Gymnasium

Our illustrations show Father Samir Ghsoub as NLC Director inspecting the construction site of the new Gymnasium, on which work started in November 2008, two weeks after Father Ghsoub took up his duties.

## Dialogue of Cultures

Under the auspices of Minister of Culture Tammam Salam, himself present, a seminar on the Dialogue of Cultures was held on Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> January, 2009, at NDU North Lebanon Campus. Speakers included the Mufti of Tripoli Dr. Malak el-Chaar, Bishop of Tripoli Mgr. Georges Abou Jaoude, Minister Adel Cortas, Assaad Diad, Khalil el Harawi, Emir Hares Chehab, Mohamad el Sammk, Fouad el Turk and Habib Frem and there was much animated discussion.



▲ Left to right: Mr. Suhail Matar, NDU Director of Public Relations; Fr. Samir Ghsoub, NLC Director; Fr. Walid Moussa, NDU President; Dr. Malak el Chaar, Mufti of Tripoli; Bishop Georges Abou Jaoude; Mr. John Moufarrej.



▲ Distinguished personalities close up.



▲ Front row, left to right: Mr. Edgar Merhab-Harb, Dr. Claude Rizk, Mr. Helou Helou, General Sabah Haidar.



◀ Left to right: Dr. Mokbel Malak representing former Prime Minister Mikati, Dr. Moustafa Helwe representing Minister Safadi and Minister Dr. Sammy Minkara, President of Manar University.



## Visiting Secondary Schools

North Lebanon Campus Director Father Samir Ghsoub started the new academic year with a round of visits to secondary schools in the area. These included, first, Balamand Secondary School, the David Karam Educational Center, and Dar el-Nour for girls, run by the Daughters of Charity. Here he explained the financial aid program, with conditions for siblings and outstanding students, and listened to various suggestions and comments on the part of his audience. He later visited Bishmizzine High School, Bterram Official Secondary School, *École Ste.-Thérèse*, Amioun, Kferaaka Official School, Universal School, Bkeftine Secondary, Nazareth Kferzaina, *Frères Kfaryachit*, *Lycée St.-Pierre Orthodoxe*, Amioun, *École Camelia*, *Collège Mar Antonios*, Antonine Sisters Khaldiye, Rachiine Official School, Zghorta Official Secondary School and *Ecole Notre-Dame de l'Assomption* Miziara.



▲ *Balamand Secondary School*, left to right: Fr. Samir Ghsoub, Director NLC, Mr. Atteh Moussa, Dr. Georges Eid, Mr. Ghassan Obeid, Mr. Edgar Merheb-Harb, NLC.



▲ *David Karam Center*: Mr. Edgar Merheb-Harb, Fr. Samir Ghsoub, Mr. Simon Karam, Dr. Georges Eid.



▲ *Dar el-Nour, Daughters of Charity*: Dr. Georges Eid, Fr. Samir Ghsoub, Sister Caroline Yaacoub, Mr. Edgar Merheb-Harb.



▲ *Bishmizzine High school*: Principal Kahlil Amine between Fr. Ghsoub and Dr. Eid.



▲ *Bterram Official Secondary School*: the NDU representatives with Director Serhan Souail.



▲ *École Ste.-Thérèse*: NDU representatives with Supprioress Mother Marie-Louise Obeid.

▶ With Mr. Samir Tannous, Principal of Kferaaka Official School



▲ With Mrs. Amal Farhat, principal of the Universal School

▶ With Mr. Bechara Habib, Principal of Bkeftine Secondary School.



◀ With Miss Sonia Cham, Principal of Nazareth School at Kferzaina.



## Child Health Diet

On 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2009, students of the Nutrition Department Mireaille Maatouk, Zeina Khabbazi and Eva Wakim organised a Nutrition Fair for children in Grade One at Balamand and International schools. This activity came as a project in the Community Nutrition Course given by Mrs. Aalia Makhlof. One of the features was a puppet show to stress the importance of healthy eating habits and this was followed by various activities planned to be both entertaining and educational.



▲ With Mr. Walid Farah,  
Principal of Frères Kfaryachit.



▲ With Sister Basil Sayegh,  
Collège Mar Antonios des Soeurs  
Antonines Khaldiye.



▲ With Mr. Georges Daiif,  
Rachine Official School.



▲ With Father Nicolas Malek ,  
Director of Lycée Saint Pierre  
Amioun.



▲ With Mother Cécile Saab,  
Ecole Notre-Dame de  
l'Assomption Miziara.



◀ With Father Michel  
Haddad, Principal of École  
Camelia (Carmelite Fathers).



▲ With Mr. Antoine Khawaja,  
Zghorta Official Secondary  
School.



## Shouf Activities

### Women in Leadership Roles

#### Nadeen Rishani-Shouf Campus

WIE NDU Chairperson  
nrrishani@ndu.edu.lb



Women In Engineering (IEEE- WIE) Affinity Group at NDU has been active in highlighting women's role in engineering and technology. This is part of our mission to help ladies get ahead in this domain.

In view of their concern, the WIE members were invited to attend a roundtable meeting entitled *Do Women Make Better Leaders?* in Phoenicia Intercontinental on October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2008. Its subject was very interesting and one that we should like to pass on. The discussion was organized by INSEAD Abu Dhabi Center for Executive Education and Research, and presented by INSEAD Professor Elisabet Engellau and Research Fellow Katty Marmenout.

According to Elisabet Engellau, a research conducted by the Center shows that women are "better communicators, more effective networkers, less narcissistic, more concerned about a balanced life style, more realistic about their limitations and have a broader, more humanistic vision."

But still there are many obstacles holding women back from leadership roles, ones that we may summarize as follows:

- | *Lack of line experience/ absence of female role models.*
- | *Stereotyping and traditional perceptions of their roles and abilities.*
- | *Tendency towards undervaluing their performance.*
- | *Perception of their courage as aggressiveness.*
- | *Greater commitment to personal or family responsibilities.*
- | *Difficulty of total mobility.*

Ways of solving such issues could be by exceeding expectations, taking initiatives for managerial positions, training, and managing others successfully.

But according to Katty Marmenout, being a "super woman" doesn't solve the problem, since such an idea is another source of stress for women, more precisely the idea of trying to achieve expectations that others have held up for them. Instead, the woman should have self-awareness and confidence to form her own expectations that she presents to others and obliges them, one way or another, to abide by.

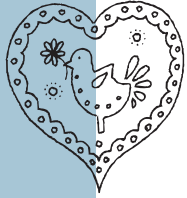
There is one activity we wanted to share with you. Yes, a woman can be a mother, an employee, a leader or a manager, and definitely an engineer!

## New arrivals

**Christelle Sarah Fahed:** In Hotel-Dieu hospital on December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2008, Christelle Sara Fahed, daughter of Doctors Ziad and Joelle Fahed, came to join her brothers Elie-Gabriel and Jean-Marc. Mother and baby were doing well. Congratulations from *NDU Spirit*.



**Ryan George Hassoun:** Ryan was born in St. George's Hospital in Ajaltoun on 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2008, son of Dr. George Hassoun, Assistant Professor in the NDU Faculty of Engineering, and Mrs. Samira Ziadeh Hassoun, Secretary in the Office of Sponsored Research and Development. Ryan has a sister Sarah two years older than himself. Congratulations from *NDU Spirit*.



## OBITUARY

**Jamil Iskander:** It was with great sorrow that on 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2008, The President's Office announced the passing away of Mr. Jamil Iskander, member of the NDU Board of Trustees. Mr. Iskander was associated with the foundation of the University in the days when it was still known as the Louaize Center of Higher Learning. The requiem was celebrated as the Church of St. Anthony of Padua on the above date at 12 o'clock midday.

Mr. Iskander was the promoter of Holiday Beach, the first marine complex on the Lebanese coast and later head of the Association of Marine and Resort Complexes.

**Wadihat Yaacoub née Hmawy,** wife of Hanna Aabdu Khoury and mother of Doctor Mary Khoury of NDU and of her brother and five sisters, passed away on Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2009, supported by the rites of the Church. The requiem was celebrated in the Greek Orthodox Church of St. Demetrius (Mar Mitri) in Ashrafiyeh the following day. The *NDU Spirit* editorial staff extend their deepest sympathy to Dr. Mary Khoury and to all the family.



**Georges Khoury:** It came as a shock to all those who worked with him in the Administration of NDU to learn of the totally unexpected and sudden decease on account of heart failure of Mr. Georges Khoury on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2009. His liveliness and smiles and warm greetings had endeared him to all. The funeral service was held the following day at 1 p.m. in the St. Maroun Church in Jeita and his mortal remains then transferred to his hometown Hardin. He is mourned by his wife Leocadie Zgheib, his son Elliot Spiro, in Terminal NDU-Louaize School, his daughters Sandra Doris, due to graduate this spring in BBA Management, and Karla, NDU student HTM, his sisters and their families, and other relatives in Lebanon and abroad. May he rest in peace.

## The Road

Once again it is our sad duty to announce tragedy coming from accidents on the road.



**Jacques Francis Abi Nakhoul,** majoring in BBA-Financial Engineering, born in 1988, died on 17<sup>th</sup> February, 2009, immediately after a crash at Dbayeh. *Requiescet in pace.*

**Jean Abdallah El Dahdah,** Majoring in Electrical Engineering, born in 1988, was at the time of our going to press still unconscious in the intensive care unit of St. Louis Hospital after a car crash that occurred on February 18<sup>th</sup>, first day of the Spring Semester. *Relatives and friends pray for his early recovery.*

\* \* \* \* \*

Every year we have to report such tragic incidents affecting our NDU family. We do not have details of the circumstances of the particular incidents cited above. But we urge students to drive with the thought of what they owe their parents in mind and of the future that lies before them. Those who wish to show the world their driving skills should have proper instruction in appropriate places and take part in the rallies and not take risks on the public roads.

Parents who buy cars for their sons and daughters should consider only their simple needs without any desire to impress neighbours or friends. They should close their ears to pleas for the fastest model, the fastest way to the next world! We encourage full support for YASA. Ed. – *NDU Spirit*.

## Dr. Edward Alam

Elected General Secretary of the World Union of Catholic Philosophical Societies (WUCPS)

At the World Congress of Philosophy in Seoul, South Korea this past July, 2008, Dr. Edward Alam was elected General Secretary of the World Union of Catholic Philosophical Societies. The World Congress meets every five years in a different city and brings together thousands of philosophers from various disciplines from all around the world. In addition to the three thousand philosophers present in Seoul, most of the world's philosophical societies and associations were also represented, including one of the oldest, namely, the World Union of Catholic Philosophical Societies (WUCPS), which was founded in Amsterdam in 1948. The WUCPS was instrumental in cultivating the philosophical foundations of important concepts such as *solidarity*, while working closely with a young Polish Bishop, who went on to later become John Paul II. After its success in Eastern Europe, it turned attention to Eastern Asia, and began working closely with many Christian, Hindu, Confucian, and Buddhist philosophers, to promote mutual understanding and respect among the world's

great religious and cultural traditions. More recently, the WUCPS has become interested in promoting dialogue between Christians and Muslims, based on a re-appropriation and appreciation of these two long and venerable philosophical traditions.

▣ | Dr. Alam presented two major papers in Korea before going to the Conference on the Role of Asian Christian Thinkers in a Global age held in Taiwan. The first paper dealt with the theme of how philosophy emerges from culture, and stressed the ways in which Western philosophy can be enriched by Eastern thought and religion; the second dealt more specifically with a perennial challenge to Catholic philosophers regarding the need to strike the right balance between faith and reason, the Church and culture, Catholic dogma and modern science, and between grace and nature. The following is an excerpt from one of his papers:

► *Taiwan: Dr. Edward Alam in front of a Daoist Temple, representing a deep and very ancient philosophy.*

▣ | Beginning in the sixth century, and continuing well into the seventh, an explosion of philosophical insight occurred as a result of an extremely dynamic synthesis that can rightly be described as emerging from culture. Syriac-speaking Christians, heirs to Mesopotamian and Jewish culture, living primarily in the regions of what are today Syria and southeast Turkey, began to translate, and develop, ancient Greek thought and culture into Syriac. In the ninth and tenth centuries, the great Arab translators, under the patronage of the 'Abassid Islamic dynasty, and in conjunction with these Syriac-speaking Christians, who also knew Arabic and had begun to assimilate Arabic culture as well, began to translate this great and living heritage from Syriac into Arabic, thereby not only transmitting the ancient Greek wisdom, but substantially developing it. This latter stage, because of the geographical, political and economic realities at that time, also received the insights and





wisdom of Persian, Indian, and (later during the Mongolian period) Chinese thought, culture and religion, making this period one of the most dynamic cultural and philosophical interchanges in history. The philosophical result was dynamic and long lasting, providing both the solid foundation and building materials for the further construction of what would come to be known as modern science and civilization, once texts were brought to Spain via northern Africa and translated into Latin in the tenth and eleventh centuries. Even a cursory examination of what may rightly be called Arabic philosophy (in which Jews, Christians, and Muslims all participated in developing) reveals that the fundamental impetus at the heart of this philosophical and cultural exchange was a religious one, overwhelmingly concerned with reconciling scientific insights with the similar versions of revelation contained in the holy texts. These scientific insights were not merely the scientific achievements of Greek science transmitted to the West via Syriac and Arabic, in the precise form they were received, but, as stated above, were substantially developed by Oriental Christians, and then by Arab and Persian Muslims and Jews, aided to some extent, by insights from Indian and then later (in the Mongolian

period) Chinese religious cultures. The crucial point here is that in the process of transmitting Greek science, those Jews, Christians, and Muslims concerned with reconciling science and revelation actually moved the scientific and philosophical project forward; their concern to reconcile their religious truths with scientific truths did not hold science or philosophy back, but propelled it forward. With respect to science, the new achievements included "a far more advanced number theory and algebra, a new system of trigonometry, a medical corpus much greater than that available in the Greek world, and an entirely original theory of optics more powerful than anything known to the Greeks and that was not only to form the mathematical basis for the Renaissance art but also to inspire new directions in scientific practice."<sup>1</sup> With respect to the philosophical achievements, there were notable advances in ontology and epistemology; questions about whether the world was eternal or created in time pushed the ontological project forward, whereas questions concerning the existence of necessary causes in nature stimulated epistemological discussion. And needless to say, at the heart of both the ontological and

epistemological discussion, was the age-old question of universals. The deliberations in this regard naturally took up the question concerning the universal 'humanity', and quite often in the context a theological anthropology that laid particular stress upon the 'mystical' and 'divine' nature of the individual man in *relation* first to God and then to other personal beings, including angels and other human beings. It is not the time to explore the details of this medieval discussion, but again, the central point here is that progress, both scientific and philosophical, emerged as a result of open and dynamic interchange among religious cultures.

▼ *Taiwan: Dr. Alam on the podium of Asian Christian Thinkers' Conference with representatives from China, India, Vietnam, etc..*



◀ *Taiwan: from left to right: Dr. Kirti Bunchua, Professor Emeritus, Chulalongkorn University and Assumption University, the "grandfather" of philosophical studies in Thailand, Dr. Edward Alam and Fr. George McLean, Oblate of Mary Immaculate.*

<sup>1</sup> See Arun Bala's *The Dialogue of Civilizations in the Birth of Modern Science* (New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2006) 53-54.

## The Radioactive Roach

Dr. Walid Assaf

From a distance it looked like a small bird that had landed on the elevated platform where graduate students were working. In fact it turned out to be a large and healthy cockroach which had flown upwards from the reactor laboratory floor. At the time, I jokingly referred to it as the "flying radioactive cockroach". University administrators at [Iowa State University](#) were not amused. Certified health physicists from the adjoining Atomic Energy's Ames Laboratory descended upon the university's reactor building and for the next so many weeks collected specimens of cockroaches and other insects and performed a radioactive check on them. Every one was relieved by the negative results. Students thought that the entire incident was funny. It turned out that campus politics and in-fights plus rumors, with regards to radioactivity, did not mix too well!

The concern about the spread of radioactivity was justified. Iowa's summer days are blisteringly hot and humid. The dark space in the back of the reactor, known as the "thermal column", was an ideal space for cockroaches to multiply. The population of these insects increases, when unchecked, causing migration beyond their natural habitat. Radioactive contamination was thought possible in the event of the insects penetrating deeper into areas closer to the reactor vessel. The only solution to this pest-problem was in keeping their numbers down. This was done by the application of chemicals and the problem was solved.

Flying roaches are not so common in Lebanon. However, their numbers multiply in buildings and apartments. One is impressed by the variety of insecticides advertised on television. Many of these brands are packaged in brightly colored spray containers and offered for sale in stores and supermarkets. Important claims are made as to their effectiveness. The TV ads brag about the instant turning of the cockroach dead on its back, after a puff or two from brand X.

Exposure to insecticides in the homes is entirely unnecessary, at least not for fighting roaches. A demitasse full of ordinary household chlorine solution in each sink drain is guaranteed to chase these insects backward into the plumbing tubes. A small portion of fuel oil may then be poured into floor drains and clean-outs. The cockroaches will retreat further into the four-inch pipes that lead [to the sewers](#). A trip to the roof is then very useful for the determined householder. The vent pipe to any apartment can be located and [a small portion of fuel oil can be poured down the vent pipe](#). Now the cockroaches will be forced to migrate downwards towards ground level and the nearest inspection point or manhole. Once the man-hole lid is laid open, insecticide sprays are applied if these are needed. Two treatments of this sort per year may be enough to rid the pipes and therefore the apartment of roaches.

**By the way, fuel oil and chlorinated water are biodegradable!**



Par Dr. Louis Hobeika<sup>1</sup>

## Le Liban Face à la Crise

La crise financière mondiale touche effectivement tous les pays mais de manières différentes. Contrairement aux précédentes, dont notamment celles de l'Amérique Latine et de l'Asie, la crise actuelle est mondiale d'origine et s'étend sur toutes les régions. La crise est bancaire, financière et est devenue réelle partout et d'une manière simultanée. A la différence des précédentes, elle émane des niveaux croissants des dettes individuelles et commerciales privées et non de la dette publique. C'est une crise des institutions, des règles de régulation et de supervision et surtout d'un système théoriquement correct mais qui a mal fonctionné. C'est une crise dont on ne connaît pas encore les dégâts finaux et surtout pas les leçons à tirer pour empêcher une répétition dans l'avenir. Qui aurait dit que le livre de J.K. Galbraith publié en 1955 sur "La Crise de 1929" redevienne en 2009 un "best-seller" à l'échelle planétaire? Qui aurait dit par exemple qu'on reviendrait de nouveau aux politiques fiscales Keynésiennes et à une intervention croissante de l'État dans l'économie? Qui aurait dit qu'on reviendrait à la politique de nationalisation partielle ou totale des banques et entreprises après des décennies de privatisations hâtives et sans limites? Et où? Aux États Unis d'Amérique, leader du marché libre ! Qui aurait dit que les institutions publiques américaines penseraient de nouveau au protectionnisme commercial et dans le domaine de l'emploi? Qui aurait même pensé que le premier pays d'accueil au monde différentierait en 2009 entre un citoyen américain né aux États Unis et un autre naturalisé? Qui aurait pensé qu'il tenterait de revenir à la propagation du slogan dépassé "acheter américain"?

C'est une Amérique renfermée que vraiment nous ne connaissons pas. Nous vivons dans un monde en choc, inquiet, troublé qui ne réfléchit pas comme il l'a toujours fait, en espérant que les libertés publiques ne seraient pas atteintes. Le gouvernement libanais actuel ne pourrait au maximum qu'accepter le budget 2009 et organiser les élections législatives du 9 Juin. Après les élections, la coalition gagnante doit former seule le gouvernement, et la partie perdante passer à l'opposition efficace et ouverte pour servir l'intérêt des libanais. Les gouvernements d'union nationale ne sont jamais productifs et tuent la démocratie, surtout une fragile comme celle dans laquelle nous vivons. Avec un gouvernement solide appuyé par une majorité parlementaire, les réformes et politiques spécialisées doivent être appliquées pour faire face à la crise qui avance vers nous un jour après l'autre. Le rapport du FMI du 5 Mars 2009 présente un tableau complet des dangers qui nous menacent et auxquels on doit faire face. Pour réussir dans sa mission, nous pensons que le prochain gouvernement doit procéder comme suit:

1. Améliorer le climat d'investissement. En effet ceux qui ont souffert des événements consécutifs depuis l'été 2006 et jusqu'à ce jour sont les entreprises opérant au Liban, surtout les petites et moyennes. La phase qui suit les élections doit favoriser leurs situations et attirer l'investissement à travers le renforcement des quatre piliers suivants: la sécurité et la stabilité, les finances et l'infrastructure, les travailleurs et le marché du travail et finalement les régimes réglementaire et de taxation.
2. Améliorer la performance de l'administration publique qui souffre de la corruption et du manque de productivité.

Nous ne rêvons pas d'une réforme totale et complète, mais seulement d'un peu de progrès dans ce domaine critique. Toutes les études montrent qu'il y a une relation négative entre la corruption et la croissance économique. La corruption augmente en fait les coûts d'opération des entreprises et diminue leur taux de rentabilité. La corruption nuit aux systèmes de taxation en les rendant moins équitables vis-à-vis des classes moyennes et pauvres. Enfin la corruption affecte négativement la qualité des services sociaux et nuit donc à la stabilité économique et sociale. Il est dans l'intérêt des libanais d'appuyer les réformes administratives permettant au gouvernement d'agir d'une manière efficace et productive sur leurs services.

3. Les sciences économiques traitent les problèmes de rareté, et donc permettent aux agents économiques et à l'État de choisir leurs décisions de la meilleure manière possible. Nous espérons que les choix d'avenir de notre gouvernement aboutiront à l'amélioration de la croissance, permettant de combattre la pauvreté et les inégalités sociales et régionales. Il faut donc changer la manière de travailler surtout dans le domaine public pour améliorer les résultats. Il faut innover et introduire la créativité et le changement dans tous les coins de notre économie.

(1) Professeur et Expert Économique.

## The Nahr El-Kalb Pollution project

○ | By Joe Chahwan,  
Civil Engineering Student

Nowadays pollution is striking all over the planet, causing severe damage at all levels and threatening human standards of living. Water pollution is a major problem that requires instant action. Zooming in towards Lebanon, we observe that it suffers from severe water pollution leading to a real crisis in the near future, while bearing in mind that it is considered an important water reservoir in the Middle East. AVSI, The Association of Volunteers for International Service, is an international non-profit, non-governmental organization (NGO) founded in Italy in 1972. AVSI's mission is to support human development in developing countries with special attention to education and the promotion of the dignity of every human being, according to Catholic social teaching. In collaboration with NDU, AVSI has started the NEK project trying to find the causes behind the tremendous pollution load on Nahr El Kalb. Four groups from the Civil and Environmental Engineering students at NDU were working as volunteers with AVSI and WEERC on the NEK project from the 17<sup>th</sup> of August to the 26<sup>th</sup> of September.

We started this project by collecting all the necessary data relating to Nahr el Kalb. The NDU Civil Engineering students visited all the municipalities in the Nahr el Kalb watershed. Moreover, we went to all the agricultural and industrial enterprises, livestock farms, tourist sites, restaurants and gas stations. We collected information about where all the sewage of these villages is disposed of. Every week, we had a meeting with the chairperson of the Civil Engineering Department Dr. Jacques Harb and the project manager Mrs. Maya Aoun to discuss the work accomplished on site and all the difficulties that we had encountered. During our regular meetings, we had training sessions on the skills needed at which specialists were invited such as Mr. Azzi, who came on campus to teach us how to use the Global Positioning System GPS. AVSI provided us with equipment such as GPS to locate every important place we visited. We were also trained on the use of GIS to enter the data and map them. After almost three weeks of collecting data, we started water

sampling and testing. We went to all the water sources and took a number of samples from the Nahr el Kalb River and carried them to the NDU lab to test them for coliform.

The Nahr el Kalb project is very important and it was a really great experience for all of us especially that it was the first such opportunity in our major. Also, it taught us how to communicate with people and how to question them, because most people were cautious about giving us information. For example, it is not easy for the owner of a building to admit that he never empties his septic tank. Also, we visited many villages in Lebanon that we never knew about. The NEK project helped us to see what is going wrong with the sewage system in Lebanon and help us to think up ideas to solve this problem.

This was a great experience for me. I learned many things and I much appreciate all the people who care about this project. Thank you, AVSI, and thank you NDU for giving me the opportunity to work on this project.

▼ *Agricultural activities along the Nahr El Kalb with extensive use of pesticides and fertilizers.*



▼ *A filthy river for our children to inherit.*





## My MMS 2008 Experience

o | Dolly Akiki



To begin with, I would like to thank the Dean of my faculty Dr. Elias Nassar for nominating me to participate in this symposium and Dr. Ali Harmush for his support. I was very lucky to have their guidance to carry out the project. The project "Reduction of sidelobes in reflector parabolic antennas" has already won the Dean's Award for innovation as well as the Alfa Award but the fact that the project was accepted in the Mediterranean Microwave Symposium was very satisfying and encouraging. Now that the Conference in which I had the opportunity to participate is over, I

want to say that the experience was far beyond my expectations.

MMS 2008 was the eighth Mediterranean Microwave Symposium organized by the European Microwave Association (EuMA) and IEEE Microwave Theory and Techniques Society. It took place at the Omayyad Palace, Damascus, Syria, between October 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, 2008. I was one of 129 speakers from all over the world who had come to exchange scientific results and discuss current research progress in the area of electromagnetic, antennas and

microwave theory and applications.

Among the remarkable participants were Prof. Roberto Sorrentino, Prof. Jozef Modelski, Prof. Salvatore Caorsi, Prof. Samir EL-Ghazaly, Prof. Yunus Erdemli, Prof. Sedki Riad, Prof. Hamayoon Oraizi, Prof. Hassan Aboul Nour, Prof. John Sahalos and Prof. Mohamed Essaidi. The presentations covered state-of-the-art technologies, theoretical concepts,

▼ *Dolly Akiki with Professor Joseph Modelski.*



▼ *Damascus at night: Dolly Akiki with fellow participants at the Conference.*



standards, products implementation, ongoing research projects and innovative applications of microwave technologies.

Throughout the conference, I was very busy attending sessions, meeting the participants, and touring the city. I had a mix of different types of sessions on my plate, but most of them were about Antenna and Microwave research. I was very impressed with the quality of the topics and the speakers each provided a really interactive lecture that helped one to grasp concepts and held one's interest. What I enjoyed most

from the sessions was the question-and-answer period because from this I learned about different people's strategies and interests. It was also a treat attending the parties that were generously funded by the various sponsors. My successful site-seeing excursions would not have been possible without the friendly people that I met there.

It is easy to think that the conference is simply about learning from the sessions. However, I was pleasantly surprised to realize that the heart of the conference experience for me was the people, the conference attendees and the volunteers who made it all happen. One of the best parts of the conference was having the opportunity to meet people from different types of

searchers who were in different advanced stages of their careers and experiences.

During this symposium I've learned so much especially that I am in the early stage of my professional career. I am very thankful for everything that I learned in my 'niversity and I believe that I did not only prove myself there but also showed what NDU made of me. My experience at my first conference has indeed left an indelible mark on me. It has been an inspiring source for some answers and other questions at the same time. Other than the educational and social benefits, I gained a deep understanding and appreciation of the challenging era of knowledge that we live in.



# INTRODUCING MIND MAPPING

o | by Kamal Darouni  
 buzantm Licensed Instructor (BLI) -UK

An intensive training Course in Mind Mapping took place during the month of January at Henley Business School (UK), under the supervision of Dr. Toni Buzan, owner of Buzan Mind Mapping Worldwide and Master Trainer Hilde Jaspaert.

Kamal Darouni, Assistant professor NDU, General Secretary of AAA and CEO Infomarkets, was attending this important worldwide workshop .

The intention is to introduce in the Lebanese market this radiant thinking that is useful to marketers, advertisers, advertising executives and media planners. Already scheduled periodical workshops will start to take place on March 7th at the AAA premises and Buzan-recognized certificates will be delivered .

## What is Mind Mapping?

In brief, it is “the whole brain alternative to linear thinking. It reaches out in all directions and catches thoughts from any angle.” Mind Map can help you plan, communicate, be more creative, save time, solve problems, concentrate, organize, remember better, and study faster.

Many geniuses used the technique of mind mapping, such as Leonardo da Vinci, Galileo Galilei, Charles Darwin, Sir Isaac Newton, Albert Einstein and many others.

## Know your brain

If you understand how your brain likes to learn and function, it will reward you by working better for you. In the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, it was discovered that the number of brain cells was not just a few million; it was billions! 167 times the number of people on the planet. Our brain is so powerful and important to the extent that if we were to represent its power it would be by a building far bigger than the 100-storey skyscraper.

Different part of the brain control different functions. The way you draw a Mind Map reflects the manner in which your brain likes to think. Our brain is divided into two parts, the left brain and the right brain. The left brain is about everything that is logic, words, numbers, and sequence, whereas the right brain is about everything that has to do with imagination, daydreaming, color, spatial, holistic.

To be able to be as creative as possible and use all of the brain’s potential we have to use both the right and left brain equally so we can come up with exciting results, because using one part of a brain and ignoring the other will reduce the overall potential of your brain. Our brain potential is infinite.

## Creating your first mind map

First take a sheet of plain paper and some colored pens. Turn the piece of paper landscape. In the centre of the page, as an example, draw an image that represents a subject for you.

Second, draw some thick branches radiating out from the central holiday image. Using a different color for each of these branches will represent your main thoughts. On each branch, print clearly and in large letters the first five single key words that come to you.

As you continue developing your Mind Map add little pictures to reinforce your ideas. Third, use association to expand this Mind Map. Limit yourself to six or seven sub-branch levels.

With a mind map, a long listing of boring information can be turned into a colorful, organized, memorable diagram that works in line with your brain’s natural way of doing things. The successful principle is TEFCAS as an acronym of Trial, Event, Feedback, Check, Adjust and Success .

► Picture shows from left to right Kamal Darouni and Dr. Toni Buzan, with in the background on the left Master Trainer Hilde Jaspaert. On the board you will see an example of a Mind Mapping project .



N.B In this connection, on 20<sup>th</sup> January,2009, Dr. Zalloah visited NDU as guest speaker, presenting the Global Culture Museum video clip implemented by his students May Karim and Ahmed Toufic under the supervision of Mr. Darouni.

# How I Train – My Inspiration

○ | Christine Abi Khalil Gabriel (NDU Admissions)

I have practiced several sports, but karate has most meaning for me and I give it all my spare time. I am in the Kokushokuren of Lebanon, attached to the International Shotokan Karate Federation. This in turn is attached to the Japan Karate Association, which registers our grades after we have been examined by its representatives. They are all Japanese. They are very demanding at the examinations but like this we know our JKA diplomas have a real value. Our instructor, Fady Antakly sensei, goes to Japan for several months every year. Several dojos offer instruction by him or under his control. I am a brown belt, preparing my black belt, while my husband Selim is already a black belt. In addition to our training we both follow courses to become assistant instructors.

Karate is ideal for a woman to defend herself but it does not teach one to be aggressive. The purpose of every Japanese martial art is formation of character so one may better serve others. So that they will keep this in mind, at the end of every class the students line up sitting on their heels in the "seiza" position. After a

short meditation, they recite the "Dojokun" as follows, sometimes in English but usually in Japanese:

**Jinkako kansei ni tsuto muru koto – Seek perfection of character!**

**Mokoto no michi o mamoru koto – Be faithful!**

**Doryoku no seishin o yashinau koto – Endeavor!**

**Reigi o omonzuru koto – Respect others!**

**Keki no yu o imashimuru koto – Refrain from violent behavior!**

Competitive sport exists in karate, but is not essential. Many, perhaps most, practice it for physical and mental health, a strong character, and if the need should ever arise a means of self-defense.

▶ *Sparring with K.J. Mortimer, also of NDU, round kick and block.*



▲ *Taking the class as future assistant instructor, Rimal Health Club dojo, newly re-opened.*



▲ *With husband Selim.*



◀ *Direct side kick and block.*



◀ *How the class begins and ends.*



# Kherbet Massoud

o | By Dr. Mansour Eid

Commentary by Joseph R. Yacoub, Ph.D.  
Notre Dame University-Loueizeh

When the irrational holds time by the sleeves to slow it down, one can say that life penetrates time and makes it its tool. In time, but not from time, Mariam meets José, and in time, but not from time, a cause causes the cause of their encounter. José does not come from Mexico to meet Mariam, nor does Mariam decide to join the Muslim Resistance to meet José. The intention of research usually brings knowledge and the intention of resistance brings defense. Their marriage comes as a result of one cause that causes another cause without any reason for it. In such a context the cause is called love; and love is the cause of all causes, not a reason for it. The Holy Book says, "God is love."

In love there is a sense of creation. It is like a dark energy within which one can see a shining light that bathes time and space. This shining light causes expansion of space, and a redemption of a suffocating moment-less time. With love the claustrophobic prison cell becomes space-less, and

Mariam's warm voice becomes the messenger of her invisible face. José's research, which is supposed to be for knowledge's sake, is transformed into an interrogation about a suspect purpose: who is this woman towards whom his heart moves, and also who is this woman with whom he has magnetic conversations? The meaning hidden in these interwoven causes is not determined by any of their reasons, but by a decision that claims an inherent element of creation; it is the creation of love. It is a type of love that makes us, rather than a love that discusses us.

So the research that insinuates discussions is transformed into how human beings fit into the scheme of things governed by latent and manifest causes. In other words, the scheme of things makes of us a story about a larger holy reality; a reality much more inspirational than the hope of defending a country or research. It is a reality that might miss our purposes, but never misses our lives as we must live them. It is the marvelous and the

wonderful, not resulting from calculated empirical facts and statistical numbers. It is what generates in us the feeling of awe. It is love, the cause of all causes.

Love does not betray its purpose. Love is poor. It is poor because it constantly gives. Kherbet Massoud is inhabited by a poor husband and wife. It is a "Kherbet" because throughout its history it gave all that it could be given. What is left in it is "life", a life with all its unpredictability. That is why it becomes the cause of the route that led José to prison; the place which is poor in freedom. This type of poverty leads to contentment, i.e., the contentment of having life and only life, irrespective of its conditions. In this sense contentment is a source of humility, and humility always says one word: Amen. Mariam

in the jail of her displaced grief for her late husband, and Jose in his physical jail, both say: Amen to love.

Amen is said. Under the umbrella of Amen, marriage takes place. From a cause that causes a cause a reasonable reason starts to take shape. José's parents in Mexico become as eager to meet their new daughter-in-law they are to meet their grand-daughter. The story does not stop here. Eagerness is an element of desire, and desire keeps desiring; no object can stop it, not even the object of marriage. Mariam wants to revive her past nonsectarian life symbolized by her

marriage, a life marked by a congenial living between Muslims and Christians. It is a congeniality that unites differences into a spiritual unity; and wherever there is spirituality there is love.

Yet, the dark energy that enlarges space can be best described by using a Shakesporean language. It becomes like a circle in the water that never ceases to enlarge itself till it disappears in its own ocean. Our thoughts, plans, wishes and desires are our own, but their children are not. They are baked by the spiritual elements of the universe that we may live them; and by living them we allow this spirituality to digest them. Mariam and José loved each other and brought a baby girl to this world. Yet, this blessed marriage has to vanish into the ocean of life, into a larger self.

The 2006 war erupts. José's parents postpone their plans to come and visit Lebanon. In order to escape the horrors of war, Mariam and José decide to leave for Mexico. On their way to the airport a bomb shatters their car. As misfortune would have it, their plan and their lives are given to a larger plan to digest them. Maraim and her son die and José and his daughter survive. The marriage intended to be lived in Lebanon is transformed into a marriage that sinks into the soul of humanity. The academic research is killed and dispatched to Life. We are more than what we are. We are the suggestion of something deeper than ourselves. We are a mystery and obey the larger Mystery of Life with Amen.



*If I were asked to state the great objective which church and state are both asked demanding for the sake of every man and woman and child in this country, I would say that that great objective is “a more abundant life”.*

- Franklin Delano Roosevelt -

## Cyberspace for Higher Education and Community Service

Which life are we looking for? And what quality of life are we intending to have? Understanding our quality of life is today in particular is a very important issue in order to make the right choice, the better decision, and a focus clearly on the future. To improve the quality of life for us and our communities, sharing ideas and discussing a variety of topics is a must. That's why, braving low temperatures and a severe thunderstorm on February the 28th, a group of NDU students and educators went down to the American University of Beirut (AUB) and participated in the first "BarCamp" held in Lebanon.

Before shedding light on the schedule of that day and the most important topics discussed, we should clarify what a "BarCamp" is. It is based on an international network of Information Communication Technology (ICT) user-generated conferences – open, participatory workshop-events,

whose content is provided by participants. The first Lebanese BarCamps focused on early-stage web applications, and related to open-source technologies, social protocols, and open-data formats. The format has also been used for a variety of other topics, including public transport, health care, and community organizing. When you arrive at any BarCamp, you are sent directly to the registration table, where you can claim your nametag and your T-shirt and get started. You make your way into the eatery, where you find breakfast and lots of people to socialize with. At the Beirut BarCamp we started by gathering together in one space and going around the room to introduce ourselves and describe what we're

passionate about or want to talk about with respect to ICT, exchange and service. After this, people who intend to lead a session add their session info to an empty schedule grid. If you see a session you're interested in, you go for it.

Both our NDU educators, Associate Professor Eugene SENSENIG-DABBOUS and part-time instructor Dima SABER led sessions about ICT, which they themselves initiated. These open forums centered on how important it is to use communication technologies such as student web mails and NDU's Blackboard technology for communicating with students and keeping them in touch with their professors. "By this we can stay at



▲ NDU group close up.



home and explain lessons through board discussion," said Saber. Not only presenting NDU facilities for such kind of communication, but also working to improve those methods, Saber launched a new systematic idea and a new way to attract students and keep them updated to their major and latest data, no being mere a substitute for a FACEBOOK chatting session or for other social website, BarCamps site "<http://www.barcamp.org/OpenSesame-BarCamp-Lebanon-press>" is truly unique.

During the Saturday session, light was also shed on issues such as introducing and enforcing communication with students through IT, including opening discussion boards, which can even be graded and part of the final course evaluation. Most important and more crucial than the final grade, by using the ICT facilities NDU students and educators can connect to other students around the

world and can exchange ideas and data needed for their educational field.

Sensenig-Dabbous co-chaired a session about how to use the Web for advocacy and ICT for improving political discourse and community service in Lebanon, which was a major concern of most of the participants in the BarCamp. ICT can be seen as another face of politics and a means of making it more interactive and responsive, the participants agreed. Sensenig-Dabbous also led an additional session about archiving, sharing, and preserving historical web

content, an issue that is becoming increasing critical as old websites get closed down and their content thus deleted and lost forever.

All BarCamp workshops have one purpose: to improve knowledge and enlarge our horizon in order to achieve the highest level of "quality of life" for us and our communities through debate, exchange and understanding. So why don't we NDU students use those opportunities in order to CHANGE? And I believe that CHANGE starts from each person individually.



▲ Collective photo.

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Photos: Raghad Yakob Al Khoury,

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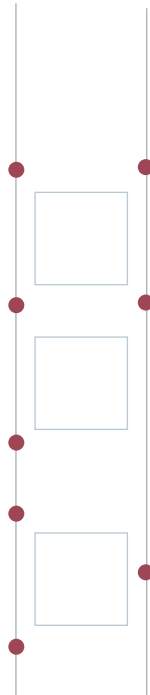
◀ Left to right: Youssef Farhat, Firas Talbani, Hamed Abdallah, Eugene Sensenig-Dabbous, David Munir Nabti, Chantal Souaid, Raghad Yakob Al-Khoury and Sara Panossian.



## Endless Questions

o | Nelly Al-Haddad  
Clinical Psychology Program

What a great world, world of fake,  
 Amazing world, world of lies!  
 I wish I were never awake  
 But forever closed my eyes.  
 What a strange wish for an optimist,  
 What a strange wish wishing salvation.  
 When did I turn to a pessimist,  
 Cursing the moment of my creation?  
 How did I end as such?  
 How was love replaced by hate?  
 How can I hate life so much?  
 How can I hate the desire of fate?  
 When did I become who I am?  
 When did I lose the lead?  
 When did I stray off my plan?  
 When did I become so in need?  
 When did I not be the boss?  
 When did I become the convict?  
 When did I accept this loss?  
 When did I surrender and admit?  
 How can I acknowledge defeat?  
 How can I quit trying?  
 How did I stop my heartbeat?  
 How am I living yet dying?  
 How am I walking among the crowd?  
 How is death crawling deep within me?



How am I shouting for help so loud,  
 Yet my suffering no one can see?  
 When did people not really care,  
 Becoming so rude and so impolite?  
 Why do they just stand and stare,  
 Enjoying my endless inner fight?  
 Have I suddenly reached the end,  
 Is this what I really desire,  
 Pushing away every friend,  
 Tormented forever in my own fire?  
 How, why, where and when?  
 The question always repeated.  
 A massive depression all over again,  
 Leaving me all alone defeated.



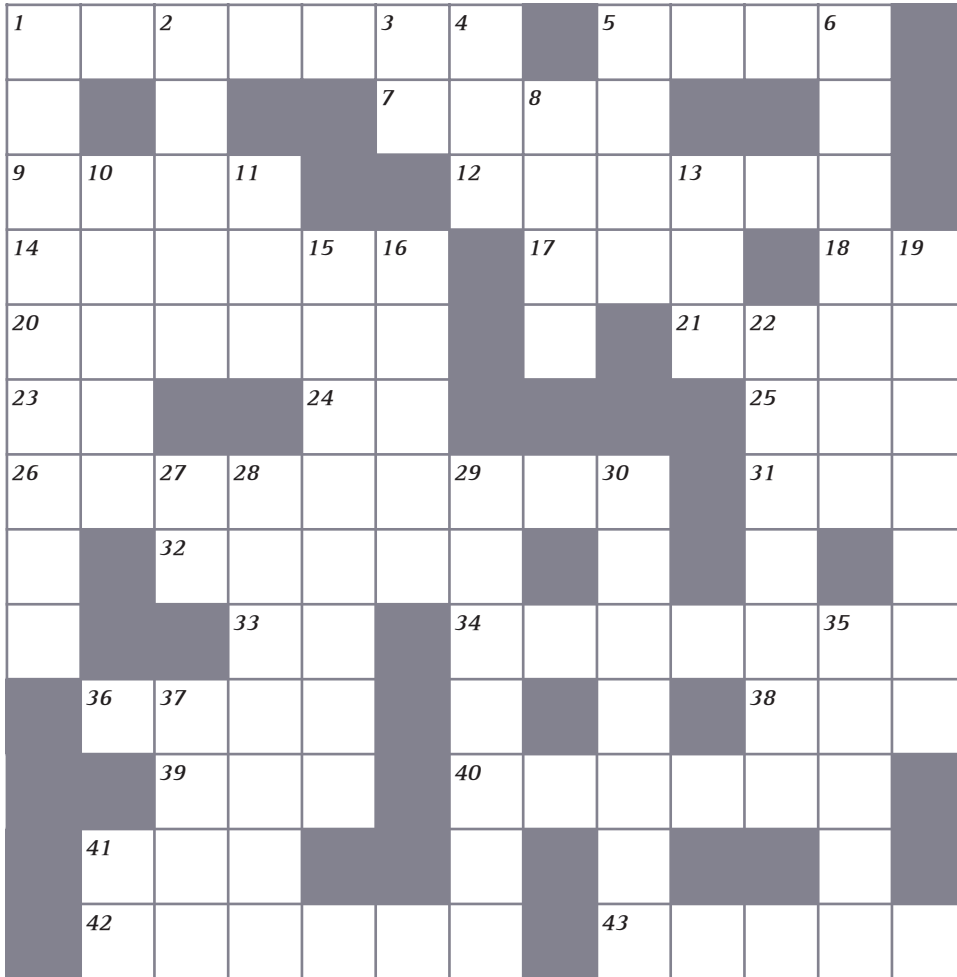
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# Something for your grey matter

## Crossword

## Clues



### Across:

1. Cul de sac 5. Road crossing a mountain range 7. Continental money 9. Meat of calf 12. Praise 14. Enchant 17. Guided 18. Initials of Californian town 20. Second of these 21. Give out 23. Old French dialect 24. Degree 25. Remains of fire 26. Bird of pheasant family 31. Popular rebel 32. River of Paris 33. Room air control 34. Sources 36. Public amusement or celebration 38. Negation 39. Strong drink 40. Expresses a view 41. State of matter 42. Rather beautiful 43. Lawn

### Down:

1. Grew 2. Separate 3. Direction of cold 4. Owed 5. North or South extremity 6. Fashionable 8. Regulation 10. Pass a law 11. With long, for position on a map 13. Poem 15. Preserved dried meat (Red Indian) 16. Trailing robe 19. Unbeliever 22. Mechanical device 27. Like, similar to 28. Understand (European spelling) 29. Study of rocks 30. Fixing with a hammer 35. Facial organs 37. Soup for bacteria 41. Family doctor (abbrev.)

### Answers for issue 44

- Across:** 1. Ecosystem 8. Peck 9. Ire 11. ID 12. Yeti 15. Rope 17. Pet 19. Gender 22. K.O. 23. End 25. Ape 27. Loser 30. Neater 32. Oily 35. Yacht 36. Stem 38. Lute 39. Pane 42. Theme 43. Owe 45. Brawny 46. Ode 47. Bees  
**Down:** 1. Epiphany 2. Cede 3. Oc 4. Sky 5. Sate 6. Mere 7. Tip 10. Read 13. E.g. 14. Inks 18. Treacle 20. Doe 24. Nil 26. Pea 27. Letter 28. Or 29. Roe 31. Thumbs 33. Imp 34. Yon 37. Town 40. Avon 41. Ewe 42. Tab 43. Own 44. Eye