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## Message from the President

### Different Roles of Universities

Universities in the developing countries might have a different role than those of the universities in the developed countries. In spite of the fact that leading universities enjoy a longer and much richer experience in teaching and research, yet younger universities in relatively new countries around the world are expected to play a very significant role in the basic education of the people of their countries and in providing the basic research skills for their communities and their regions.

These different roles demand the kind of objectives that put the university in a leading position that allows its faculties (schools) and research centers to play an effective role in engaging its community, its nation and its people in the practice of freedom, democracy, tolerance, dialogue of cultures. This is a role that has to do also with public awareness of the importance of knowledge, the significance of higher education, and the sensitiveness to research. The university in this part of the world has to take its students, future citizens, all the way through, from grasping knowledge, or learning how to learn and how to think, to producing knowledge or being able how to become independent critical thinkers, creative writers, and researchers.

Universities in the developing world need the proper tools for this major endeavor, and unless they have these proper tools and facilities, their role becomes more and more difficult. However, this is part of the challenge that we accept so as to carry on to play our role professionally and properly in due time and in due course.

Father Boutros Tarabay  
President

Notre Dame University, Lebanon

## NDU at the UNESCO Forum Research and Higher Education

Paris – December 1-3, 2004



For three consecutive days, a "special" language echoed the walls and halls of UNESCO headquarters in Paris with participants from all over the world. The common vocabulary used during the sessions of the colloquium included indicative and suggestive terms such as: global knowledge, knowing to globalize; actual disequilibriums, epistemological implications, structural approaches, challenging the orthodoxies of knowledge, critical research, research and writing, higher education policy making, knowledge beyond the university boundaries, knowledge and manpower planning, research in humanities, market and cooperative internationalizations, knowledge and power, literary research and the challenge of nationalism and globalisation, social engagement in higher education and research, the changing institutional-intellectual ecology of knowledge production, competing cultures of knowledge and the battle or rationality, sustaining research capacity, university autonomy and cost recovery policies, training researchers, external influences on university governance, research funding and international agencies, research and interdisciplinary knowledge, managing contradictory factors in higher education, knowledge and changing patterns of research, universities and the governance of knowledge, research and social epistemology, enhancing access to information technology for up-to-date research, managing information technology for more advanced research, and program for the enhancement of research information.

NDU participated in several discussions particularly on issues related to research in the humanities, international funding agencies and research, a well-equipped research environment, ways to go about scientific research with limited resources...

Side meetings took place between Professor Ameen A. Rihani, Vice President for Sponsored Research and Development at NDU, and key note speakers such as: Professor Homi K. Bhabha, from Harvard University, Professor Hans Weiler, from Stanford University, Brigitte Gemme and Yves Gingras, from the Inter-University Center for Research in Science and Technology, Montreal, Canada, Professor Elwyn Thomas, University of London, Professor Gerhart Rott, President of FEDORA, University of Wuppertal, Germany, and others.

The very condensed conference on Research at UNESCO gave the opportunity for NDU to present itself as a young and dynamic university embarking on the research endeavor to cope with the demanding academic requisites of the twenty-first century.

# Embarking on Research

Reviewing the papers, presentations and discussions that took place during the UNESCO Research Forum (Paris, Dec. 1-3, 2004), one may pinpoint a few observations on the conference and the topic itself.

Several papers reflected the experience of a young institution of higher education starting research with or without a point of reference or a focus with clear priorities. In this category, problems of research were not fully determined and dealt with directly. It would have been much more beneficial if such problems were determined, not theoretically, but rather on a practical level, in order to come up with some clear suggestions and solutions.

The excellent papers that came from Harvard, Stanford and the German universities tried to map the relationship between knowledge and power, social and multi-leveled scientific epistemology, a comparative analysis between the scientific and literary perspectives of the same social, or the same human reality, whereby advanced research has identified itself as a new language of evaluation and understanding or what could be considered as a "third approach" or a "third intellectual perspective".

The focus on the "market needs" gave, at some points, the impression that research either has to respond to the "commercial" demands or it has to face its extinction. I wonder, here, whether there could be room for research as such, i.e. for the sake of sophisticated research, the kind of purely intellectual research regardless of the cost effectiveness of this kind of advanced, may be theoretical and philosophical, research endeavor. This is purely an intellectual activity of the mind that has no "money" value but enjoys the ultimate value of the human "history of thought".

Isn't there a small place for such a discussion in forums of academic research around the world? Isn't there a little space to discuss research for the sake of research, or to discuss the philosophic interpretations of the modern world for the sake of these interpretations as a new portrait of the human mind in the twenty first century?

What I am suggesting here is to leave room for a kind of research that may touch the realms of creativity and, therefore, cannot wait for a financial support or a sponsor who believes in it, but rather goes ahead and responds to the deep internal personal call, while something is written that could be considered, later on, as another line in the history of the human mind. It needs the proper spirit, and the proper attitude, that I expected to hear about in the UNESCO research forum.

Professor Ameen A. Rihani  
Vice President  
Research & Development  
Notre Dame University, Lebanon

## LERC Lectures

### The Last Migration

Novel by Jad El Hage

The Lebanese Emigration Research Center at NDU organized a lecture on *The Last Migration*, a novel by Jad El-Hage, published in English in 2002, by Panache Publications – Australia.

Introducing Mr. El-Hage, Dr. Norman Nikro, Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Humanities, commented that the opening pages of the novel, especially the Prologue, induce something of a flutter in the reader's expectation of direct access to the sense of location, as the writing obsessively skips between Amsterdam, Rome, and London – drawn through a somewhat unsettled parameter of past and present.

After the introduction by Dr. Nikro, Mr. El Hage painted a picture of his life remembering the French environment, when he was brought up in his early years in school and how he learned the English language.

Further, he spoke of certain stages of his political life and the 'LA' movement which he founded and which called for the abolition of confessional restraints and invited students to unite against the corrupt establishment. Mr. Hage then spoke of his arrest and his days in prison that were ultimately the cause of his emigration.

After he was discharged from prison, Jad El-Hage's physical and spiritual migration began and kept wandering in the alleys of Paris, carrying nothing with him except his revolutionary songs and ideas. But, after his arrival in London, his journey with his first English novel, *The Last Migration*, was set in motion.

*The Last Migration* is a mixture of a tale of love found and lost and of nostalgia for the homeland. It tells the story of one momentous year in the life of Ashraf Saad, a forty-something Lebanese journalist working for an Arab newspaper in London. Beneath its entertaining surface, the story portrays the bewildered restlessness of the Lebanese Diaspora, forced out of their deeply loved homeland by the war of 1975-91. It also shows that however successful and adaptable they may appear in their new countries, Lebanese in their Diaspora are profoundly aware of what has been lost – in Lebanon and in themselves.

01 The lecture was animated by a theatrical<sup>02</sup> reading of excerpts from *The Last Migration* that were recited by Jad El Hage and Ms. Valérie Aoun, an MA student in English Literature at NDU.

A book signing followed the lecture.

It is worth noting that Mr. El Hage is currently working on a new novel entitled *The Myrtle Bush*.

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01 From right to left:  
Mr Jad El Haje & Ms. Valerie Aoun

## **Criminality: Canada's role in fighting it through its immigration laws**

Presented by

Mr. Joseph G.B. Rikhof  
Senior Counsel, Manager of the Law, with Crimes  
against Humanity and War Crimes Section,  
Department of Justice, Canada

Auditorium - NDU Main Campus -  
Zouk Mosbeh  
Wednesday November 10, 2004 @ 11:00 a.m.

### **Lecture brief**

Mr. Rikhof will provide a historical overview of Canadian immigration policy with specific attention given to the bars included in various immigration laws to prohibit people suspected of war crimes and crimes against humanity of various natures including terrorism from entering Canada. He will also discuss Canada's modern day immigration and refugee law in respect to these so-called inadmissible classes, including information about Canada's operational aspects of implementing such laws.

### **Lecturer's biography**

He was educated in the Netherlands, where he received a law degree from the University of Nijmegen, and in Canada, where he studied law at the University of British Columbia and McGill University. He has been employed with the Department of Justice since 1987, first as counsel with the Crimes against Humanity and War Crimes Section and then as counsel with Legal Services, Citizenship & Immigration. He was seconded from the Department of Justice to the Modern War Crimes Section of the Department of Citizenship & Immigration as Special Counsel and Policy Advisor between October 1998 and June 2003, after which he returned to the Justice Crimes against Humanity and War Crimes Section as senior counsel, management of the law.

His area of expertise in the last decade lies in the law related to organized crime, terrorism, genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity, especially in the context of immigration and refugee law. He has written a number of articles exploring these areas of international law and immigration/refugee law.

## *Criminality: Canada's role in fighting it through its immigration laws (continued)*

In the seventies a new threat moved to the foreground of international politics and therefore in immigration policy as well. This was the resurgence of terrorism. Remarkably, it was not only international terrorism culminating in the killing of Israeli athletes in Munich at the hands of the Palestinian Liberation Organization in the 70s but even more so terrorist activities in Canada itself that worried the Canadian government. The activities of the Front de la Liberation du Quebec which booby trapped mail boxes and kidnapped and killed a British diplomat, and Armenian militants assassinating Turkish diplomats in the heart of Ottawa, galvanized the government to become more vigilant in dealing with these types of activities in the immigration context although, oddly enough, they were not referred to as terrorism. The reason for that is that, although more than 100 definitions for terrorism were considered for the 1976 Immigration Act, no consensus could be reached. Activities, which are now known as terrorism, were subsumed in the notions of violent or subversive acts.

Ultimately, in the mid-80's, the term terrorism was introduced in the Immigration Act while the Criminal Code in 2001 and the Supreme Court of Canada in 2002 finally defined what this term meant. Three main elements have to be present for an activity to constitute a terrorist act: first of all, it has to be a serious criminal offence resulting in death, injury or serious property damage; secondly this act is carried out with an intention to either to intimidate a government or international organization to do something or refrain from doing something or carried with an intention to intimidate the population; thirdly, these activities are undertaken for a religious, ideological or political purpose.

Two incidents shaped the Canadian war crimes immigration policies. The first was that as a result of the rumor that the Nazi criminal from Auschwitz, Dr. Mengele, was in Canada, a Royal Commission issued a report in 1986 indicating that soon after WWII a number of persons had been able by stealth to elude immigration officials and recommending changes in the immigration and citizenship laws. This resulted in 1987 a change in the Immigration Act barring war criminals from coming or staying in Canada.

The second incident occurred during the first Gulf War in 1991 when the Iraqi ambassador to the United States came to Canada and decided to settle there at a time when Canada was supportive of the war in Iraq. Since it was impossible to bring him under any of the existing provisions of the Immigration Act, a new clause was introduced to the effect that senior officials of a country declared by the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration to have been involved in war crimes, crimes against humanity, violations of human rights or terrorism, cannot set foot in Canada.

Under that provision eight regimes have been designated: the Bosnian Serb regime between 1992 and 1996; the Milosevic regime between 1998 and 2000; the Rwandan regime between 1990 and 1994; three Haitian regimes in 1971-1986 and 1991-1994 (except August-December 1993); the Taliban regime between 1996 and 2001; the Somali regime of Siad Barré between 1969 and 1991; the Saddam Hussein's regime between 1968 and 2003; the Marxist regime in Afghanistan between 1978 and 1992; and the Mengistu regime in Ethiopia between 1974 and 1991. An exemption clause allows people to come to Canada in spite of being a high official if the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration deems it in the national interest of Canada for instance where such an official actually opposed the policies of such regimes and ended up paying a price for it.

As to why other equally criminal regimes haven't been designated, Rikhof mentioned that the Canadian government will look at factors such as the level of human rights violations, the international and Canadian condemnation expressed against such regimes and the immigration flow from such countries to Canada.

Rikhof finished the lecture by saying that he hoped that this brief overview of the history of Canadian immigration policies in the area of criminality had shown that such policies are at times dictated by international events while at other times are inspired by uniquely Canadian political dilemmas. This would explain why in some respects the immigration policies of major immigrant countries such as Canada, the US, the UK and Australia are very similar in areas of global concern while at the same time showing national perspectives when regulating criminality.

## Asian & Middle Eastern Women in Vienna: An Oral History Approach

The LERC at NDU, organized the following lecture on October 20, 2004. Following is a brief biography of the lecturer:

### Edith Binderhofer, Ph. D.

Dr. Binderhofer is currently a freelance author and researcher. She served as the Anchor Woman at the Multilateral Department of the Indonesian Embassy in Vienna and was the Education and Art Manager for Asia in the Afro-Asian Institute in Vienna. She was also the editor of *The Pacific Century? Economic, Ecological and Political Development in East and Southeast Asia*. (Edith Binderhofer, Ingrid Getreuer-Kargl, Helmut Lukas (Eds.), Brandes und Apsel, Frankfurt/M., Südwind Wien, 1996) and a researcher in the Austrian Institute for International Affairs, Laxenburg, conducting research on "The Palestinians in the Gulf States" as part of a study on "The Political Role of Minorities in the Middle East."

### Summary

By invitation from the Lebanese Emigration Research Center at Notre Dame University, the Austrian author and researcher, Dr. Edith Binderhofer, lectured on "Asian & Middle Eastern Women in Vienna" before an interested audience.

After an introduction by researcher Dr. Eugene Sensenig-Dabbous, the lecturer began with a brief overview of her upcoming book *The Sky in my Country has a Different Colour: Conversations with Asian Women in Vienna*, which includes personal interviews she conducted with 16 Asian or Middle Eastern women living in Vienna. Through her book, Dr. Binderhofer is attempting to expunge the Western stereotype of Eastern and Asian women as weak and subjugated to their menfolk.

Dr. Binderhofer said that she had recourse to the oral history approach in order to add a spirit of transparency and realism to the testimony of those women; she indicated further that her research was not based on statistical criteria but rather delved deep into the depth of the life led by those women.

Later, she presented small synopses of the chapters of her book and their subject matter. The first chapter deals with the problems faced by these women upon their arrival in Vienna, such as homesickness, language difficulties and the dysfunctional family of the West.

The second chapter focuses on some of the features of Vienna, such as the multicultural setting, the phenomenon of racism, etc. As for the third chapter, it talks of the prejudice felt by Middle Eastern and Asian women against their Western counterparts, particularly on account of their liberty and weak sense of family.

Chapter six concentrates on the advantages enjoyed by Austrian women in comparison with the Asian women, particularly their moral freedom and freedom of movement, dress and education, in addition to having the housework shared by their husbands. This chapter also tackles the positive aspects of Asian women, particularly their femininity.

When asked for the reasons behind the emigration of these women to Vienna in particular, Dr. Binderhofer answered that the causes were financial or marital or educational, for example a desire to learn music.

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02 From right to left:  
Dr. Edith Binderhofer and  
Dr. Eugene Sensenig-Dabbous.

## Two “Global” Lebanese Families

On May 19, 2004, at the invitation of the Lebanese Emigration Research Center, the of the Friends of LERC at NDU, **Professor Ghassan Hage**, a leading anthropologist from the University of Sidney and a visiting professor at AUB, gave a lecture at the NDU Main Campus on the topic of the Lebanese Transnational Family.

With funding from the Australian Research Centre, Dr. Hage sought out two families; one based on the village of Ehmej and the other on Ashesh near Laqlouq, and traced their diffusion around the globe. He made three round-the-world trips yearly, covering Brazil, Venezuela, the United States, Europe, Lebanon and Melbourne, Australia. He used both traditional and modern methods of research, residing with the two families in their respective homes to see how the members, in the same country or overseas, related to each other. He analysed their telephone bills and studied the nature and extent of family intermarriage as well as the number and times of visits to Lebanon.

Dr. Hage learnt that the village in Lebanon remained the focus of the transnational families and was one of the main links between the members. Telephone calls had a central role in building the transnational family; the calls were made mainly to the grandparents' house or to the head of the family and were more frequent when the family was better off economically. Money transfers in the shape of remittances through banks were important and were transmitted not necessarily to Lebanon but wherever money was needed. Emigrants, at least those of the first generation, kept their village mentality in that they remained connected to their family and their religious beliefs while integrating into the host society in all other aspects.

The speaker finally noted that the motives for migration varied according to the regions and the families the emigrants belonged to.

### Introducing Migrinter

On Thursday afternoon, 11 November, 2004, The Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) and the Faculty of Political Science, Public Administration & Diplomacy held a round-table discussion at which **Dr. Mohamed Kamel Dorai** presented the work of the Centre for International Migration (Migrinter) of the University of Poitier in France. The meeting took place in the Conference Room of the NDU Museum.

Migrinter was set up in 1985 by Gildas Simon (CNRS Silver Medal, 1996) and since then has pursued research, formation, publication and documentation about international migration and its effects in the countries of its origin and those of its destination. It is one of the components of a research laboratory that associates the CNRS to the universities of Poitiers and Bordeaux.

Doctor Dorai has a Doctorate in Geography and is a research fellow at Miginter. In January 2002 he defended a Ph.D. Geography thesis on Palestinian Refugees from Lebanon in the Diaspora: a Geography of Exile". Its main research themes were 1) The Palestinian Diaspora: Migration and transnational practices, 2) International relations and new migrations in the Middle East, and 3) Refugees and asylum seekers from the Middle East in Northern Europe

## NDU activities in the USA

**Notre Dame University has students from all around the world. The cultural diversity is very enriching.** Moreover, the exposition of what NDU has to offer has highlighted its commitment to excellence. The Director of Admissions, Dr. Elham Hasham, initiated an international recruitment program four years ago. It has entailed contacts with school administrators and also orientation sessions for secondary students preparing for a university degree.

Today, NDU has a great influx of students that apply from prominent schools in KSA (Jeddah, Riyadh, Khobar); UAE (Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Sharja); Kuwait, Jordan, Bahrain, Qatar, Syria, Egypt, Australia, America, France, Canada and Africa. In particular, NDU has established solid ties with prestigious internationally recognized associations that are established in U.S.A. and other parts of the world.

After initiating contact and membership procedures, Dr. Hasham has acquired membership for NDU on the AACRAO (American Association of Collegiate Registrar and Admissions Officers); the College Board; NAFSA (Association of International Educators); EAIE (European Association of International Educators) and NAM (National Apostolate of Maronites).

NAFSA sets upholds standards of good practice; provides training, professional development, and networking opportunities; and advocates international education. Accordingly, NAFSA provides opportunities for knowledge creation, knowledge sharing, and skill-building. There were 6,200 professional educators from all over the world.

The College Board is a national nonprofit membership association whose mission is to prepare, inspire, and connect students to college success and opportunity. Founded in 1900, the association is composed of more than 4,500 schools, colleges, universities, and other educational organizations. Each year, the College Board serves over three million students and their parents, 23,000 high schools, and 3,500 colleges through major programs and services in college admissions, guidance, assessment, financial aid, enrollment, and teaching and learning. Among its best-known programs are the SAT, the PSAT/NMSQT, and the Advanced Placement Program (AP).



**03 From right to left:**  
Professor Ameen A. Rihani and  
Dr. Elham Hasham

The College Board is committed to the principles of excellence and equity, and this commitment is embodied in all of its programs, services, activities, and concerns.

The National Apostolate of Maronites (NAM) serves as a unifying force among the laity of the Maronite Church in the USA and as a common link between the clergy and the laity. NAM helps preserve the Syriac-Maronite traditions by making people aware of the rich heritage of the Maronite faith and by fostering pride in the Maronite Church. The NDU logo and website and specifically the Summer Arabic Program is found on the NAM website ([www.namnews.org](http://www.namnews.org)). There are ongoing contacts with Bishops Robert Shaheen and Gregory Mansour who are interested in seeing NDU flourish. Members of NAM in various states are also willing to offer whatever services they can.



The EAIE is a non-profit organization whose main aim is the stimulation and facilitation of the internationalization of higher education in Europe and around the world. The EAIE has a committed membership of more than 1,800 international education professionals, academics and administrators. It offers a unique opportunity to become part of a worldwide network of international education professionals and all the services needed to communicate with colleagues and to stay updated on all the innovations in this field.

The Summer Arabic Program has been met with enthusiasm and 2004 witnessed the presence at NDU of students from Australia, USA, Columbia, Brazil and Mexico. Contacts have already begun for Summer 2005. In particular, there were three students from the University of Western Sydney with which NDU has now signed an agreement. The President, Rev. Father Tarabay, has appointed Dr. Elham Hasham, Director of Admissions, as the NDU representative for the implementation of this academic agreement and she received the following attestation:

"I, Marleine Azzi, along with my classmates Loulou Ayoub and Rebecca Arida were involved in the first exchange program of Notre Dame University and the University of Western Sydney this year. We spent six weeks in Lebanon; I can honestly say that studying in NDU was the best experience I have had so far – it's made me a better person, and it has enriched my life, leaving beautiful memories of our experiences at the university and of Lebanon as a whole that will live on.

I would definitely recommend the exchange program to other students. I wouldn't mind if I did it all over again too! It makes you stronger as a person, and we found all the people at Notre Dame University were very friendly, and willing to help. It really felt like we were at home. The only negative aspect about my 6 weeks stay, was saying farewell to all the kind people I met at NDU".



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**04 From right to left:** Mr. Ameen Harb, Dr. Elham Hasham, and Mr. Atef Harb in Orlando (NAM organizers).

**05 From right to left:** Mrs. Michael, Bishop Mansour, Bishop Shaheen and Dr. Elham Hasham

## NDU meetings with Congressmen

During the month of September, 2004, several meetings took place between Miss. Betty Hindi, Assistant for Development at NDU, and Congressmen interested in higher education in Lebanon and the Middle East. The purpose of these meetings was to introduce NDU as a private, non-profit, Lebanese University adopting the American educational system at the university level, and implementing the American standards and values of academic learning and research. The mission and identity of the University were discussed thoroughly together with the role of the University in providing educational services for Lebanon and other Middle Eastern countries in order to promote the values of freedom, democracy and human rights in the region. Among other Congressmen and Senators who participated in these preliminary meetings were: **Luis V. Guiterrez**, **Jack Quinn**, **Leonard Boswell**, and **Anna Eshoo**. Ms. **Yleem Sarmiento de Poblete**, Staff Director, represented Congresswoman **Ileana Ros-Lehtinen**; Mr. **Jason Steinbaum**, represented Mr. **Eliot L. Engel**, while Senator **John Sununu** was represented by Mr. **Gregg F. Willhauck**. It is worthwhile mentioning that Congressman Ray LaHood was the Guest Speaker at the Graduation Ceremony at NDU, Lebanon, in July 2004.

Other meetings had taken place previously with Congressman Nick Rahall, and with officials in the Middle East Office at the State Department. Miss. Tania Haddad, Coordinator of the NDU DC Office, is following up on these meetings and focusing on the role of NDU as a cultural dialogue platform between the USA and the people of Lebanon and the Arab countries.

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**06 From right to left:**  
Ms. Betty Hindi and Congressman  
Jack Quinn

## Tania Haddad New Coordinator of the DC Office



Starting October 15, 2004, Miss. Tania Haddad was appointed as the new Coordinator of the NDU DC Office. A young energetic American of Lebanese descent Miss. Tania Haddad is pursuing her Ph.D. in Cultural Anthropology at the University of California, Berkeley. She received her M.A. from UC-Berkeley in 1999 and her B.A. in 1996 from the University of Virginia, also in Anthropology. She has worked for the Smithsonian Institution, *Representations* (the UC Press journal for the humanities), and for UC-Berkeley as a Graduate Student Instructor. Prior to joining NDU, Tania was teaching Cultural Anthropology at New York University. Miss. Haddad has a dynamic plan of action to carry on with the proper contacts, in the name of NDU, with institutions of higher education and research in the US.

## Fulbright Scholarship to an outstanding Actuarial Science Graduate Mr. Mario Ghsoub



One of our Actuarial Science graduate, Mr. Mario Ghsoub, recently received a Fulbright scholarship to continue his MS studies in the U.S.

Mr. Ghsoub graduated with high distinction (GPA 3.93/4.0) from the Mathematics and Statistics Department in the Fall 2003/2004 with a Bachelor degree in Actuarial Science.

During his senior year, he sat for Exam 1 of the Society of Actuaries (SOA) and passed it. After his graduation, he applied for a Fulbright Scholarship through Amideast and was granted a scholarship to pursue his Master in the United States for the Academic Year 2005/2006. He has applied to many American universities such as Stanford, Michigan Ann Arbor, and University of Chicago at Urbana Champaign, and is still waiting for their replies.

We believe that Mr. Ghsoub received this Award on the basis of his high GPA "3.93", his success in the international SOA exam 1, and the excellent recommendations given to him by his professors. We also believe that the general education of Mr. Ghsoub (Music & Philosophy) has contributed positively to him being selected for this outstanding scholarship.

We at NDU, congratulate Mr. Mario for such an achievement. He is a living example, that with hard work, perseverance and proper guidance, NDU students can achieve the highest academic standards and thus he prepared for a prosperous and proficient future.

## Recent Electronic Resources at NDU Library



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NDU Library

- Σ • **ACM Digital Library** is the full-text repository of papers published by ACM (Association for Computing Machinery) and by other publishers that have co-publishing or co-marketing agreements with ACM. This database contains citations and full text from ACM journal and newsletter articles and conference proceedings.
- Σ • **ABI/INFORM** One of the world's first electronic databases, ABI/INFORM has been a premier source of business information for more than thirty years. The database contains content from thousands of journals that help researchers track business conditions, trends, management techniques, corporate strategies, and industry-specific topics worldwide. ABI/INFORM contains information on more than 60,000 companies as well as executive profiles, reports on market conditions, and in-depth case studies of global business trends. More than 350 of the database's sources are English-language titles published outside the U.S. Overall dates of coverage: 1971 - present. Updated monthly.
- Σ • **The AMICO Library™** is a growing online collection of high-quality, digital documentation of works of art from around the world, contributed by Art Museum Image Consortium (AMICO) members. This database provides access to more than 99,000 high quality works from major European, American, and Canadian artists. Cultures and time periods represented range from contemporary art, Native American and Inuit art, to ancient Greek, Roman, and Egyptian works, along with Japanese and Chinese works.
- Σ • **Columbia International Affairs Online (CIAO)** is the most comprehensive source for theory and research in international affairs. It publishes a wide range of scholarship from 1991 onward that includes working papers from university research institutes, occasional papers series from NGOs, foundation-funded research projects, proceedings from conferences, books, journals and policy briefs. CIAO is also widely-recognized source for teaching materials including original case studies written by leading international affairs experts, course packs of background readings for history and political science classes, and special features like the analysis of a bin Laden recruitment tape with video. Updated mont

## Recent Electronic Resources at NDU Library (continued)

Σ • **Dissertation Abstracts** with more than 1.6 million entries, database is the single, authoritative source for information about doctoral dissertations and master's theses. The database represents the work of authors from over 1,000 graduate schools and universities primarily in the U.S., but selected international institutions are also included. Nearly 47,000 new dissertations and 12,000 new theses are added to the database each year. The database includes bibliographic citations for materials ranging from the first U.S. dissertation, accepted in 1861, to those accepted as recently as last semester. Updated monthly.

Σ • **Global Booksinprint** with reviews is a bibliographic database that provides information about English-language books, audios and videos published in the U.S., Great Britain, Canada, etc.

It allows access to over 5 million titles with their full bibliographic description: Author, publication details, subjects, etc. Our account is set to include reviews (where available) within the product.

Σ • **Index Islamicus** database indexes literature on Islam, the Middle East and the Muslim world. This database is produced by the Islamic Bibliography Unit at Cambridge University Library. Records included in the database cover almost a century of publications, with some going back to 1906. bibliographies, and critical analyses of more than 120,000 authors from every age and literary discipline. MLA provides access to more than 1.5 million bibliographic citations from 1963 to the present in academic disciplines such as: language, literature, folklore, linguistics, and film. It includes the Modern Language Association Thesaurus, as well as The Modern Language Association's Directory of Periodicals. Updated monthly.

Σ • **Literature Resource Center / MLA International Bibliography LRC** provides access to biographies, bibliographies, and critical analyses of more than 120,000 authors from every age and literary discipline. MLA provides access to more than 1.5 million bibliographic citations from 1963 to the present in academic disciplines such as: language, literature, folklore, linguistics, and film. It includes the Modern Language Association Thesaurus, as well as The Modern Language Association's Directory of Periodicals. Updated monthly.

Σ • **ProQuest 5000 International ProQuest 5000 International** is one of the world's most comprehensive collections of digital information. This database covers 5,500 journals and comprising sixteen smaller databases including ABI/INFORM Global, Pharmaceutical News Index, ProQuest Accounting & Tax Database, ProQuest Asian Business, ProQuest Banking Information Source, ProQuest Career & Technical Education, ProQuest Computing, ProQuest Education Complete™, ProQuest European Business, ProQuest Newsstand, ProQuest Religion, ProQuest Telecommunications, and Academic Research Library.

Σ • **ScienceDirect ScienceDirect** is the essential information resource for millions of scientists around the world. It provides access to over 1700 scientific, technical & medical peer-reviewed journals and allows the search of over 59 million abstracts from scientific articles. Since its commercial launch in 1999, ScienceDirect has evolved from a web database of Elsevier Science journals to one of the world's largest providers of scientific, technical and medical (STM) litera

## Dr. Eric Weislogel

Director, Local Societies Initiative  
Metanexus Institute on Religion and Science,  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA

### Lectured on Science and Religion

Eric Weislogel, Ph.D., is the Director of the Local Societies Initiative, a \$5.1 million grant program designed to foster the science and religion dialogue by building dynamic associations of scholars, clergy, and interested laypeople around the globe. Prior to joining the Metanexus Institute, Weislogel was the manager of business process consulting for UEC Technologies, a unit of United States Steel. Before that, he was assistant professor of philosophy at the Indiana University of Pennsylvania, and he also taught at St. Francis College (PA) and the Pennsylvania State University. He has published a number of philosophical essays and reviews in such journals as *Philosophy Today*, *Idealistic Studies*, *Philosophy in Review*, and the *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*. Additionally, his articles have appeared in the online journals *Metanexus Online* and *Metapsychology*, as well as in steel and technology industry trade journals. Weislogel's main philosophical interest consists in the interplay of postmodernism, religion, science, and politics. He and his wife, Kellie Given, who live in Reading, PA, have two children: Elisa, a junior at La Salle University, Philadelphia, and Lucas, a recent graduate of St. Vincent College, Latrobe, PA, majoring in physics education.

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09 From right to left:  
Professor Ameen A. Rihani  
and Dr. Eric Weislogel

# The Science/Religion Interface: Contradictory or Complimentary

## Summary

Instead of viewing the “science and religion dialogue” as some sort of idiosyncratic pseudo-discipline in its own right, I believe we should come to recognize that—far from being peripheral—the “science and religion dialogue” addresses itself to the very heart of humanistic learning. When we raise issues that intersect “science and religion”, we are working at the core of the curriculum of a liberal or humane education. While that curriculum has provided astounding successes in its disciplinary division of labor, we are coming to realize that we have no good way to recognize the forest for the trees, so to speak. We have become so adept at the analytic or “disciplinary” approach that we have collectively forgotten the necessity for, and methods of synthesis and integral knowing. We have lost our love of wisdom. Were we to regain it, we would see the birth of new types of educational institutions, new trans-disciplinary networks, and new emphasis on collaboration and cross-cultural communication.

Science and religion are, in principle, the two main paths we humans travel on the journey towards understanding ourselves and the world around us. However, much they differ in approach, and despite the fact that each is after different pieces of the puzzle, both science and religion strive at exploring and dealing with the deepest, most fundamental questions that arise for us. Both want to know the truth. Thus, far from being a marginal interest, science-and-religion (broadly construed, of course) goes right to the heart of humanistic learning.

A great benefit to engaging in the science and religion dialogue is that it provides a very effective means for attaining inter-faith understanding (not to mention religious self-understanding). Muslims, Jews, Christians, Buddhists, Hindus, Secular Humanists—you name it—can collectively engage in the exploration of cosmos, community, and consciousness. By not standing toe-to-toe to hammer out which beliefs are “right” but rather standing should-to-shoulder to wonder at the cosmos and face our common human problems together, we come to learn so much more about each other and our belief systems.

So, the science and religion interface is not simply about deriving a new sub-discipline within academia. Rather, the real interface, the place at which the most important things meet, is in the human soul and in the community of human souls. We all want, deep down, the whole truth about the whole cosmos in order to be whole persons. And this is the goal of the science-and-religion dialogue.

The activities of the Local Societies Initiative of the Metanexus Institute in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA, of which I am the Director, and which consists of the collaboration of over 120 diverse societies of academics, intellectuals, and clergy on campuses of research universities, liberal arts colleges, seminaries, and other educational institutions in more than 29 countries on six continents, serves to promote the science and religion dialogue and to foster a trans-disciplinary approach to fundamental questions of life and meaning.

## From Saint Louis University

**Dear Dr. E. Alam:**

Please allow me to express my gratitude for the kind hospitality that Notre Dame University extended to me at the occasion of my participation in the Symposium Syriacum and the International Congress on Christian-Arab Studies, recently held under the auspices of USEK and USJ in Lebanon. I am very thankful for the lodging arrangements, which Ms. Guita G. Hourani had made well in advance of my arrival. Your choice of the *établissement* Saint Michel, Sheileh, was one to be recommended. I am also very thankful to NDU for covering my expenses for bed and breakfast there.

As chair of the board of directors of ICO: the Institute for the Christians of the Orient, I also would like to gratefully acknowledge NDU's gift of the two-volume set of E. Jan Wilson, *The Old Syriac Gospels: Studies and Comparative Translations*, with Syriac transcriptions by George A. Kiraz, Eastern Christian Studies series (Piscataway, N.J.: Gorgias Press; and Louaize, Lebanon: Notre Dame University at Louaize, 2. Ausgabe, 2003) to ICO. These volumes are a valuable work to be placed into the hands of every scholar of early Syriac Christianity. Let me assure you that they will be put to good use here. I shall make them available to my students at Saint Louis University, in particular for those who are taking my classes on Christians in the Middle East, as well as to those with an interest in Syriac Studies.

It was a great pleasure for me finally to be able to meet you in person at lunch at Sayyidat al-B'r on Saturday. I look forward to further contacts with you and NDU in the future.

Very sincerely,

Cornelia B. Horn, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Greek and Oriental Patristics  
Department of Theological Studies  
Saint Louis University  
Saint Louis, MO

Chairperson of the Board of Directors  
ICO: the Institute for the Christians of the Orient

## A Grant from the State Department to Madonna University and Notre Dame University Partnership

For several years Madonna University (Livonia, Michigan) and Notre Dame University (Beirut, Lebanon) have been working closely to establish a partnership program in order to support and facilitate curriculum development and faculty exchange. The grant received is directly related to initiating two reciprocal programs:

1. Middle East Studies at Madonna University, Michigan, and
2. American Studies at Notre Dame University, Lebanon.

The curriculum development of these two programs will include training of Faculty members at both institutions in areas of international studies and diversity situations. Library, electronic and audio-visual material will be part of the exchange activities. This project will be systematically evaluated, and dissemination activities will promote the project to peer institutions. Both programs will focus on the history, language, culture, literature, politics, diplomacy, technology and science of the geographic area under study.

Out of this dynamic partnership, the two Universities anticipate, an increase of understanding of the various cultural dimensions of the East and the West, and particularly of the Arab World and the United States of America. It is expected also that this partnership will explore new learning strategies in order to promote mutual tolerance and reciprocal understanding and respect.

Both Universities believe strongly that this outstanding academic partnership will lead to a well-rounded and documented model for better dealing with global opportunities and international corporations between two similar private, non-profit institutions of higher education.



## A Grant from the Genealogical Society of Utah

Notre Dame University, Lebanon, has received recently a special grant from the highly prestigious and distinguished Genealogical Society of Utah (GSU). GSU has long standing agreements with major academic institutions inside and outside the U.S.A. and governments around the world.

The Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) and the Center for Digitization and Preservation (CDP) at Notre Dame University are working together to identify, digitize, index and preserve Lebanese genealogical information based on family and personal records at least 75 years old. This project is supported by GSU due to the continuous efforts of Dr. Akram Khater (Director of International Affairs, North Carolina State University), Dr. Jane Wilson a renowned Syriac scholar and an ex-visiting professor at Notre Dame University, Dr. Edward Alam (Ex-Director of International Relations, NDU), Ms. Guita G. Hourani (Associate Director of LERC, NDU), and Mr. Walid Mourad (Head of CDP, NDU).

The objective of this project is to generate interest in providing easily accessible historical and genealogical records on the Lebanese inside and outside Lebanon. The aims include the preservation of an exact digital copy on CDs to be kept for future research and historical archives; the deciphering of the individual citations of these records and their insertion in a genealogical database; the easy recognition of family names and their distribution around the world; and the easy establishment of relations between their members in Lebanon and overseas.

## Agreement of Cooperation Between the University of Western Sydney and Notre Dame University

An Agreement of Cooperation has been signed between the University of Western Sydney, Australia and Notre Dame University, Lebanon. The Agreement stipulates the establishment of a joint program between the two universities, which includes, among other things, projects that promote the exchange of students, teachers and researchers, and the launching of academic and educational programs that interest both universities and cater to their educational goals.

It is worthy of note that this cooperation has now entered into vigor, since Notre Dame University has already welcomed three students from the University of Western Sydney to pursue their studies in Lebanon; and, on the other hand, the University of Western Sydney has also received two students from Notre Dame University to spend a semester in Australia, then return to Lebanon.

The Administration of both universities will be visiting each other starting this academic year, 2004/05, in order to follow up on all the steps leading to the implementation of this agreement, which includes all the academic activities.

# Visiting the Lebanese Community in Vienna **NDU and the University of Vienna**

After the Sunday Mass, Dec. 5, 2004, Dr. Ameen A. Rihani had a meeting with the Lebanese Community in Vienna. About 25 people attended including Fr. Michael Harb, Mrs. May Tarabay, Dr. Fouad. Harik, Dr. Antoine Yazigy, Mr. Roger Jabbour and other. The focus was on the role of NDU to serve Lebanese overseas new generation as one sound option specifically for those who would like to pursue their MA/Ph.D program degrees in the United States after acquiring a solid background in Lebanese culture and heritage. Research Centers were introduced especially the Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC). Dr. Rihani requested the members attending the meeting to prepare a file including all necessary information about the Lebanese Community in Vienna. This file will be the reference at LERC for future contacts with the Lebanese Community in Austria.

A meeting took place in Vienna between Dr. Ameen A. Rihani, VP for Sponsored Research and Development at NDU, and Dr. Maximillian Kudler, Director of Research and International Relations at the University of Vienna. The introduction of both Universities was very informative and of a direct concern to both parties. Possible means of collaboration was discussed thoroughly, especially at the graduate level and research. Graduate students who are willing to join the University of Vienna for their MA, MS or MBA programs need first to study one semester of German language. Ph.D students may pursue their program in English depending on the advisor and the field of study. Dr. Kudler expressed interest in the Water Energy and Environment Research Center (WEERC), together with the Lebanese Center for Political and Economic Studies.

It is worthwhile mentioning that the University of Vienna was established in 1365. It is the oldest university in the European German speaking countries. The student population has reached 60,000 with 10,000 students at the graduate level and almost 1000 student join their Ph.D. programs every year. The University Library has a unique collection of 4.5 millions titles. The entrance of the University is a rich Pantheon with busts on both sides of major Austrian figures in Literature, Philosophy and Science, such as Sigmund Freud, Karl Popper, Carl Manger and others.

Interested graduate students, who wish to pursue their higher studies for the MA or Ph.D. program at the University of Vienna, may contact the Office of Sponsored Research and Development at NDU for further information.

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## Electrical, Computer and Communication Engineering Department News

Marwan Bou-Sanayeh, 2001 Electrical Engineering Graduate, received the "Prize for Outstanding Achievements of Foreign Students" from the University of Ulm, Germany. The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) offered him a prize and the winners of this award are distinguished with special academic achievements and remarkable social and intercultural commitment. The award is endowed with a sum of 800 Euros.

Marwan Bou Sanayeh completed his Bachelor of Engineering degree at Notre Dame University in 2001. At NDU he showed a very good performance in his studies as well as a commitment to serving his fellow students as evidenced by his involvement in the NDU IEEE student branch where he served as President for the academic year 2000-2001. Marwan joined the Communications Technology program in the Summer of 2002 at the University of Ulm. At Ulm he completed his subject requirement with clearly higher than average results and he is at present completing his Master's Thesis in the Optoelectronics Department.

Two other NDU Electrical Engineering graduates, Gurpreet Singh and Hayssam El Hajj have completed their Masters degrees at Ulm and have been accepted in the PhD program in the same university. In November 2004 a delegation from the University of Ulm consisting of Professors Hermann Schumacher and Katrin Reimer visited the ECCE Department at NDU for the purpose of recruiting qualified Masters candidates.

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11 Marwan Bou Sanayeh receiving the 2004 DAAD Forderpreis

## NDU visiting The Republic of Colombia

From October 26<sup>th</sup> to November 6<sup>th</sup>, an NDU delegation including the Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. George Eid, and the Director General of Public Relations Mr. Suheil Matar visited Bogota, the Colombian capital, accompanied by Mrs. Celena Rahal, President of the Lebanese-Colombian Friendship Association. Dr. Alfonso Santos, President of Cundinamarca University, hosted the delegation for ten days, during which time discussion covered everything relating to future cooperation.

The NDU Delegation also had a meeting with the By invitation from Cundinamarca University in Colombia, South administrators of the Colombian Universities Union, who expressed their keen desire for mutual help and cooperation with Lebanese Universities and with NDU in particular.

Further, the Lebanese Ambassador in Colombia Mr. Mounir Khreish introduced the members of the delegation to Lebanese immigrants, foremost among them Former President Mr. Julio Cezar Tarabay and Mr. Shadid Nehmeh. Discussion focused on the Back to the Roots initiative launched by the Maronite League in cooperation with NDU. The immigrants expressed their deep interest in this project, which strengthens relations with Lebanese emigrants around the world.

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12 From right to left: Professor George Eid, Mrs. Celena Rahal, President of the Lebanese-Colombian Friendship Association, Mr. Suheil Matar, and Dr. Alfonso Santos, President of Cundinamarca University.

## NDU on the Administrative Board of IAU

The 12<sup>th</sup> General Conference that marked the International Association of Universities (IAU) 54<sup>th</sup> year was held in Sao Paulo, Brazil with the underlying theme:

The Wealth of Diversity: The Role of Universities in Promoting Dialogue and Development.

This General Conference was also an occasion for the renewal of the IAU's leadership by electing its new President for the next 4-year term (2004-2008). Representatives from 250 universities, higher education institutions and university associations who came from 90 nations, elected the new President and the Administrative Board Members. Prof. Goolam Mohammedbai, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Mauritius, was elected President and successor of former President Prof. Hans Van Ginkel, former rector of the Utrecht University, Netherlands.

Traditionally the IAU board respects representation of the five continents: Africa, America, Asia, Pacific and Europe. The board members are nominated accordingly.

Notre Dame University (NDU) has been elected as Deputy Board Member for Asia and the Pacific.

The IAU currently has 615 university memberships and 25 national and/or regional university member organizations. Its constitution that was adopted in 1950 declares the following:

"The purpose of the IAU shall be: To provide a centre of co-operation at the international level among the universities and similar institutions of higher education of all countries, as well as among organizations in the field of higher education generally, and to be an advocate for their concerns".

During the past years the IAU has gone to great length to support these goals: revising, amending and rectifying, in order to propagate more associates for the purpose of maintaining human dignity and solidarity between nations by providing and developing moral support and material aid.

The IAU secretariat is located at the UNESCO premises in Paris. It collaborates with the UNESCO's body of Higher education division, and its President is seeking and planning for much closer ties between the organizations' members for the benefit and promotion of education on the international level.

*ndu chronicle*

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## NDU Digitization Project in Rome

The Center of Digitization and Preservation (CDP) at Notre Dame University is continuing the preservation of manuscripts process, in collaboration with the Maronite Mariamite Order. It started in May 2004, a digitization project for the manuscript collection kept in the Maronite College of the Holy Virgin Mary sited in Piazza San Pietro, Vincoli, Rome, Italy.

The total number of manuscripts in this collection is 687, the oldest one is written in 1226 A.D. Up till now, 466 manuscripts are already digitized with 79572 images, transferred to the NDU in Lebanon, with a view to being edited and copied on CDs and DVDs.

The goal of this project is to facilitate the mission of interested researchers, prepare studies on these manuscripts available all over the world, in addition to the initial aim, which is to preserve the precious patrimony.

It is hoped that the project will be accomplished by the end of September 2005.

*Wishing you a very  
Merry Christmas  
and a  
prosperous  
2005*