

Shereen Mahshi, first winner of Kozhaya and Nora Akiki Grant completes internship
March 2011

Ms. Shereen Mahshi has completed a three-month internship at the Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) at NDU lasting from the 21st of November to the 16th of March 2011-2012 after being selected as the winner of the Kozhaya and Nora Akiki Internship Grant. The Internship Grant is a \$1,000 U.S Dollars grant provided by Mr. Kozhaya Akiki for local Lebanese students to intern at LERC during the transition period between graduating and finding employment.



From left to right: Ms. Mashi, Ms. Hourani (Director) and Ms. Sislian. (March 2012)

Mr. Kozhaya Akiki has been a friend of, and believer in, LERC since he first visited the Center. His annual visits to Lebanon from Tupper Lake in New York with his late wife always included a stopover at LERC. Because of the close connection that Ms. Hourani and the Akiki family share, Mr. Kozhaya Akiki offered to contribute funds to establish a grant for LERC's internship program.

During her internship period, Ms. Mahshi worked as project and office coordinator and research assistant successfully performing all her duties and responsibilities. Her main task was to conduct literature review and develop push and pull factors on the influx of the Syrian refugees

to Lebanon. She proved worthy of the Grant to an extent that she was recruited as an employee of LERC as of April 2012.

Ms. Mahshi is grateful to the Akiki family for giving her the opportunity to intern at LERC and acquire immense experience from her internship period.

The second Kozhaya and Nora Akiki Internship Grant was awarded to Ms. Maritta Sislian in a ceremony celebrating Ms. Mahshi's completion of the internship.