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Lebanese Descendants from Argentina and Uruguay Visit the LERC

Reported by: Maritta Sislian, LERC Staff

A delegation, comprising 17 Argentinean and Uruguayan citizens of Lebanese descent, recently visited the Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU). Ms. Guita Hourani, Director of the LERC, welcomed them to NDU and commended their role in the Diaspora. She has also acknowledged the cooperation of the CAAIL (Argentine Center for Research on Lebanese Immigration), which Dr. Walter Muller, the LERC Liaison Officer to Argentina, administers.

Ms. Lilianne Haddad, the LERC Chief Indexer and Archivist, welcomed the delegation and presented through the Laserfiche program the Lebanese Emigration Archival Database. Ms. Yvette Ennaisi, who accompanied the delegation on their visit, served as the translator of the event.



The Argentinean and Uruguayan delegation visit to the LERC (October 2013).

Following the presentation, a short time was allotted for a Q & A session with Dr. Hourani. The audience was impressed with the great effort the Center has put in during its 10 years of service in terms of broaching the Lebanese migration issue from a scientific perspective.

After the coffee break, the delegation headed to the Lebanon Migration Nucleus Museum. Emotional stories were recounted when one of the young visitors pointed to an exhibited photograph of his ancestors.



A visitor from Argentina at the Lebanon Migration Nucleus Museum points to a family portrait of his ancestors (October 2013).

Mr. Nestor el-Hage's story brought tears to the eyes of those present when he told of how his parents, who are Lebanese immigrants to Argentina, always dreamed of visiting Lebanon. Unfortunately, they were never granted the opportunity; today, through a picture exhibited in the Lebanon Migration Nucleus Museum, he was able to metaphorically make their wish come true, he said.



Mr. Nestor el-Hage at the Lebanon Migration Nucleus Museum (October 2013).

Ms. Vilma Gladys Elias Sabe added to the cultural collection at the Museum by donating a gold medal she brought with her from Uruguay, which commemorates the November 2012 visit of Patriarch Cardinal Mar Bechara Boutros al-Rahi to her country.



Gold medal donated to the LERC by the Lebanese-Uruguayan Association. The medal was issued to commemorate Patriarch Cardinal Mar Bechara Boutros al-Rahi's visit to Uruguay (October 2013).