

## **Assistant Professor Michael Malek Najjar from the University of Oregon Visits LERC**

Reported by Youssef el-Helou, LERC intern

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Dr. Michael Malek Najjar, who is an Assistant Professor of Theatre Arts at the University of Oregon in Eugene, Oregon, U.S.A, visited the offices of the Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) on July 24, 2013.

Ms. Maritta Sislian, LERC Staff, gave Dr. Najjar a guided tour of the Lebanon Migration Nucleus Museum, showing him the various collections and items on display and providing him with in-depth explanations, which delighted him.



Dr. Michael Malek Najjar at the Lebanon Migration Nucleus Museum (July 2013)

Mrs. Liliane Haddad, LERC Staff, assisted Dr. Najjar, who is writing a book on Arab-American drama, by, helping him find information on his topic. One chapter of his book focuses on early Arab-American writers such as Gibran Khalil Gibran, Mikhail Naimy, and Ameen Rihani, in addition to the history of Arab theatre. Dr. Najjar also requested to study LERC's records in his

quest to discover his family roots given that his grandfather migrated from Lebanon to the United States of America in 1902.

Toward the end of his visit, Dr. Najjar met with Dr. Guita Hourani, Director of the LERC.