

LERC commissions a book on diasporic Zajal

Thursday 14th January 2010, NDU

by LERC Staff

With the approval of the President of NDU, Fr. Walid Moussa, a contract was signed with Mr. Joseph Abi Daher, journalist, poet, writer, critic, sculptor and painter known for his expertise in the Lebanese *Zajal*. The signing of the agreement took place at the office of the Vice President for Sponsored Research and Development Dr. Assaad Eid with the presence of the Director of the Lebanese Emigration Research Center Ms. Guita Hourani.

The *Zajal*, which is a popular Lebanese form of spontaneous vernacular-based poetry that is recited in song, is composed of three components: *Matla* (beginning), *dawr* (round), *qufl* (closure). The term *Zajal* means move with the voice, sing.

The *Zajal* was widely practiced by the Lebanese pioneered emigrants and continues to be appreciated by the new waves of Lebanese that settle in the various countries of the world. The upcoming book intends to highlight the most poignant and meaningful verses or poems that have as a theme the diaspora.

The book will be published in the Fall 2010 by NDU Press.



Dr. Joseph Abi Daher (left) and Dr. Assaad Eid shake hands on the agreement (Jan. 2010).



After the the agreement signing: Dr. Joseph Abi Nader with Ms. Guita Hourani and Dr. Assaad Eid (Jan 2010).