

LAU magazine

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& ALUMNI BULLETIN



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The world at LAU*



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LAU in the world; the world at LAU

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From the President's Desk



Dear Colleagues,

May 21, 2008, rekindled hope in the hearts of all Lebanese, after a week of confrontations and uncertainties that gripped the entire country and made the leaders of the Middle East region and the world quite concerned. The Lebanese breathed a collective sigh of relief as their leaders, with the help of the Qatari government and representatives of the Arab League, negotiated their differences away, and concluded an agreement that will help them to peacefully overcome future challenges.

During the crisis, Lebanese American University remained open for business, taking the necessary measures to safeguard faculty and staff members, but sadly had to suspend classes for one week to protect students' safety. Official events at the university were cancelled, and the university — with caring, love, and devotion — updated the members of its extended family daily until the crisis ended.

"We are writing to greet you," wrote the university in a communication to its constituencies. "We hope that you and your families are all safe. Your safety is uppermost on our mind... Tomorrow, May 13, the university will be open. We ask our faculty and staff to use their judgment before coming to work, taking into consideration road conditions and their personal safety... There will be no classes for tomorrow..."

Such messages to the university community reflect a distressful irony: Hope for peace in this volatile region and in the world lies in the education of our young people. When their education is forestalled by religious conflicts and political disruptions, so are our hopes for a better humanity. That is why we at LAU work so hard to forge common bonds among our students and instill in them the values of American higher education that inspire critical thinking through a strong liberal arts core curriculum.

Under the circumstances, our campuses in Byblos and in the heart of Beirut's Hamra district are remarkable islands of coexistence. Yes, there are differences of opinion, and yes, sometimes they spill over into emotional displays. That is all part of the difficult learning process that strengthens the infrastructure of a democratic society.

This is only part of what uniquely positions LAU in Lebanon, in the Middle East, and the world, as a destination that students choose, despite political uncertainties and detours.

This edition of LAU Magazine includes articles on many successful academic and co-curricular programs, successful faculty stories, and information about the dedication of students like Sara Sibai and Karim Chaanine, who devote their spare time to training high school students in UN-style diplomacy. It features the success stories of our graduates — artists such as Chadi Zeneddine, the young filmmaker who uses war as his muse to rebuild his country through art. All these people and many more manifest the spirit of those early, forward-thinking Presbyterian pioneers who created a school for girls despite some overwhelming odds. Under similar odds, we continue to take that school to new heights of achievement and success.

In February, we became the first American higher education institution in the Middle East to issue uninsured bonds. This \$75 million bond issued to Byblos Bank–Lebanon has secured the funding we need to implement an ambitious capital plan that will strengthen our ability to provide the youth of Lebanon and the region an opportunity to earn a world-class education.

In an extraordinary act of support, philanthropist Gilbert Chagoury has acknowledged LAU's commitment to excellence by providing us with major, transformational gifts to fund the Gilbert and Rose-Marie Chagoury School of Medicine, developed in collaboration with Harvard Medical International in Boston, and the Alice Ramez Chagoury School of Nursing, developed in collaboration with Northeastern University.

This is only part of what uniquely positions LAU in Lebanon, in the Middle East, and the world, as a destination that students choose, despite political uncertainties and detours. I am proud of our faculty, staff, Boards of Trustees and International Advisors and, most important, our students and alumni, who have refused to be dissuaded by delays or differences and have forged ahead in their commitment to become the new pioneers in shaping a better world for all of us.

Thank you.



Joseph G. Jabbra
President



Dr. Jabbra giving a speech at the GC-MUN final conference in May.

On common ground
One university, two campuses,
76 nationalities





On common ground

One university, two campuses, 76 nationalities

By Hania Jurdak

Vitality, tolerance, and an inquisitive spirit — all admirable qualities in an individual. But put the individual in a welcoming, challenging and international environment with like-minded souls, and the power to affect positive and constructive change in the world increases exponentially.

This is Lebanese American University — celebrating diversity and fostering unity among its multicultural student body. LAU has a rich history of welcoming a diverse student population. The current student population encompasses 76 nationalities and 16 declared faiths.

Most of LAU's foreign students are American, Palestinian, Jordanian, Syrian and Saudi Arabian, according to Tarek Na'awas, dean of students at LAU Beirut. "Before 2006, the international students came mainly from the Gulf states. Then the percentage of international students dropped from 25 percent to 20 percent due to the Lebanese security situation. Currently, many more students come from Europe, Latin America and Australia — and most are descended from Lebanese parents who want them to get a good education and become acquainted with their motherland."

To find out what makes LAU a magnet for international students — and what keeps them in Lebanon despite difficult times — *LAU Magazine* interviewed six international students from different backgrounds, majors and aspirations. They all had one thing in common: LAU.



On common ground
One university, two campuses,
76 nationalities

"Having been in an American system, I'm used to having freedom in choosing courses. LAU's course diversity allows students to pursue their interests."

- Jean Kissonergis

"I can even say I'm Lebanese now." - Hyouk Son



EMILY ELKOTON
SAUDI ARABIA



HYOUK SON
SOUTH KOREA



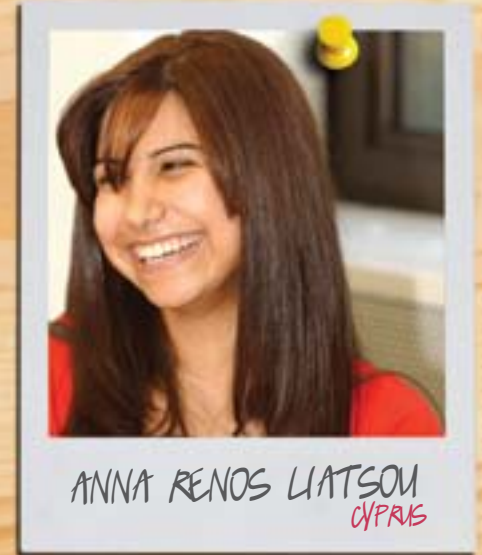
JEAN KISSONERGIS
GREECE



ROBIN SAKR
FRANCE



SARA AL SALMAN
BAHRAIN



ANNA RENOS LIATSOU
CYPRUS

"LAU seemed like the perfect choice, close enough to home to be familiar, far enough to be different."
Sara Al-Salman

"LAU is like a big family."
Anna Renos Liatsou

EMILY ELKOTON - SAUDI ARABIA

Freshman Emily Elkoton — born in Jeddah in 1989 to an Irish mother and a Lebanese father — planned to major in hospitality, but is now leaning toward education. Fortunately for her, LAU offers a wide choice of majors and a flexible curriculum.

"When I got accepted at LAU, I had the choice to transfer elsewhere after two semesters of being here, but I decided to stay," said Elkoton. "Coming from a family-oriented American high school, not much changed for me at LAU. I like to be in a place that feels familiar. Here, I've met people from Abu Dhabi, Kuwait and the USA. I found LAU home to students from different backgrounds, both cultural and economic."

Elkoton lives with her family in Beirut and finds herself unaffected by political tension in Lebanon. "I spend my time on campus and in class, so what goes on outside that ... doesn't really affect me."

JEAN KISSONERGIS - GREECE

For 18-year-old freshman Jean Kissonergis — who hails from Greece and is currently studying hotel management — LAU and Lebanon are a place where students have options: "I welcomed LAU's course diversity that allows each student the right to pursue their own interests. Being in Lebanon is fun. ... Even when the country was at war, restaurants and nightclubs in Broumana and Faraya were fully booked."

"Yet political strife can affect student elections," noted Kissonergis. "The whole purpose is to elect students capable of being leaders — not for who they follow, but for who they are and what they can do to improve student life at the university."

ROBIN SAKR - FRANCE

Born in Reims, France, senior Robin Sakr, 26, is majoring in biology with a minor in computer science. Of Lebanese ancestry, he has lived in France all his life. What brought him to LAU? "Fed up with Paris, I wanted to see the world and discover my roots. My search for a French-speaking institution in Lebanon first led me to Université Saint Joseph. But after spending a month there, I found it lacking in the university atmosphere I sought."

Sakr said he has been happy with his current choice, where "everyone tried to help me out, including my advisors."

Socially, Sakr said LAU has exceeded his expectations: "I assumed I wouldn't meet people I'd get along with, but I was wrong. I've made some very good friends." He said he is impressed with the expertise and high standards of professors in his major, and recommends LAU for study in the sciences.

"I really don't care about the political situation," Sakr said. "In summer 2006, I didn't know there was a war going on until someone told me — on the second day after it started."

HYOUK SON - SOUTH KOREA

Sophomore Hyouk Son, 24, transferred to Beirut from the Catholic University of Korea in Seoul. "My parents reside in Saudi Arabia and they recommended LAU. I was seeking a university I would remember 10 years from now, where learning would be enjoyable."

"I'm impressed by the Lebanese people," he said. "As soon as they meet you, they welcome you as a friend. I sensed this open acceptance at LAU, but when I first got here, I was apprehensive. I didn't know anyone. I lived at the dorm. That turned out to be a great way to make friends and improve my English communication skills. The Lebanese are fluent in English. In Korea, if you don't know Korean, you can't adjust. I'm happy here. I can even say I'm Lebanese now. I would absolutely recommend LAU. In class, I get really good answers to the questions I ask. I feel I'm getting the knowledge I'm paying for."

SARA AL SALMAN - BAHRAIN

Junior Sara Al Salman, 20, was born in Manama and is majoring in interior architecture. "Ever since I was a child, I wanted to come to Lebanon. When I decided on my major, I researched universities that offered it, and LAU seemed like the perfect choice — close enough to home to be familiar, but far enough to be different. Being accepted at LAU was the fulfillment of two dreams: pursuing the major I love and living in the country I've always wanted to experience."

Al Salman said she appreciates LAU's excellent standards, including the highly qualified professors. "Studying here involves effort and pressure, but I feel confident and well-equipped for the future," she said.

She had never faced political unrest before moving to Lebanon, she said. "But I'm OK with it now, and I don't panic." In fact, Al Salman said she recently recommended LAU to her sister.

ANNA RENOS LIATSOU - CYPRUS

Born in Nicosia, Cyprus, junior Anna Renos Liatsou, 24, is majoring in business management. "The LAU Beirut campus is relatively small and cozy," she noted. "Students react to each other as a family. For me, the most important thing is to feel you're part of the university, that you're not a foreigner. LAU is like a big family. Wherever you go, you see the same people. You can make friends easily. Instructors are friendly, accessible, open to personal contact and give-and-take."

She views Lebanon as her country — a view unaltered by political instability: "Though I'm not Lebanese, I feel like I am. Even though the country is undergoing a difficult time, we can still do a lot to improve it, whether Lebanese or foreigners. The country's situation doesn't affect the quality of education that LAU offers. From what I've learned from students living abroad, our educational system is much better than theirs. When it comes to LAU, there's a lot to recommend."

R_x for success

Program benefits volunteers and patients alike

By Anne Henderson



A patient describes her ailment to a VOC student volunteer.

The Volunteer Outreach Clinic in Shatila, a Palestinian refugee camp in Beirut, is a successful example of a project that benefits volunteers as well as the recipients. Through the program, LAU pharmacy students learn how to deal with a challenging group of patients. The experience leaves many students with a deepened sense of social commitment and self-confidence.

“Students should learn how to care [for people]. This is my top priority, and this is what they learn at the VOC.”

- Dr. Shereen Nabhani

SHATILA REFUGEE CAMP – “I love to do what I do here,” Marwan Akel exults “That is why I have been coming here nearly every Saturday for two years now!” Akel is a pharmacy student months away from attaining his Pharm. D. degree at LAU. We’re sitting in the Volunteer Outreach Clinic in Shatila, a Palestinian refugee camp on the outskirts of Beirut. Akel is one of the many dedicated students who spend every Saturday as volunteers, taking care of the needs of the patients from inside and outside the camp.



Dr. Nabhani and Marwan Akel with one of their favorite patients.



Buildings inside the Shatila camp.

A couple of hours ago, as we walked up the narrow stairway to the clinic, many smiling faces were already here to greet the doctors and students arriving for the weekly session. The atmosphere in the clinic is serious but relaxed, and the people waiting – mainly women but also a few elderly men – are happily chatting with each other and the volunteers as they await their turn to be seen.

The Volunteer Outreach Clinic (VOC) was launched six years ago by medical students from the American University of Beirut under the mentorship of Dr. Kamal Badr. Badr is now dean of the medical school at LAU, and still a volunteer himself. The clinic is staffed by volunteers from all different ranks and fields, including medicine, nursing, pharmacy, nutrition, business administration and physical therapy. Every Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., the VOC provides clinical assessment, free medications, free laboratory tests and other services, including referrals.

What began as a few students working out of a dispensary in the camp has grown to a vital and multi-faceted operation. Soon after its inauguration students began joining from other universities, although LAU students form the majority of the volunteers in the pharmacy clinic.

"It is very important for a project's sustainability and rootedness in a local community that you are invited to come," said Dr. Shereen Nabhani, a member of the VOC executive committee and director of experiential education at LAU School of Pharmacy. "Therefore, working out of an already existing dispensary was a good way to begin. Later, we moved to new premises in the camp, which works out better."

Nabhani has been a volunteer for several years. She currently serves as one of the mentors who the students can consult for advice on dealing with the patients.

Today, the VOC's offices consist of three examining rooms plus a waiting room. Medicine is purchased from a drug store in the camp, and cleaning, laundry and maintenance services are provided by local residents.

The project is dependent on many factors, including, most obviously, funding and local support, as well as a healthy relationship between patients and volunteers.

"It took a long time to establish the trust between volunteers and patients," Nabhani said. "When I first came here some years ago, the patients would be screaming and fighting to get first in line." But the patients' fear of missing treatment was allayed by setting in place standardized office procedures. "Today, we have professionalized the medical charts, the drug purchase and distribution, and finally the scheduling of appointments for each patient," Nabhani said. "Now, the patients know that if they have an appointment, we will not leave the clinic until everybody has been taken care of. This has changed their attitude immensely and we now work in a busy, but not stressful, environment and in close collaboration with the patients themselves."

Nabhani explained that the lifestyle differences between patients and volunteers create a need to build bridges. "For many of the students it is an eye-opener to come here. And the first time it is very overwhelming for most of them. They spend a lot of time just taking it in."

There is no reliable supply of water or electricity in the camp. The streets and public spaces are piled with garbage. Residents of Shatila live well below the poverty line, and endure lifestyles in stark contrast to those of many LAU students. Some patients are unemployed, and cannot afford healthy food, much less regular exercise at a gym. Many suffer from chronic conditions such as hypertension, diabetes and high cholesterol. 🌿



“Life here is so different than mine, and I feel enriched because I am now more realistic about life in Lebanon. It has put my own problems into perspective and made me better at dealing with them.”

- Marwan Akel

“Volunteers need to acclimate to the cultural and socioeconomic realities of the camp before they can begin working to bridge them,” Nabhani asserted. “One thing they have to learn is how to speak with the patients in simple, understandable Arabic, and that the advice they give should be realistic in the context of the lives of the patients.” She usually lets first-time volunteers shadow her until they feel ready to deal with the patients on their own.

Hani Addada, another LAU pharmacy student, has just joined the group and is here for the third time, but already he seems comfortable with his new role. “The good thing about this work is that I have to think,” Addada said. “Sometimes, I have to choose between which drugs to give a patient, because our funds are limited. I also enjoy talking to the patients. The responsibility I have to take here, and this kind of direct contact with the patients and the other staff, I would never get in a hospital during our normal training programs at the pharmacy school.”

Addada sits with a patient who has successfully quit smoking and started exercising on the advice of the VOC staff. The patient, who asked to remain anonymous, works odd jobs but does not have regular employment. He tells Addada that his main concern is finding the money to take care of his family. “Last time one of my children was ill,” the patient said, “I had to go to the mosque in the camp to beg for money to get enough to go to the hospital.”

For Marwan Akel, the close contact with patients with problems like these is one of the main reasons he has been volunteering for two years. “Coming to this area has really touched me,” he said. “Life here is so different than mine, and I feel enriched because I am now more realistic about life in Lebanon. It has put my own problems into perspective and made me better at dealing with them.”





A group of VOC volunteers and patients.



"To some," Akel continued, "it is controversial that we are working in a Palestinian camp when there are also many Lebanese who need better health care."

Nabhani is aware of the controversy, but remains undeterred. "To me, it is not a political issue," she said. "I believe that we should help the people who are most in need. The clinic is placed strategically in the Shatila camp so that we can reach a large group of patients, Palestinian as well as Lebanese and Syrian or whatever. ... We don't ask for ID."

The VOC relies heavily on sponsorship. Lack of funding is the major challenge faced by Nabhani and her co-volunteers, and they are acutely aware that for some in Shatila, their services are a matter of life and death. "Once we had to close down the clinic for a month due to lack of funding," Nabhani said. "But now we control expenses by regularly assessing and setting a limit to how much medicine we can hand out to each patient. During the 2006 war in Lebanon, we had to close down the clinic. This had terrible effects on some of the patients. One had a stroke because he did not get the correct medicine."

Nabhani also is quick to point out that the educational value of the program is in full alignment with LAU's ethic of community involvement. "Working in the health sector should not only be about earning money," she said. "Students should learn how to care [for people]. This is my top priority, and this is what they learn at the VOC."

Samir Shareef is another pharmacy student who has been volunteering at the clinic for nearly two years. "We should help people to get to the same level we're at," Shareef said. Like his fellow volunteers, Shareef said he feels that the benefits of the VOC program are not limited to the patients. The volunteers benefit, too, he pointed out, as the work empowers them to become competent and self-confident practitioners.

The VOC premises – physical facilities and utilities – are sponsored by the Norwegian People's Aid. All other expenses are covered by private sponsors.

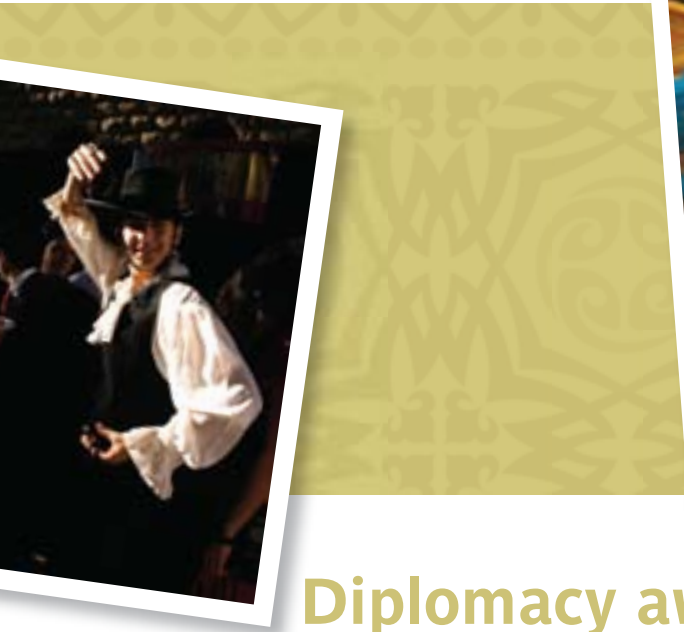
Once a year, the VOC holds a gala dinner to support the program.

The VOC is applying to become registered as an official NGO. This will enable the clinic to apply for grants to fund more patient care.

LAU is developing a social medicine program as part of the courses offered by the new medical school. Working at the VOC might become part of the curriculum for this course, which would enable VOC to open more days and service a larger group of patients from the poorest parts of Beirut and surrounding areas.

Those interested in volunteering for or sponsoring the VOC program may go to www.voclebanon.org or contact Dr. Shereen Nabhani at sherine.nabhani@lau.edu.lb.





Diplomacy awards for LAU undergrads

For excellent work at United Nations conference

By Jennifer Skulte-Ouaiss

PUEBLA, Mexico — On a festive night in this beautiful city known for its colonial architecture and its leading universities, 17 LAU students from the Beirut and Byblos campuses performed a dabke — to the delight of international onlookers — both as a celebration of Lebanese culture and as a dance for world peace.

The evening of social activity was part of the Harvard World Model United Nations (Harvard World MUN) – a rigorous and intense five-day conference designed to test and develop students' diplomatic skills with simulations of the committee work of the United Nations.

From March 24-28, students from more than 40 countries and 1,500 of the world's leading universities participated in the oldest and most competitive of UN simulations — including historical simulations of major worldwide events such as the Paris Peace Conference, which ended World War I.

Led by faculty advisors Dr. Walid Moubarak and myself, LAU students attending this year's conference began in December to develop their public speaking, negotiating, mediating and writing skills. The students came primarily from political science or international affairs, with two students from the economics program. Both faculty and students view participation in the Harvard World MUN as a key aspect of their international affairs training at LAU.

Not only did all of the LAU students benefit from participating in the sessions, but, more importantly, quite a few students seemed to come away from the experience with a greater sense of the possibilities for change through political processes. In fact, LAU brought home two much sought-after diplomacy awards. Maxim Baz and Karel Hayek — undergraduate students on the Byblos campus – won awards for their representation of Spain on the European Community & Latin American Countries, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, respectively. LAU was proud to see Maxim and Karel honored for their work.

Jennifer Skulte-Ouaiss is a professor of political science/international affairs on LAU's Beirut campus.



Dr. Skulte-Ouaiss and Dr. Moubarak with LAU students.

LAU students participate in celebrations during "Global Village" on the first night of the event.



“Quite a few students seemed to come away from the experience with a greater sense of the possibilities for change through political processes.”

Students applied in November to participate in the Harvard World MUN through a competitive process of hard work and commitment. Only in February did our students learn which countries they would be representing and on which committees. At that point, they began the hard work of learning about the country (in the case of LAU, Spain or Kuwait) and its position on specific topics chosen by the Harvard World MUN student leaders.

All of the LAU students did well at the conference — from first-time model United Nations simulation participants to more seasoned veterans — and came away from the experience feeling that they had learned many things that they could not have learned in another venue. They learned how to draft a resolution, as well as how to speak in front of the entire committee to make the position of one's country understood. Students were already discussing in Mexico how they will better prepare for next year's Harvard World MUN.

LAU's participation in the Harvard World MUN is designed to meet a variety of goals — such as bringing together students from the two campuses so that they truly feel that they are part of one university.

The social aspect of the Harvard World MUN is also worth noting. While the rigor of the daily sessions tests a number of the skills of the students, participants are also expected to engage in the social activities of the conference. This year at Puebla, social activities included a Mexican fiesta and Aztec Night, with live music and folkloric dancing — as well as conference staples such as Cabaret Night, when students perform their countries' native dances. Indeed, LAU's dabke performance was a hit!

An unexpected and delightful part of this year's Harvard World MUN experience was LAU students and faculty meeting members of the Lebanese-Mexican community. Puebla has

a particularly strong Lebanese community, though most of its members are third-, fourth- and even fifth-generation Mexicans.

Starting with a buffet dinner on Western Easter Sunday at the Centro Mexicano Libanes de Puebla (Mexican-Lebanese Cultural Center of Puebla), LAU students and faculty started to build friendships that hopefully will last a long time. By the time the LAU group left Puebla, they had become “honorary” club members and made promises to welcome Jomali A.C. (the largest Lebanese-Mexican youth organization) to Lebanon in the near future.

Previous Harvard World MUN simulations have taken place in Switzerland (2007), China (2006), Scotland (2005) and Egypt (2004), leading back to the first simulation in Poland in 1992.

LAU's participation in the Harvard World MUN — along with a growing number of extracurricular activities organized by the political science/international affairs program concerning conflict resolution and peace education, among others — truly aims to bring experiential learning to our students, paving the way for lifelong learning. LAU is credited with bringing the high-school version of the Harvard World MUN model to Lebanon through Global Classrooms.

Given the serious social and political challenges facing Lebanon and the wider region, LAU is proud to support the development of young leaders to push for political solutions and social change over the long term. These students raise hope that they will bring a personal commitment to work for positive change within their communities, throughout Lebanon, and on the world stage.





Rima Turk Ariss

LAU expert on Islamic banking

By Hana Alireza

“... Islamic finance is at the core of what is called socially responsible and ethical investing.”

The centuries-old principles of Islamic finance have become the basis of an expanding and profitable modern industry. So fast-growing is this market that western investors, such as Britain and Germany, have taken notice, as has the worldwide Muslim community.

“Sharia-compliant” assets, that is, assets compliant with Islamic law, are estimated at nearly \$500 billion globally, and have been growing at a rate of more than 10 percent annually for the past 10 years, according to Standard & Poor’s *Islamic Finance Outlook* for 2008. Other industry analysts believe the potential is even larger. Thomson Financial, a division of Reuters, estimates that Islamic finance assets are growing at an annual rate of 20 percent and may hit \$2 trillion in 2010.

Among the most knowledgeable professionals in this field is LAU’s Rima Turk Ariss, now in her fourth year as assistant professor in the Economics and Finance division at the School of Business in Beirut. A passionate and dedicated teacher, Ariss shares a deep knowledge of Islamic finance with her students – knowledge that is enhanced by her involvement with the international financial community.

Under Islamic law, Ariss explains, a transaction is banned if it involves interest charges; uncertainty; gambling; prohibited food, such as pork; or immoral activities, such as prostitution or narcotics. The sale of debt and credit-card receivables, as well as conventional forms of insurance, is also barred. But Islamic alternatives to conventional financing do exist. *Takaful*, for example, is an Islamic insurance product in which risk and reward are shared, unlike conventional insurance in which the insurer takes all the risk in exchange for payment of premiums.

Fairness is the foundation of Islamic finance, Ariss said “The Islamic financial system rests on the promotion of entrepreneurship, the protection of property rights, and the transparency and sanctity of contractual obligations,” she said. It considers issues of “social justice, equity and fairness in all business transactions,” she added.



ريما ترك عريس



"As a result, Islamic finance is at the core of what is called socially responsible and ethical investing," she said.

Although LAU does not offer a degree in Islamic finance, it is the first university to offer an Islamic finance course as an elective in its M.B.A. program, she noted.

A teacher for many years, Ariss' enthusiasm is undiminished by time. If anything, she is more passionate about her work than ever. "I just love what I do," she said. "When a professor who is motivated walks into a classroom, you cannot but motivate your students, and they can feel it."

Ariss' classes are not formulaic; she links developments in the real financial world to the curriculum. "We are lucky at LAU because the administration encourages us to reach out to the [financial] industry," she said, "and by being active players in the industry, we add value to our teaching."

Ariss is in an especially good position to do this. Since 1993, she has been a financial researcher for the United Nations. She has worked for the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and for the banking sector in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA).

A large part of her research has focused on banking efficiency in the MENA region. She believes that for Islamic finance to reach its potential and foster real economic growth, Islamic capital markets must be developed.

Her research includes a series of reports on economic trends in selected ESCWA countries, for which she analyzed and compared banking sector behavior and efficiency across the Middle East. More recently, she has completed a detailed study of the role of *sukuk* — roughly, the equivalent of a conventional bond — in financing economic development.

Ariss has written an analysis of *sukuk* with policy recommendations for the *Guide to Islamic Banking*, published by Al-Hilal Group. She continues to work with ESCWA, evaluating taxation systems as they relate to development finance. She also is working on research projects with the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

As a teacher, she said she has been pleasantly surprised not only by the number of students who enroll in her Islamic Finance classes at LAU, but also by the variety of students the topic attracts. Her students come from all parts of the world, she said, and range from accountants to medical doctors, engineers to agro-business managers.

Contact with these students is the most satisfying part of her career, and gives her the inspiration to undertake all that she does in other venues, Ariss said.

"It gives me satisfaction to be aware of what's happening in the outside world and to be involved in so many activities. It is personally rewarding," she said. "But I tell my students that the best part of my day is when I walk into the classroom."





A group of this year's GC-MUN graduates.

Role models for a better world

By Olga Habre

For the past three years, LAU's Global Classrooms Model United Nations program has prepared LAU students to teach high school students about the UN. The training culminates in a conference that gives the high school students a chance to represent different countries in a simulation of a real UN assembly.

The two-day event, which includes a Global Village festival, the UN simulation and a closing ceremony, takes a small army to prepare; this year, under the guidance of Elie Samia, director of the Byblos campus guidance office, more than 50 LAU participants worked with approximately 1,000 students from about 100 private and public high schools across Lebanon. After seven Saturday training sessions between January and April, the final high school conference on May 3-4, held on the Beirut campus and in the UNESCO Palace, tested the skills these youths had learned.

Over the course of the training sessions, students are introduced to the UN system, taught the flow of debate, given tips on how to research and write position papers and develop public speaking and negotiation skills. The delegation from each school represents one country on different committees, each discussing a topic on the real UN agenda, including the AIDS crisis, the situation in Darfur, global warming, energy for sustainable development, prevention of nuclear terrorism, women and employment, etc. On the seventh Saturday, during a UN Day and Mock Simulation, UN experts are invited to speak, and a practice conference prepares the students for the final event.

LAU Magazine asked two participants to tell us why they choose to spend so much time and energy on this project.

Karim Chaanine and Sara Sibai are experienced members of the GC-MUN family and both feel strongly in their own ways about what they do and why they do it.



Karim Chaanine

Secretary General and Director of School Relations
Member of the GC-LAU MUN secretariat for three years
Major: Business Hospitality Management



"... a potential I knew not."

"Dear delegates."

Those two words bring up a wealth of experience acquired through my participation in the Global Classrooms LAU Model United Nations - a significant part of my university life here at LAU.

I began my journey with GC-LAUMUN in November 2005 quite haphazardly, I must admit. I was introduced to the program a month earlier by the dean of students, Dr. Tarek Na'was (Beirut campus). He had noticed in me a sense of responsibility and work ethic that he found suitable for such a demanding program. I agreed to join out of curiosity and an interest in doing something related to debate in general.

Soon after my interview I left for an internship at the Dubai Air Show. As soon as I came back, I had to assume my responsibilities as assistant charge d'affaires, working under then Secretary-General Anthony Torbay and Charge d'Affaires Riad Yazbeck.

Unfortunately, I was slightly late returning from Dubai, so found myself a little helpless working with no prior briefing. But after a while I got the hang of things and became sincerely impressed with the program and its message. My responsibility was mainly as a contact with schools, specifically schools from Sidon and Tyr. I was lucky enough that I found placed in a work environment that I found both pleasant and motivating. Back then, we hosted 550 students and had very few schools from outside the metropolitan areas.

At the end of the 2006 LAUMUN, I was asked to participate the following year as chargé d'affaires. That year, I was promoted to deputy secretary general in addition to my duties, working under Samer Rachid. The responsibility placed on me by my colleagues and the steering committee gave me the opportunity to flourish both in organizational skills and leadership capabilities.

It was a difficult year, indeed, for war had weakened the country and security concerns impeded the flow of the program. We had a dropout rate of more than 14 percent and the school relations team struggled to keep the program going. Our efforts met with success, however, resulting in a final conference that hosted around 700 students from throughout Lebanon. That year, 2007, I was presented with an award for Diplomatic Grace and Excellence in Hospitality. I was truly proud of my team and our respective achievements.

At the end of 2007, I was interviewed for the post of Secretary general - a post reserved for the excellent and dedicated. I was chosen and accepted the task willingly, for the two years I had invested in the program had taught me more than I could have imagined. This program has helped me achieve a potential I knew not. It has grown to reach more than 95 schools, including a regional school, and I finally feel that I am contributing to my community and helping to instill the seed of peace and tolerance in coming generations. I am truly thankful to LAU for giving us the opportunity to be part of this amazing program.

Sara Sibai

Associate Director of Public Information/
Trainer
Member of the GC-LAU MUN secretariat
for the second consecutive year
Major: English Literature
Minor: Journalism

"It's about us,
growing as a
nation"



"I came to realize that it's no longer about me growing as a person, but rather about us growing as a generation, a nation, and possibly, some day, as united nations."

Last year, during my first year at LAU and the program's second year, I became a member of the GC-LAUMUN secretariat when they were in need of a reporter. Despite my zeal for writing and the rewarding experience of watching LAU students become the esteemed role models of high schools students, I wanted to be amidst it all.

As I entered each training classroom to report on the proceedings, I struggled to fight the urge to interact and communicate with the students, to transmit a passion that was threatening to burst. This year, aside from the honor of being the associate director of the public information team, I knew I wanted to train. So now I'm a trainer. I no longer observe. I act, I train, I show, I guide, I teach, I learn, I inspire and am inspired.

As I trained, I felt empowered to awaken a class, full of youth, to the world. I strived to show them that there's a world out there full of conflicts, but that there are also those working to make it a better place, and we can be part of that. But I also had to remind my students — and myself — that change won't happen tomorrow, or the day after tomorrow, or the day after that. It is a gradual process.

The students step into that process the moment they set foot into those classrooms to be trained on concepts larger than themselves: peace and diplomacy, negotiation and communication skills; to debate global issues and thus transform themselves into global citizens. With every session, I came to realize that it's no longer about me growing as a person, but rather, about us growing as a generation, a nation, and possibly, some day, as united nations.

Being associate director has opened my eyes to the inner fabric of the program — all the daily work performed by the secretariat that shapes the program and brings it to life. The moment you enter the community of GC-LAUMUN, it's no longer about how well you work, it's about how well you work with others. You learn to transcend your own crankiness, moodiness and the personal conflicts of day-to-day life. No matter how gloomy one's day may get, when you set to work, you feel above it because you know anything is possible and that you are about to create a change great enough to transform a generation, the future of nations.

This transformation the students undergo by the end of the program makes every effort worth it; it brings you a sense of profound satisfaction, a feeling that perhaps, just perhaps, someone like me, just one in a million, can affect change.



Dr. Irma Ghosn, director of the Institute for Peace and Justice Education, and Dr. Walid Moubarak, director of the Institute of Diplomacy and Conflict Transformation, with participants at the certificate dinner.

"We make the road by walking"


Excerpts from a report on the 2007 Regional Summer Academy on Conflict Resolution and Peace-Building

Since 2004, the Institutes for Peace and Justice Education and for Diplomacy and Conflict Transformation have sponsored a regional summer academy on conflict resolution and peace-building. The idea behind the workshop — the first of its kind in the region — is to equip future leaders with the skills to be significant forces of positive change in their communities and their future work.

Participants are selected from throughout the region on the basis of their commitment and some type of prior work in the field. Past participants have described the workshop as "amazing," and for many it has been a decisive moment, leading them to pursue peace studies and human rights work.

During the 10-day workshop, students of diverse backgrounds live and learn together, leaving with a better understanding of how to analyze different types of conflict from different perspectives and improve their interpersonal skills. In addition, they develop proposals for community projects, some of which have been funded and implemented.

Last year 30 students, primarily undergraduates, were chosen out of almost 100 regional applicants. They took part in the workshop from August 16-25, 2007.

Throughout the program students kept notes and met in small groups. At the end, they composed joint reports of what they learned. Following are excerpts from the group reports. 



Group CPR

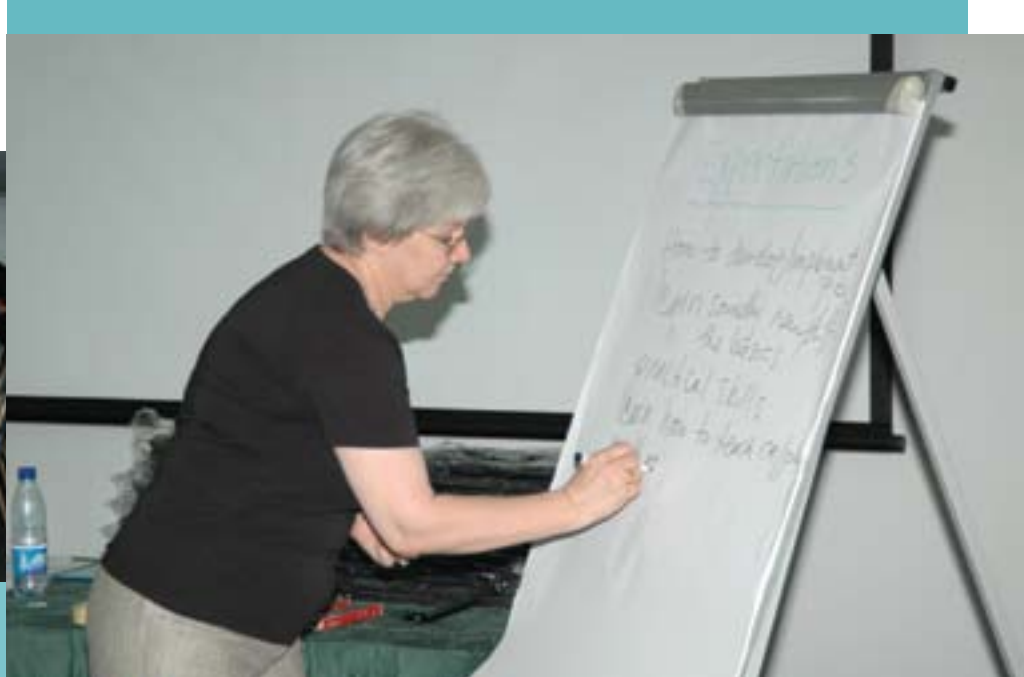
"This particular day was outstanding since we discovered an aspect of dialogue which most of us did not take into consideration earlier ... We practiced listening, which is a major pillar of conflict resolution. ... The remaining part of the day was considered to be the most powerful by most. We experienced a kind of dialogue which none of us knew before: We learned the power of true, hard-core conversing and listening. It was enlightening to many of us, since we learned a great deal about ourselves."

Group Gray Chaos

"... When working with conflict you must be willing to be surprised and open to various differing opinions. A critical skill of [conflict resolution] includes listening. Dialogue, the most important process of the sharing of ideas, begins with acknowledging the other party's point of view. Empathy is also an important tool necessary to utilize in any conflict situation. Empathy and good listening skills do not mean that you are required to agree with everything that is said, but they do allow for a fruitful dialogue. ..."

"... Finally, we would like to leave you with a sentence that was advice from a dear professor and really touched us: 'We make the road by walking.'"

Program opening of the 2007 Summer Academy
on Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding.



Dr. Irma Ghosn records participant expectations.



Group 'CPR' developing
their team identity.

Group Laugh and Live Long

"Myth is just another form of historical narrative, and all reality is infused with it to a certain point, and involves the lives of all societies, whether it is ancient gods or the 'American Dream.' Facts are never the issue when it comes to conflicts, but rather, perspectives, which are necessarily shaped by a personal mythical ... narrative and thus, come to acquire value and meaning. The problem arises when two parties try to act on the same situation with different languages, perspectives or myths."

"... We have found that most conflict in the Middle East is ethnically based. It was very interesting to deconstruct ethnic conflict into structural, political and cultural elements, and to try to separate and unpack the elements of conflict such as the role of central government, ethnic geography, identity politics, national ideology, economics, history and the perception of the other. It was also interesting that the solution portrayed was both based on confidence-building and interpersonal and inter-communal relations, as well as on a certain arrangement of power politics, and how to reestablish power-sharing."

Group White Hands

"Violence is not an opportunity to take, but a risk to avoid."

"Accepting others is something we need to learn by coexistence, and this is what we have done here: coexistence in a workshop for 10 days, sharing different values and setting common norms. ..."

"By listening, we create a certain identification which will help us improve our capacity to tolerate others and accept the differences. ..."

Personal learning

Individual participants were asked what they considered to be the most important new ideas, attitudes and/or skills they were taking with them from the program. Here are some of their comments:

- > "We all share in certain subjects the same thoughts and a lot in common."
- > "Listening skills; listening with empathy; the difficulty of being a true listener."
- > "Attitudes of opening up our minds and looking for alternative options."
- > "I went through a mental process of discovering the other and myself; awareness of myself and my capacities and capabilities."
- > "Tolerance and patience in hearing other people's views that may be contradictory to mine."
- > "I learned that we should start from ourselves, developing inner peace and resolving inner conflicts."
- > "I learned to be a leader without a formal hierarchy."
- > "I don't consider myself to be a prejudiced person, but the experience made me realize that everyone has certain prejudices."
- > "Optimism about change."



Outstanding in their fields

LAU women excel in sports

By Olga Habre

As a pioneer in the education of women, LAU historically has encouraged female athletes. That was evident last spring, when LAU women won all of the first and four of the second-place ribbons awarded to LAU participants at the Second American College of Greece International Sports Tournament in Athens.

Women athletes, however, don't get that level of encouragement everywhere. Mirvat Abbas, a senior in international business, is the Lebanese champion in Thai boxing and a member of the LAU Beirut soccer team, which won second place in Greece. Despite her participation in many other sports, Abbas's interest in Thai boxing was discouraged by her parents and friends for being too brutal. "It's not nice for a girl," she was told.

Chrystal Jalkh, a third-year pharmacy student, won first place in table tennis in Greece and plays on the Byblos soccer team. "It's very difficult to be a woman and do sports ... [People] look at you like it's not a girl thing," she said.

At first Jalkh was hurt by negative comments, but later she changed her perspective. "You take them as a challenge," she said, "and try to show [the critics] that they are wrong."

"You always have to prove yourself," explained Nada Ramadan, who has played soccer for eight years and now plays on both the Beirut and the Byblos teams. A second-year pharmacy student, she encourages women to let their actions speak louder than others' words. "[People] can't bring you down if you're good," she said. "Don't say anything. Just play, keep on playing, and you'll show them your skills."

While men traditionally are admired for and supported in their athletic endeavors, women still struggle for approval. Muscles, sweat and strength often are not viewed as "feminine."





Many women, including Abbas, do not see a conflict between their feminine side and their athletic prowess. "So what if I do Thai boxing?" she asks. "I don't look like a man." Even though she is a slender blonde, she has been warned against turning into a tomboy. She is, however, so feminine that both her coach and her opponents have underestimated her skill. She remains undefeated.

"Someone can be both a sportswoman and a woman," agreed Jalkh.

Some parents still try to force old stereotypes of femininity on their daughters, requiring them to be gentle and submissive. Women athletes point out that participation in athletics has advantages that serve women in school and the workforce. "Masculine" traits such as competitiveness, assertiveness and strength all are reinforced by sports. So, too, are self-esteem, social confidence and willingness to take on challenges.

Dima Smayra, who recently completed her master's degree in international affairs, is captain of the Beirut women's

basketball and volleyball teams, and plays professional basketball for a national women's team. For Smayra, sports involves more than strenuous workouts and occasional injuries: She cites the bonds with teammates, travel, and the opportunity to meet different people.

Ramadan added that bonds between athletes — regardless of gender — are particularly strong because both men and women can appreciate the physical effort that it takes to participate in sports. "If you talk to a male soccer player, he's fine with the fact that there's a soccer team for girls," she said, much more so than a non-athletic person. An athlete, she noted, is more likely to say, "Wow, someone else with the same interests!"

"At LAU, they respect women that do sports," Jalkh said.

Smayra said she has received nothing but encouragement from LAU, as well as the people around her. "All my friends are on teams," she explained. "We are living this. This is us. This is our life."



Sidelines

By Olga Habre



'One big team'

From a successful tournament in Greece, to national champions in several sports, LAU has plenty of reasons to be proud of its athletes this year.

In March, approximately 120 LAU student athletes traveled to Athens, Greece, for the **Second American College of Greece International Sports Tournament**. The men's and women's teams from both campuses competed with their counterparts from seven other universities in Lebanon, Greece, Egypt, and the United Arab Emirates in sports such as table tennis, tennis, basketball, soccer, volleyball and swimming.

The games started as soon as the delegation arrived in Greece, with competitions running from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily. While some teams wished they could have played more games, others followed a rigorous schedule, sometimes playing one strenuous match after another. Despite the demanding schedule, the athletes returned to Lebanon after four days with several medals and achievements.

The **Beirut men's basketball** team won second place in the tournament after an exhausting game played only a few hours earlier.

Aside from the awards and achievements, many athletes said they bonded with their teammates and other participants throughout the competition, cheering and socializing.

"You could see the volleyball or soccer players cheering for the basketball team. ... We were all one big team," said Beirut men's basketball coach **Martin Mugharbil**.



On the final day of the tournament, awards for best sportsmanship were distributed to all the teams and universities at a closing ceremony and dinner featuring Arabic music and belly dancing. The last day of the trip was set aside for free time, and many of the students had the opportunity to socialize and go sightseeing in Athens and the surrounding areas.

All of LAU's athletics teams take part in tournaments outside of Lebanon at least once a year. In the past few years, they have traveled to France, Greece, Turkey, the UAE, Jordan and Bulgaria. Throughout the year, athletes also compete with other teams in Lebanon and participate in campus activities.

FSUL

LAU again took part in the **Lebanese Federation of University Sports (FSUL) National Basketball Championships**, the "first championship of this caliber organized in Lebanon," according to **Sami Garabedian**, LAU athletics director in Beirut.

Basketball was one championship event, with 21 men's and 12 women's university teams from Lebanon participating. **The LAU Beirut men's basketball team** came in third, while **LAU Byblos men's team** took second place at the event, the final game of which was played at LAU Beirut.

Another event at the FSUL Lebanon Cup was a championship in men's soccer.

FSUL was scheduled to hold its National Swimming Championships at LAU Beirut in late May.

Sightseeing in Athens.





LAU Byblos' men's basketball team wins second place in the FSUL National Basketball Championships.



The LAU immortals come in second in the Lebanese Rugby League final.

Immortalized in May

The university's rugby team, the **LAU Immortals**, is composed of 35 players from both campuses, several of whom play for the national Lebanese rugby team. The team has a reputation for its success in the Lebanese Rugby League, having won five out of 10 championships since 2002. This year, the championship included the five official university teams in Lebanon and occurred between October and May, with 16 games in total. The Immortals reached the championships in May.

Futsal debut

LAU Byblos recently started a new Futsal team for women. Futsal is an adapted version of indoor soccer played with five players. The team was started by Byblos Athletics Director **Joe Moujaes** in an effort to give women, especially those living in the Byblos dorms, more sports opportunities.

One on one

It is not only teams that have been successful at LAU; individual athletes also have achieved a great deal. Mirvat Abbas is the undefeated Lebanese champion in women's Thai boxing, as well as a member of the LAU Beirut women's soccer team.

Wahib Maknieh and Niveen Kouzbari are the national champions in tennis. In Greece this year, Kouzbari had to forfeit a game because of an injury and thus won second place.

Chrystel Jalkh is the national champion in table tennis. She won first place at this year's tournament in Greece as well as numerous other titles for her sport.

At this summer's Olympic Games in Beijing, LAU's very own Rudy Hashashe, who plays for the rugby team, will represent Lebanon in judo. He became eligible to participate after he placed third in the Asian qualifiers.

LAU sports "Oscars"

Athletes and coaches alike were to be honored at the 14th Annual Athletics Awards Dinners in Beirut and Byblos, set for the end of June. The athletic programs planned to celebrate their sportsmanship with 24 individual awards, as well as awards for the intramural tournaments. These "Oscars" of LAU sports were expected to be the icing on the cake of a great year in LAU sports.



Layla Nimah retires

Champion of 'student-centered' values

By Olga Habre



Drs. Abdallah Sfeir, Riyad Nassar, Layla Nimah, Joseph Jabbra, and Fouad Hashwa during Nimah's farewell reception.



By all accounts, Layla Nimah has been a force in making LAU what it is today. Nimah retired as vice president for student development and enrollment management at the end of 2007. Over the course of three decades, she left her unique mark on the advancement of LAU's core values of student-centeredness, education of the whole person, and the formation of students as future leaders in a diverse world.

"My dealing with people was, is and always will be based on love and respect," she said in her farewell address. "It does not mean that disagreements did not occur. However, I do retire with a very clear conscience that I always had the interest of LAU at heart."

"LAU is easy to love," she added. "It has a special ethos that we need to nurture and safeguard."

Cedar Mansour, special assistant to the president and general counsel, and a long-time friend of Nimah's, said her legacy "will forever be cherished in the hearts and minds of those who had the privilege of working closely with her."

Among Nimah's many achievements has been unifying the Beirut and Byblos campuses, and creating "a cohesive team," according to Byblos Dean of Students Mars Semaan.

"LAU is easy to love. It has a special ethos that we need to nurture and safeguard."



After studying mathematics at Lebanese University and the University of Paris, Nimah received a Ph.D. in solid-state physics from Utah State University. She began her career as a professor at Lebanese University in 1973, and joined LAU (then BUC) as an associate professor of physics in 1978.

She was appointed assistant dean in 1992, and a year later was named academic dean. Nimah also was the vice president of student affairs for 10 years before taking on her latest role in 2005.

In addition, Nimah taught at Utah State University and American University of Beirut, and was a principal at St. Mary's Orthodox College in Beirut. She took on many other academic tasks and was a member of numerous committees at LAU, in Lebanon, and internationally.

The broad scope of her work gave Nimah the ability to understand the needs of the university and its people, and to bring about a series of important developments. She has been credited with starting orientation programs for new students; implementing the Banner computer system to streamline registration, checking grades, and reviewing account charges; and promoting athletic events, among other things.

The year before her retirement, she started a university student council and campus student council, giving students the opportunity to be more involved in university and campus life. She also led the effort to bring the Model UN program to LAU.

Although best known for her administrative accomplishments, Nimah said in a 1999 interview in *LAU Magazine & Alumni Bulletin* that she missed teaching "because that's where you really have contact with students and have firsthand experience in problem-solving."

Considered by many to be a trusted colleague, a faithful friend and a role model, Nimah's colleagues say they admire the way she faced challenges by remaining calm, thinking clearly and making rational decisions. Throughout her career at LAU, she created a family-like atmosphere and supported her co-workers in times of need, they noted.

Closing her farewell speech, Nimah said, "You never go wrong with love. You can never fake it. You don't spread it by talking. You just live it, you give it, and you receive it."



Back to Lebanon

Elise Salem named VP for student development and enrollment management

By Olga Habre

Elise Salem has been named LAU's new vice president for student development and enrollment management, effective July 1, replacing Layla Nimah, who retired at the end of 2007.

Since 2005, Salem has been associate provost for global learning at Fairleigh Dickinson University in New Jersey. From 2001-05 she was assistant dean for academic planning there. She has held positions as professor and instructor at various universities, including LAU from 1979 to 1980.

"I have always admired LAU," said Salem, whose mother, Phyllis Sell Salem, was a 1960s alumna. "I felt it was an honor to return to play a part in building and leading this venerable institution."

In addition to leading the enrollment management efforts at LAU, Salem said she looks forward "to becoming part of an extended stellar team, working with them to continue to provide opportunities and services for our students."

She said she will bring to her new post a belief in "academic rigor, transparency, teamwork, and the joy in working with and learning from students."

Salem holds a B.A. from Beaver College (Arcadia University) in Pennsylvania, an M.A. from the American University of Beirut, and a Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, all in literature. During her career she has served on numerous committees; written and reviewed many publications; given presentations and workshops; and won several awards.



NEASC accreditation process on track for 2009 approval

By Olga Habre

LAU's second accreditation self-study is expected to be completed by spring 2009, putting the university on track to receive full accreditation after a review team visit in November of that year, a top university official says.

The university is undergoing accreditation by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). Accreditation will mean LAU has been evaluated and found to be reliable operationally, educationally and financially.

The process is one of quality assurance, and benefits everyone involved, according to Elie Badr, assistant vice president for academic programs. "When you become accredited, it means you have been evaluated by your peers and you have been found to have enough processes and quality in your education to be a member of this association," he explained.

"Not only is it important for the university, it's also important for the students and the parents. This says that the university is sound operationally; the education that it is offering is of quality; and also that this university is not going to close its doors tomorrow, it's financially stable."

The accreditation process is divided into three steps: eligibility, candidacy and full accreditation. LAU became a candidate for accreditation in September 2007 after the university conducted its first self-study and a five-member NEASC committee visited LAU in April 2007.

For the first study, a steering committee was lead by Vice President for Academic Affairs Abdallah Sfeir and co-chaired by Badr. Separate committees were formed for each of 11 standards:

1. Mission and purposes
2. Planning and evaluation
3. Organization and governance
4. The academic program
5. Faculty
6. Students
7. Library and other information resources
8. Physical and technological resources
9. Financial resources
10. Public disclosure
11. Integrity



For each standard, LAU had to describe its current state, determine how it measured up, and whether it passed or needed improvement.

LAU fully passed standards 1, 6, 7, 9, and 11, and is working on improving the rest. The university is especially concentrating on assessment of processes, student learning, and planning.

NEASC is the oldest regional accrediting association in the United States, serving more than 2,000 institutions in the United States and American/international institutions in more than 60 countries.

Architecture gets French reaccreditation

The French Ministry of Culture and Communication recently reaccredited the Department of Architecture at LAU. The department was accredited in 2002 but last year renewed the accreditation because of a change in European rules. Previously, the architecture program took six years to complete. It has now become a five-year program. That change necessitated reaccreditation.

Accreditation ensures the quality of the program, both in terms of curriculum and works students produce. It was based on the activities of the department, including the department's program, international exchange programs, student awards and publications. The B.A program in architecture was evaluated on factors such as mission, objectives, faculty profiles, course description and design portfolio.

The architecture department has three exchange programs in Europe that provide international experience and exposure for their students at the Ecole Speciale d'Architecture (ESA) in Paris, the Domus Academy in Milan, and the Venice University of Architecture (IUAV). The work produced by LAU in the form of the exhibitions, students' awards and department publications also was taken into consideration.

Accreditation in Europe is important for LAU, as many alumni pursue graduate studies there. It also enables LAU graduates to work in Europe and join European architecture unions.

The department is also starting a process to receive accreditation in the United States.

Dr Elie Badr, assistant vice president for academic programs and co-chair of the NEASC Accreditation steering committee.



LAU Libraries News



Instant messenger service

LAU libraries have launched a new instant messenger service, available on the libraries homepage. Students are now able to contact reference librarians with any query in real time Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Students are also able to ask for help by calling the library.

New consortium formed

In October 2007, LAU libraries along with the libraries of Kaslik University, Notre Dame University and University of Balamand, established an Interlibrary Loan/Document Delivery Services (ILL/DDS) consortium. This service is available to the LAU community and allows sharing of resources between libraries.

LAU libraries as international supplier

In March 2008, LAU Libraries became an Online Computer Library Center (OCLC) international supplier of library material. Now LAU libraries can borrow material on behalf of their users as well as lend material to the majority of OCLC libraries. Furthermore, they have signed a sharing agreement through OCLC, which allows them to borrow and lend material for free from more than 700 worldwide libraries.

With these services, LAU libraries are able to provide and supply resources to and from local, regional and international institutions.



Unique donation

Two library staff members and LAU graduates, Nelly Aswad and Omar Farhoud, recently completed and donated a 9,200-piece Ravensburger Puzzle of the 1611 map of the world to the Riyad Nassar Library. It took more than seven months to assemble and is now hanging on the eighth floor.



Campus Notes

LAU holds countless events on campus every year. In addition to the major productions, exhibitions, lectures, and other events, there are also countless smaller activities that contribute to the distinctive environment on both campuses. Following are some of the events held this year.

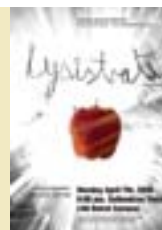
"Fusion," the exhibition in Ryblos, featured the merging or blending of two or more things. Graphic design senior students taking Graphic Design N iPrint Media emphasis or Digital Media: Senior Studies, created projects based on their interpretation of the word — a creative fusion of opposing elements within the concept and design techniques.



From Jan.12-20, LAU student actors explored liminality, bipolarity, virtuality, technology, webs, silence, noise, rebirth and survival in an experimental performance entitled **en'kephale**. Without a script or plot, actors considered the questions: Where is the world going? Will humanity survive? What is worth dying for? What is worth living for?

They discovered that they were "trapped in an eternal work in progress."

Nagy Souraty directed the "collective creation," which was held at the Gulbenkian Theatre on the Beirut campus and presented by the Arts & Communication Division of the LAU School of Arts & Sciences.



Tributes

Mai Ghoussoub



The **Institute for Women's Studies in the Arab World** each year celebrates International Women's Day by paying tribute to a prominent Lebanese and international figure. This year, the late writer, artist and activist Mai Ghoussoub was honored at an event in March on the Beirut campus.

Diplomats, writers, colleagues and friends who share admiration for this daring and often controversial Lebanese figure, attended the event, which featured speeches, a 10-minute excerpt of a taped interview with Ghoussoub, and an exhibit of her artwork and belongings. IWSAW organized the event in association with the British Council.

"Justice and preserving human dignity for all" were Ghoussoub's main concerns, according to IWSAW Director **Dima Dabbous-Sensenig**.

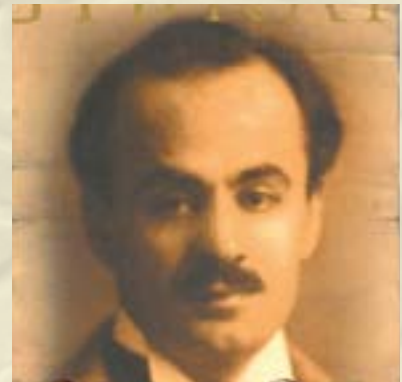
Roseanne Khalaf, Ghoussoub's close friend and an assistant professor of English and creative writing at the American University of Beirut, described Ghoussoub's human side. As a young woman, Ghoussoub refused to participate in fighting during the Lebanese war; she established a non-sectarian pharmacy that provided services to whomever needed them.

Her love of Lebanon was reflected in personal e-mails Khalaf received from Ghoussoub during the summer 2006 war in Lebanon. "It's awful to witness this hell from the screens and realize that one is helpless, unable to do anything to alleviate the pain," she wrote. Less than a year later, Ghoussoub died suddenly in London.

Cris O'Connor, speaking on behalf of the U.K. ambassador, praised the Middle Eastern feminist's "courage to open up debates on issues stifled by powerful taboos." He commended her writing talent, saying, "she encouraged us to see human beings as human beings ... all flawed, yet all deserving of respect."

Maggie Gee, acknowledged Ghoussoub's work as a publisher. Ghoussoub's Al-Saqi Books published Gee's book on racism.

O'Connor said Al-Saqi Books gave Londoners "a window into Middle Eastern literature, culture, politics and sociology. [It] brought to people in Britain a better understanding of the complexities of Middle Eastern society" and allowed many writers to reach audiences previously unavailable to them.



جبران خليل جبران Gibran Khalil Gibran

Every first Monday of each month from January through June, the Center for Lebanese Heritage held lectures to pay tribute to Lebanese poet, artist and philosopher Gibran Khalil Gibran. The events were held in honor of the 125th anniversary of Gibran's birth and on the occasion of the center's sixth anniversary. Center Director Henri Zoughaib noted that Gibran gave a new dimension to humanity through his drawings and writings, contributing to literature and art on a global level.

Every month, a new topic was discussed by different speakers and a visual documentary was incorporated into the event. The April workshop consisted of a musical adaptation of *Spirits Rebellious*, a play by Gibran, composed by Joseph Khalife, directed by Maurice Maalouf and performed by LAU students.

Lectures were organized in association with the International Association of the Studies on Gibran at the University of Maryland, in College Park.





MUN Final Conference and Global Village-Beirut

The Global Classrooms– Model UN program wrapped up its yearly activities with a two-day conference in May, that included a Global Village featuring approximately 70 stands decorated with flags, posters, images, and souvenirs showcasing the cultures of various countries. Dressed in traditional costumes, delegates offered their national foods and danced to diverse music genres.

The following day, ministers, ambassadors, event sponsors, representatives of UN agencies, local and regional advisors and GC–LAUMUN participants attended a ceremony at the UNESCO Palace. Prominent delegates and secretariat directors received awards, and a bouquet was offered to Layla Nimah. Before retiring last year as LAU's vice president for student development and enrollment management, Nimah spearheaded the Global Classrooms initiative.

Secretary-General Karim Chaanine concluded the ceremony by announcing the graduation of the third group of GC–LAUMUN ambassadors, who will spread their "newly acquired skills of diplomacy and peaceful conflict resolution to Lebanon and the Arab world."

International Heritage Day-Beirut

LAU's fifth annual International Heritage Day was held on the Beirut campus on April 14. Algerian, Armenian, Kuwaiti, Lebanese-UNESCO, Palestinian, Saudi and Syrian student clubs set up outdoor stands featuring flags, photos, maps, posters, garments, foods, beverages, crafts, brochures, books and CDs, to showcase the cultural heritage of their countries. Students dressed in folkloric costumes, served traditional food, played songs in their languages or dialects, and displayed photos and artwork.

The event was an opportunity for students to interact and enjoy the day, said Lebanese-UNESCO Club President Abbas Sibai.

LAU President Joseph Jabbra said during a speech, "Those who deny their roots, are rootless, and those who deny their heritage have no heritage." He urged students and visitors to preserve their cultures, and highlighted the importance of building bridges between people from different backgrounds so that diversity does not become a source of conflict.

Beirut Dean of Student Affairs Tarek Na'was said, "Our university hosts students from 76 different nationalities. ... This is a source of pride and enrichment for us."

Among the diplomatic officials that attended the event were PLO Representative Abbas Zaki, Kuwaiti Cultural Attaché Youssef Shemlan Al Roumi, Saudi Cultural Attaché Ayman Al Maghrebi and Algerian Cultural Attaché Laouj Wannas.





High school students put on a dance show and race solar-powered remote-controlled cars at the Byblos' Science and Arts Fair.



The Byblos campus held its **10th annual Science and Arts Fair** May 22-23, featuring a science project exhibition, a science contest, and a solar-powered remote control car race. Arts were the focus of the second day, with a dance performance and theatre performances in the Selina Korban Auditorium.

Athar Day on the Byblos campus celebrated the five main Lebanese cultural cities and monuments. Singer Mouin Chreif and the Hayakel Baalbeck dance troop entertained. The activity was organized by Campus Life Club and Beqaa Cultural Club.

LAU students took a break from their studies in March when **stand-up comedian Nembr About Nassar** performed with the Axis of Evil Comedy Tour.

In Byblos, the Discovery Club organized a **backgammon tournament** in March.

LAU and the Russian Cultural Institute of Beirut presented a concert on the Selina Korban stage in Byblos in February. The **Russian String Quartet "Vis-à-vis"** performed compositions for violin and cello by Haydn, Schubert, Shostakovich, Tchaikovsky, Beethoven, Piatsola, and Handel.

The Cedars Club organized a **Lebanon Day** on the Byblos campus on April 2 to promote Lebanese folkloric traditions, such as the dabke dance, and traditional Lebanese food. The club also displayed traditional pottery and artwork.

The Health Services at LAU Byblos organized **Live Better, Live Longer Day** on April 18 to mark International Health Day and promote health awareness. Approximately 400 students, faculty and staff members attended. Participants could check weight and height, monitor triglycerides, cholesterol and glucose levels, and check their blood pressure.

The LAU UNESCO Club coordinated with their AUB counterparts to organize a **games competition** April 7-9 at LAU Beirut and AUB. Participants from both universities were divided into groups and first competed against each other before competing against the other university. Questions were prepared by committees at both university clubs and supervised by the Lebanese National Commission of UNESCO.

In April, the **LAU Armenian Club** in Beirut erected a booth on campus on to raise awareness about the 1915 Armenian genocide with information, photos and a map of Armenia. In Byblos, a photo exhibition and assembly was held in the Selina Korban Auditorium.



LAU bond issue to fund strategic initiatives

LAU completed a financing initiative with the sale of a \$75 million bond issue on Feb. 12, 2008, an unparalleled step among American higher-education institutions in the Middle East.

This pioneering move will allow LAU to pursue programs in the university's five-year strategic plan.

The funds will help pay for a \$120 million capital plan, in addition to a substantial land acquisition to expand the Beirut campus.

Assessments from two top rating agencies in the United States released in September 2007 and reaffirmed in February 2008 reinforced the university's decision to embark on debt financing. Moody's gave LAU with an A3 rating on the global scale, and Standard & Poor's issued an A- ranking.

Based on these evaluations and advice from Morgan Stanley, the university issued uninsured bonds in February 2008. Although the issuance coincided with continuing political instability in Lebanon and volatility in U.S. financial markets, Byblos Bank purchased the entire bond transaction.

At a March 11 reception to celebrate the occasion, LAU President Joseph Jabbra described the initiative as another achievement in the university's path toward becoming a top academic institution worldwide. Jabbra said the transaction will enhance LAU's reputation and help it provide students, faculty and staff members with a superior academic, research and work environment.

LAU's role extends beyond academics during these testing political times, said Byblos Bank Chairman and General Manager François Bassil. By purchasing the bonds, Byblos Bank aims to help the university instill nationalism in the hearts and minds of the youth of Lebanon, he said.

Jabbra added, "We have always been a part of the solution, not part of the problem, and we partner with the private and public sectors in order to make sure that society continues to prosper. We have faith in Lebanon no matter what goes on around us."

BOND FACTS

Amount	\$75 million	
Maturity	10 years, bullet maturity	
Interest Rate	6.75 % (years 1 to 5)	7.35% (years 6 to 10)
Issuer	Lebanese American University	
Underwriter	Morgan Stanley	
Trustee	Deutsche Bank, Americas	
Auditor	KPMG	





Dr. Joseph Jabbra, Mrs. Leila El-Solh Hamadeh and Beirut Mayor Mr. Abdel Menem Al Ariss.

Divided no more New road improves safety and convenience

LAU students, faculty, staff and visitors are able to walk freely between the Beirut campus and the School of Business and Riyadh Nassar Library complex after an old road that ran through the Beirut campus was closed and a new one was built around the complex.

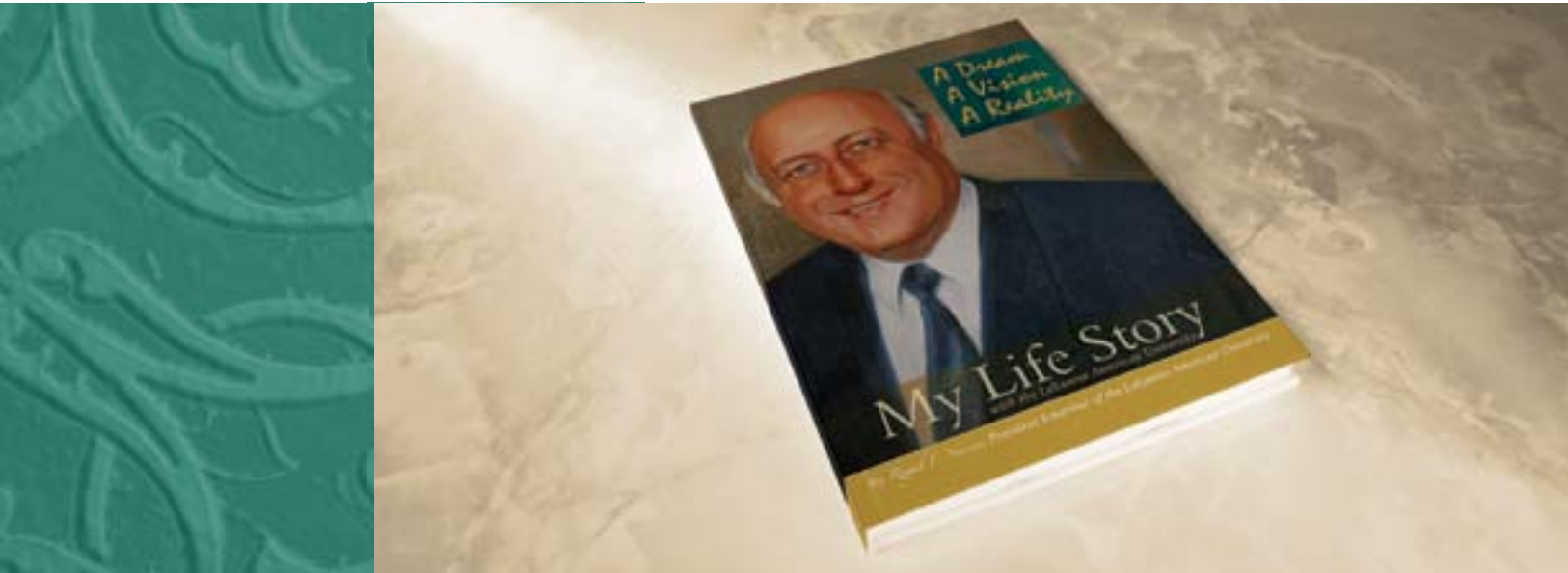
The project was funded by the Alwaleed Bin Talal Humanitarian Foundation, with the support of the city of Beirut, and took about a year to complete.

At the road inauguration ceremony in February, LAU President Joseph Jabbra thanked the donors for their generosity. "This institution has been able to construct a road and bypass the two buildings to make sure our students, staff and faculty are protected from any risk," he said.

Abdel Salam Marini, the foundation's vice president for academic and humanitarian affairs, reminded students "to keep believing in Lebanon, and not to count their college years as a gateway for immigration."

At the end of the ceremony, the foundation's president, Leila Solh Hamade, unveiled a plaque on the new road, accompanied by Jabbra, Beirut Mayor Abed El Menem Al Ariss, Beirut Internal Security Chief Ghassan Barakat, LAU's president emeritus, Riyadh Nassar, and LAU board members and officials.





A man, a school, a country

Nassar book details LAU's interwoven fabric

By Raghda Mugharbil

Through the turmoil of 1983-84, Nassar had to run a university without knowing where the next bomb would fall, how many students and teachers would make it to class, or whether it was safe to walk outside ...

Persistence: That's what the reader learns from the recently published autobiography of former LAU President Riyad Nassar. His is a character that doesn't give up. The book, *A Dream, a Vision, a Reality: My Life Story*, focuses on Nassar's career from the time he was an instructor of organic chemistry at a small women's college – known then as Beirut College for Women – through his long tenure as president of what is now Lebanese American University.

It is also the story of an institution and a country.

None of them – man, school or country – was unaffected by the turmoil of the '60s and '70s: the Palestinian resistance movement, Vietnam, and "the spread of influence of the radical left," as he describes the upheavals of that time.

"No one has written about the university's history in a well-documented book, so I felt that I should do that for the sake of the academy and my family," he said in a recent interview. Indeed, he includes five appendices of documents that chronicle the development of the university.

Published by LAU Press, Nassar's story takes the reader on a journey that begins in Monsef, a small and remote village in the north of Lebanon where Nassar grew up. He describes both the richness of village life and its shortcomings, those things that sent its children away to find better lives.

Despite its small population of about 1,000, the village of Monsef was cultured, having established a theater that supported, among other things, the education of the village schoolchildren. Monsef valued education so highly that most people between the ages of 21 and 60 had university degrees, Nassar writes.



Mrs. Christiane Balakgie Ghusn,
Dr. Riyad Nassar, Ms. Nuha Azar,
Mrs. Helen Nassar, and
Mrs. Salam Oueiss.



The president of the New England College conferring the Honorary Doctorate on Dr. Nassar.

He credits his richly textured childhood as having a strong effect on his character and his ambitions.

Although his parents were not educated, Nassar said they valued education. His mother was particularly supportive of her two sons' ambitions. "I remember her saying many times that she could not remember me as a child – meaning that I was mature for my age. I recall that my parents involved me in their discussions of many issues when I was only about 10. The way they treated me made me mature and responsible at an early age," Nassar writes.

His parents' support was so strong that they moved to Beirut when he went to university and, despite lack of wealth, educated both their sons. With two children at the American University of Beirut, Nassar's parents worked around the clock and even borrowed money to support their children's quest for knowledge. "We were inspired by their aspiration for us," he writes.

In 1959, Nassar left Lebanon, returning in 1965 with a growing family and a Ph.D. degree in chemistry from the Georgia Institute of Technology in the United States. He accepted the position as assistant professor of chemistry at a salary far less than he could have gotten had he remained in the United States.

"Although the offer I received from [Beirut College for Women] did not look great at the beginning, I gladly accepted it because it was my only chance to remain in my country," he said.

William Schechter, the newly appointed president of BCW, was an influential figure in Nassar's life. Schechter was making drastic changes to the college.

Nassar writes that he learned a lot from Schechter's administrative experience, and describes him as, "a hard but fair teacher."

The first six chapters of the book detail the history of the university through several administrations, as well as the development of the university's policies and reputation during that time. The pace of the book quickens in Chapter 7 when the 1982 Israeli invasion forced the closing of the university just as Nassar was assuming the presidency.

Through the turmoil of 1983-84, Nassar had to run a university without knowing where the next bomb would fall, how many students and teachers would make it to class, or whether it was safe to walk outside, especially for him and many other academics at the time who were the targets of death threats.

In his book, Nassar is outspoken both in his support for the late Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, and for his detailed, sometimes amusing, accounts of how he built the infrastructure and reputation of the university despite war, turmoil and politics.

After retiring in 2004, Nassar is once again living in Monsef, removed from the fray and enjoying his grandchildren. When he stepped down he said, he "felt like the father of the bride. I had raised my daughter (LAU) and was ready to give her away to a good and honest person, Dr. Jabbara."



Dr. Nassar with his wife.





Globalization in context

By Raghda Mugharbil

Globalization, animated by vigorous and innovating technology, is “unstoppable,” said LAU President Joseph Jabbra in a speech last summer at the 27th International Congress of Administrative Sciences in Abu Dhabi. He added that the term means far more and has far wider effects than just the spread of international conglomerates, the movement of labor, and the shifting of capital the world over.

His speech, “The Global Context of Our Globalizing World,” was published in the March 2008 edition of the top journal in the field of administrative sciences, *International Review of Administrative Sciences*. In his seminal article, Jabbra issued a “*cri de coeur*,” an impassioned plea to public administrators, both professors and practitioners, to protect the discipline and profession of public administration from the “negative inroads of globalization.”

The article methodically and meticulously analyzes the impact of globalization on national and international governance, and points clearly to the role played by international globalizers, such as the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the World Trade Organization, within a globalizing world.

The target of Jabbra’s impassioned plea is the western-centric rules of public administration, which he said are driven by western teaching and “best practices,” without consideration for diverse cultures or different systems of government. While the western public management system

has many advantages from which developing societies may learn, Jabbra said its wholesale application in emerging nations is threatening the very existence of their ways of life. Moreover, the “best practices” taught in schools and adopted by sitting governments are based on an American model, one that does not take into account the importance or values added by indigenous cultures, or the “notion of spirituality.”

“It is also worth acknowledging that alternatives to western-led reforms might have at least some values and practices that are worth considering for adoption; values and practices that might, dare I say, inoculate globalization against stark exclusiveness and boring standardization,” Jabbra writes.

The 21st century must become the century of public administration, the century in which developed and developing societies come together to address the pressing challenges of globalization, and reclaim ethics and morality, he asserts.

Jabbra notes that missing from the debate on globalization and global competitiveness is “a focus on both their moral impact on and ethical connotations for public administration.”

Globalization, he concludes, is a “golden opportunity” for public administrators to use their skills for the “betterment of humanity through research, education and training, and above all, through the formulation and execution of policies that promote the well being of all people and not only the select few.”





Business sense

Audi lauds LAU for producing financial experts

“I am a permanent optimist about the future of Lebanon.”

One of the leading members of LAU’s Board of International Advisors, Raymond Audi, describes himself as a “self-made man” whose life demonstrates a “mixture of willingness and of chance.”

After finishing his baccalaureate, Audi was encouraged by his father to study the “banking language.” When he went to Kuwait in the 1950s, however, he became involved in construction and discovered a taste for it. Upon his return to Lebanon, he designed and built houses. At the time, there were more opportunities in the construction sector than in banking.

Audi comes from a long line of bankers, including his father; “We say we are bankers from father to children since 1850,” Audi said.

Audi began his banking career in the early ‘60s, when he helped found Bank Audi. He has since lead the bank through both challenging and prosperous times. “My life has been fully dependent on construction on one side and banking on the other,” Audi said. Even though Bank Audi finances development and invests in properties, it now focuses more on banking activities inside and outside of Lebanon.

Audi credits part of the success of the bank on his ability to delegate. Bank Audi is known as an institution where people are consistently given the opportunity to grow. And now that the bank is expanding outside of Lebanon, Audi said, the employees have opportunities to become “ambassadors abroad.”

“I’m a permanent optimist about the future of Lebanon,”

Audi continued, citing an old adage that all success stories arise out of crisis. “Even with the major difficulties we are facing, we will succeed and keep on going. Our exceptional love for life has always nurtured our strength for surviving. You just need to look for positive signs because they are there.”

In addition to his success as a business man, Audi is an art lover and has promoted and supported artists by presenting exhibitions at Audi Bank. He enjoys cultivating people’s interest in art and believes that the beauty of Lebanon should be reflected in work environments.

He said he was thrilled by the opportunity to join the LAU’s Board of International Advisors. He welcomes the prospect of supporting a university that is committed to the formation of students as future leaders in a diverse world.

“LAU is a beautiful university with a strong legacy and a rich heritage,” he said. “I am very happy about the development of it. And I’m so happy to see Dr. Jabbra in charge. He is such a man of strength and willingness, and the pursuit of excellence.”

He pointed out that LAU has approximately 1,000 M.B.A. graduates the world over, who are part of the local, regional, national and international finance community. He is glad that LAU is providing the world with dedicated and skilled professionals.

In addition, Audi has faith that LAU has strong prospects for the future. “What they are doing for business is fantastic,” Audi said of LAU. “They have a good reputation. They will have a long future.”



Enan El Galaly – a self-made man

“I worked to develop my knowledge and experience. I got my knowledge through education during my free time in some institutes.”



Enan El Galaly with Queen Margrethe II of Denmark, at a lecture in Copenhagen.

Enan El Galaly serves on LAU's Board of International Advisors because he thinks it important "to develop this university to be a major point of diffusion for knowledge and culture for Lebanon and the Middle East." He is especially interested in establishing student-exchange programs that will bring U.S. and European students to Lebanon, where they can increase their understanding of the culture.

The Egyptian entrepreneur, who joined the LAU Board of International Advisors in 2007, is president of the Helnan International Group, which owns and manages hotels worldwide. El Galaly founded the company in 1982 in Denmark, where he has been honored for his contributions to that country's economy.

Remarkably, this man who started his life, "as a dishwasher," and did not complete a formal education, is today not only an advisor to LAU, but also a senior advisor for the International Association of University Presidents.

"My philosophy about education is that it's not only from universities," said El Galaly in a recent interview, adding, "I respect and support education very much. I respect people working in the academic sector."

El Galaly left Egypt at age 20 with 10 Egyptian pounds in his pocket. He took a tourist ship that docked in Beirut, where a happenstance encounter set the stage for a lifelong career in the hospitality industry. "When I came off of the ship, one family came to me and asked me where I was going. I said I was going to Beirut. They said a young man like me ... must not go to Beirut alone. I stayed with them for two days until another ship came in. ... I stayed with them like a member of their family. I didn't have any money. I had nothing. They took me to the ship and said to me, 'God bless you on your trip.'" El Galaly said that experience left him with an indelible memory of the Lebanese as extraordinarily hospitable people.

He went on to Austria, where he sold newspapers, before moving on to Denmark, where he worked as a dishwasher

not for money, but in exchange for meals. He slept in phone booths. "I faced a lot of discrimination from people. At that time (1967), being an Arab and a Muslim was very difficult. People didn't know any better, and there were wars in the region. So it was very difficult. They called me a 'pig' and a 'dog'."

Such treatment only spurred him to work harder, El Galaly recalled. "I worked to develop my knowledge and experience. I got my knowledge through education during my free time in some institutes." His perseverance paid off. In 1975, and still in his 20s, El Galaly was named general manager of one of the largest hotels in Denmark. Three years later he would rise to become president of the same hotel. Yet El Galaly did not stop there. In 1982, "because I could not achieve more," he said, he went on to establish his own business.

Noting the increasing worldwide interest in LAU graduates, he observed that students at LAU "have special achievements" that are needed in Lebanon and on the world scene.

He ranks LAU's Hospitality Management Program alongside programs at "highly acknowledged universities in the world," and suggests offering scholarships or training for students each year so that they are motivated to "spend their holidays developing their skills" as he did.

Asked what message he would offer the younger generation, El Galaly stressed that focus is the path to success. "Every one of them should set a specific goal and should try to excel in his special area, because lack of focus and the attempt to excel in everything will always end in frustration," he advised.

While acknowledging the difficulties presented by recent political upheavals, El Galaly said he believes Lebanon will recover. "Lebanon, with its prevailing mentality, its geographic location, its people, its culture and its history, is one of the most attractive countries in the Middle East," he said.

El Galaly's wife, who is Egyptian-Lebanese, works with him in the company. They have four children, ages 5 to 15.



Boulos awarded prestigious honorary degree

The American Academy of Water Resources Engineers (AAWRE) of the American Society of Civil Engineers named Paul F. Boulos, chairman of the LAU Board of International Advisors, an honorary diplomate at the Environmental Water Resources Institute's 2008 World Environmental & Water Resources Congress in Hawaii on May 13.

Boulos is president of MWH Soft, a Colorado-based international provider of technical and infrastructure software and solutions for utilities, government industries and engineering organizations.

Boulos, one of just 16 AAWRE honorary diplomates worldwide, is a leading international authority in water resources engineering. His pioneering work on distribution systems water quality modeling is an industry standard worldwide. He has won numerous industry honors, including technical awards from the American Society of Civil Engineers, the American Water Works Association and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and has authored nine books and more than 100 technical articles on water and wastewater engineering.

"It's truly a privilege to receive such special recognition for doing something you deeply love and enjoy — especially when it comes from the men and women I most admire."

"I am deeply humbled and honored to be selected for this distinguished award," Boulos said in a statement. "I am so proud to be a part of this noble and great profession and to be able to contribute to its advancement. It's truly a privilege to receive such special recognition for doing something you deeply love and enjoy — especially when it comes from the men and women I most admire."

In addition to his role as chairman of LAU's Board of International Advisors, Boulos serves on the board of the National Association of GIS-Centric Software. He also has served on the External Advisory Board of the Civil and Environmental Engineering School of the American University of Beirut, as well as on many advisory committees for organizations including the U.S. EPA Science Advisory Board and the National Academy of Sciences/National Research Council.

Boulos received his Doctorate, Master of Science and Bachelor of Science degrees in civil engineering from the University of Kentucky and has attended the Advanced Management Program at Harvard Business School.

The American Academy of Water Resources Engineers was created by the American Society of Civil Engineers and its Environmental and Water Resources Institute to improve the practice, elevate the standards, and raise the stature of water resources engineering. AAWRE's highest honor, its honorary diplomate, is awarded exclusively to those who have made significant contributions to the field of water resources engineering.





Secretary Spellings addresses the LAU Board of Trustees.

Spellings: 'We have much to gain mutually'

U.S. education secretary praises American education abroad

Following are excerpts from a speech by U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings to LAU's Board of Trustees meeting on March 27 in Washington, D.C.

We live in a knowledge economy in a flat world, and education has gone from a nice-to-have to a must-have for many, many, many more people. ...

... [W]e know that we have a fine system of higher education and we are very, very proud of that. ... But we also know that good enough is not necessarily good enough for the new world. We have to get many more people in and out of higher education in the U.S., in Lebanon, and indeed all over the world, and that is our shared challenge ... I am impressed by the sort of work you are doing to break down some of these barriers – to look at the ability for students to transfer credit and

educational opportunity; the ability that you all have demonstrated to focus on specific needed niches and excellence in those fields, depth in those fields.

Indeed, you all are innovators in showing the way ... and as I sometimes say, that is not an accident. That is because you have been visionary leaders; you have seen some of these trends. You have leadership in this room that has focused on some of these key priorities and you do it very well. Congratulations to you. We in the U.S., as you know, are very supportive of your work and proud to support your work. That's evident.

“We are all in a giant growth industry. It’s a very exciting time to be in higher education anywhere in the world.”

We have an expression here: We say we put our money where our mouths are. I think that has indeed been demonstrated by a four-fold increase in support for education from this government. Sometimes I use the phrase, “Pleased but not satisfied.” I think that certainly modifies our continued quest in education for additional resources for our work. But, indeed, we are your partner. We support you and we appreciate the work and the leadership you have shown. ...

We need to be much more open and much more integrated with each other as we pursue and educate our citizens. That’s why I have led delegations of university presidents around the world. Secretary [Condoleezza] Rice and USAID Administrator Henrietta Fore and I will sponsor an international summit to talk about higher education in an international sense, promoting student exchanges more richly, more broadly, finding ways to have additional scholarly partnerships between institutions around the world. ...

The other thing I think is essential ... is that we have to tackle these issues of accessibility, affordability and accountability in higher education. A little more than two years ago I appointed a commission – a very bipartisan, august group of thinkers: former governors, business leaders, educators – to come together and look at these three key issues. I think these are key issues not only in the U.S., but everywhere in the world ... Those are all tried-and-true policy things that we all can learn from each other on. ... [W]e have not talked enough about higher education policy, really, in any of our countries... I do think it’s now time for us to talk more strategically about these issues in a more macro sense, a more global sense, in light of being in the knowledge economy.

The day and time when you could make a good living off your back, off the sweat of your brow, that is long since over. It’s all about how you can get education and how we get many, many more people these opportunities. So accessibility, affordability and accountability are before us.

With respect to access, we know that is all about our primary and secondary systems. We must, all of us, do a much better job of making sure we have more kids ready to be successful in higher education wherever they may find it,

whether it’s in Lebanon, the United States or anywhere in the world. ...

And of course I don’t believe – and this is probably the most controversial part of some of our work – that we would be successful without a focus on accountability, without a focus on transparency, without a focus on information, much as we’ve done in many other sectors where we have really made improvements. We can’t fix a problem we haven’t diagnosed accurately. We can’t provide solutions if we don’t fully understand our customer, what’s at issue, what the problems are or what makes up the key parts of the decision-making process, and frankly, in American higher education we lack that in many ways.

So I will stop there and congratulate you again on the work that you are doing. I know you are bullish on the opportunities that are before you, as you should be. We are all in a giant growth industry. It’s a very exciting time to be in higher education anywhere in the world. I think we have much to learn from each other. I’d be glad to take any questions or hear any thoughts or observations.

Ambassador John Kelly, LAU trustee: *As I watch the headlines and read the news, there’s a lot of bad news in the Middle East. But my membership on this board of trustees is, in part, therapeutic for me, because the good news that’s coming out of the Middle East, the best news that’s coming out of the Middle East, is the success of American education.*

In Lebanon there are two great American institutions, [American University Beirut] and Lebanese American University; in Cairo there’s the American University. These are the best universities probably between Rome in Italy and New Delhi in India, and maybe farther than that. To me, that is the kind of marriage between the United States and our traditional values and our education system, and the fresh talent in that part of the world, which is the hope of the future. ...

How can we elicit more support from the American Congress, the American people, for international education, not just for our university but for all institutions that are working so well around the globe? 

“I’m sure every one of the students that you have in your institution today and certainly all of your alums in the country and around the world ... are our best messengers. They are our marketing capacity. And I think we need to do a much better job of telling the American people and the Congress what these investments, what these relationships mean to our country ... ”



Spellings: That’s a great question, and I think we need to tell our story better. Frankly, that’s exactly why Secretary Rice and I convened this initial summit in the first place – to talk about what this relationship means in a very mutual way, what it means to each other. This idea, more of a foreign-aid type notion, that’s long over. We have much to gain mutually. It’s a maturing of a relationship that’s also important. ...

I’m sure every one of the students that you have in your institution today, and certainly all of your alums in the country and around the world (in fact I was excited to learn there’s an alumni chapter in Texas which I can look up when I get back there) are our best messengers. They are our marketing capacity. And I think we need to do a much better job of telling the American people and the Congress what these investments, what these relationships mean to our country and mean long term. I think we’ve not done that very well, frankly. We talk amongst ourselves.

Lebanese Ambassador to the United States Antoine Chedid: ... LAU and AUB ... are very well-established, and so many generations in Lebanon and the Middle East graduated from these two great institutions, and they assume responsibility in different countries in that area, and that means a lot to the U.S., to the Middle East and, of course, to Lebanon. So I wanted to thank you for all the help and the aid, and whatever you can do to increase the aid to these institutions.

Spellings: Absolutely We need to make sure that everybody out on the street is aware of this work and supports it and understands the value of it, and the best way to do that is for us to get together and figure out how to better tell these stories.



Dr. Paul F. Boulos, chairman of the LAU Board of International Advisors; Dr. Joseph Jabbra, president of LAU; Mrs. Margaret Spellings, U.S. Secretary of Education; and Dr. George Faris, chairman of the LAU Board of Trustees.

LAU Trustee Charles Elachi: *When young people are educated through our system and understand our democracy and freedom, that's probably one of the best things to do against pushing away extremism ... Do you think when you talk with other people in the government, do they see this as not only an educational and generosity factor, but also important politically for us?*

Spellings: Absolutely. I think clearly at the leadership level that's true. In fact, the President and I have had a conversation about this, and I know the State Department keeps tabs on the number of world leaders who are U.S.-educated or educated in American institutions abroad ... and that those relationships and those investments and that sort of opportunity for young people is hugely important to our country.

LAU Board of Trustees Chairman George Faris: *Our university is chartered by the state of New York. We have students from ... 76 countries. Many of them are American students. Now, we talked about affordability. The tuition at our university is less than one half of that a typical American university. We charge about \$12,000, whereas it's about \$30,000 here. ... One of the ways you can help us ... is by having portability of financial aid. The portability of financial aid stops at our shores. Why can it not be given to American students studying abroad and eliminate a substantial amount of aid that the university has to give them?*

Spellings: I'm well aware of that provision and I don't know that it's discretionary with me. ... but I will certainly investigate that. But let me put a different spin on that, and I say this not only as a policy-maker myself but as the parent of a child who did study abroad last year (and I was thrilled for her to go because it saved me a bunch of money). The way that American higher education and the prices increase so dramatically, I think that is an additional inducement, frankly, to study abroad.





Chadi Zeneddine, filmmaker

By Joyet Beyene



"The Last Eden" is the honorary title recently bestowed on the West African nation of Gabon by National Geographic magazine, in reference to that country's abundant natural resources, rich biodiversity and diverse topography. Born and raised along a coastal area in Libreville, Gabon's capital, LAU alumnus Chadi Zeneddine recalls the ocean as his main creative inspiration growing up. The water served as both stage and actor for Zeneddine and his neighborhood friends during their childhood in the 1980s.

Fast-forward two decades and Zeneddine ('01) has relocated to his parent's native Lebanon, living and breathing his experiences in another seaside capital — a place which would become the inspiration for his first feature film, *Falling from Earth*. Over the course of three years he wrote, produced and directed a film that compassionately depicts the psychological torment and despair inflicted by years of war.

Falling from Earth is as evocative as it is subtle, with three distinct stories woven together to produce a single poignant account of the destruction wrought by war. But the film is not so much about the physical war as its effects, Zeneddine explained during an interview.

"I could not ignore how mute and destroyed most of us are," he said, "despite the effort we put in[to] denying and defying it all through our survival instincts." He was quick to add that while working on the film he was "falling deep in love with the undying city."





Scenes from
Falling from Earth

In *Falling from Earth*, Zeneddine portrays the intensity of the torment of war through his principal character, who is haunted by the sounds of war, and through another who waits in vain for a loved one to return home. Each character searches for meaning in a place where hope and happiness have given way to despair and chaos. The closing scene of the film is an attempt at ethereal transcendence— a metaphysical way out of the characters' bleak circumstances.

The 29-year-old filmmaker came to Beirut for the first time in 1996, when he enrolled at LAU after a stint at Université Saint-Joseph. Upon his arrival, Zeneddine immediately sensed the “internal fear and heaviness” of post-war trauma. The experience triggered a visceral, emotional journey that eventually cumulated in *Falling from Earth*.

Back in 1996, however, Zeneddine was still assessing what skills would best position him to pursue the arts in the United States, which is where he dreamed of working. He decided on the communication arts program at LAU for its broad range of mediums including journalism, radio, TV, theater and film.

Zeneddine said he has always wanted to work in cinema. However, one of his most memorable experiences at LAU was the night one of his short films won seven out of eight prizes in the Cinema Club Awards. He wrote a narrative for his senior project that he hoped would result in a feature film. After receiving the green light from his advisor, he organized a budget and wrote the script for *Alwan* (“The Colors”). That script never materialized into a film, however, and it would be another two years before he began work on *Falling from Earth*.

While earning potential drew most of his LAU classmates into mainstream commercial media production, Zeneddine chose another route. He knew it would be difficult for a young, independent filmmaker to produce a movie with a crew that worked for free and featured several well-known actors (Carmen Lebbos and Rafik Ali Ahmad both star in *Falling from Earth*). 🌸





Chadi Zeneddine graduated from LAU in 2001.



Zeneddine prepared for months, sold his car to help finance the film, and eventually spent three years shooting. But in an ironic twist, the greatest challenge in creating a film about the psychic trauma of war turned out to be an actual war.

Zeneddine and his crew were shooting in a theater the day fighting broke out in Beirut during the summer of 2006. Despite the ominous atmosphere, the young director and his crew continued working through the night. They left the theater at 4 a.m. to find the streets of the city deserted. Fearful that their equipment-laden trucks would arouse suspicion, the crew parted ways. Zeneddine left Lebanon soon afterward. He would not return to resume his work for another six months.

The filmmaker was finally able to complete principal filming in February 2007. He completed edits in December of that year. In the meantime, he also began pursuing his Ph.D. in cinema studies at the Sorbonne. He credits his work on *Falling from Earth* as an invaluable experience because it gave him the opportunity to put into practice what he was learning in school.

Zeneddine expresses a natal identification with Lebanon, even though he was born in Gabon and spent his childhood there. He has been heavily influenced by his experiences in Beirut, in particular, although his first year in the country proved to be extremely challenging. The focus on religion, social status, and people's readiness to categorize each other were alien to him. Having lived abroad all his life, Beirut was shocking, but like so many, he has fallen in love with the city. He believes that some of the most creative minds either work or are from there.

Zeneddine said his journey into filmmaking was guided by his "vision of the undying city." "Most of my creativity flourished because [Beirut] is such an eclectic city," he explained. "It is cosmopolitan, and there is so much chaos, but at the same time, people [are] influencing you with concepts ... You see everything in Beirut and that is what I like; it's very small but very powerful, and this is from where I take my creative energy."

Zeneddine has been riding the wave of success ever since finishing *Falling from Earth*. He has attended film festivals in Rotterdam, Copenhagen, New York and Dubai.





The latter was among the most memorable occasions of the past year, he said, because his family was present. Although they had been extremely supportive over the years, Zeneddine said his parents didn't really understand his work at first. The difficulty came "because I was doing an art-house film [and] talking about Tarkovsky, Bergman, Fellini, all those people they don't know ... So it was very weird for them, but they were trusting me."

Zeneddine said his parents' attendance at the international premiere of the film in Dubai was especially pivotal. "They understood what I've been through," he said. "They understood that it's a long way, but that it's a beautiful one when it happens."

Zeneddine's film made its U.S. premiere in New York City in March as part of the Museum of Modern Art's prestigious New Directors/New Films festival. Zeneddine said he recognized what an extraordinary opportunity it was to be invited to represent his film at the festival.

Still, he appears to be far from the apogee of his career. He already has begun working to create a buzz for his upcoming projects, including his next film, *Barbershop Trinity* — a tragicomedy set in Palestine that will enter production before the end

of this year — and the film *Brahim...the Last of the Storytellers*, the first episode of a fairytale trilogy called *Storytellers of Cinema*.

Asked what advice he could give to LAU students who want to pursue film, Zeneddine said, "Follow your dream, believe in yourself even though sometimes you'll question yourself; have a goal and try to achieve it to the end. Do whatever it takes."

For Zeneddine, it was his *savoir-faire* in creative expression and resolve that got him where he is today. He said he set out to reveal, among other things, how war destroys people. Through a sensitivity that permeates his work, he has already made a distinct contribution to cinema and to the artistic and cultural landscape of Lebanon.

***Falling from Earth* (70 min/35mm/Color) was scheduled for general release in June 2008. A screening in Beirut is set for later this year.**





“[F]iction-writing requires time and distance for ideas to form.”



Emily Nasrallah, novelist

By Hania Jurdak

“I believe we should remember, to learn a lesson, to make the past a warning for generations to come.”

Emily Nasrallah has always been ahead of her time. A Lebanese woman from a small village, she defied tradition to become a prolific novelist.

Born in 1931, Nasrallah did not follow the role assigned to her as a village girl. Instead, she pursued higher education and economic independence. Now she has nine novels, four children’s books, seven short-story collections and many literary awards to her credit.

“When I first registered at Beirut University College in 1957, I had 5 LL in my pocket,” reminisced Nasrallah to *LAU Magazine*, “I was set on getting a university education and putting [that education] to use.”

In those days, BUC – then an all-women’s school – lacked the competitiveness of today’s Lebanese American University, she said. Spurred by the idea of competing with male students, she transferred to American University of Beirut, graduating in 1958 with a bachelor’s degree in English Literature. Married by then, she missed graduation because she was delivering her first child.

“I wanted to prove that women could do it all,” she said. Yet, the fear of the city, instilled by her village childhood, ran deep: “[My fear] made me live in Beirut as if the whole village was watching. There was no room for mistakes. My parents’ honor was at stake ... so was their faith in me.”

Nasrallah wrote articles for *As-Sayad* magazine while at university and throughout the ’60s. Journalism forged her style. It gave her experience and augmented the fortitude of the spunky village girl. Gradually, her voice became more literary. But the spark that ignited her career as a novelist was lit by a casual question during a journalism assignment.

During an interview, the wife of the Indian *chargé d'affaires* asked Nasrallah, “When will we see your first novel?” Nasrallah’s answer – that she was unable





to write fiction due to her preoccupation with homemaking and work – didn't ring true. Nasrallah realized that it was time to write a novel.

Her first book, *Touyour Ayloul* (1962), evoked personal anguish and nostalgia. Based on firsthand experience, the novel describes the lives of village people who witness their loved ones' departures for more promising lands, as if, as the title implies, they were birds migrating in September in search of warmer climes. The first edition was published by Dar An-Nashr. It earned its author 1,000 LL as payment and three Arabic literary prizes. It has also generated several theses and an entire book of literary criticism.

By the time she returned to the same topics in her later novel, *Al-Jamr Al-Ghafi* (1995), sarcasm and realism had replaced nostalgia.

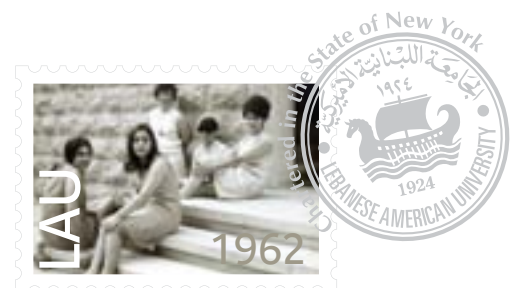
Nasrallah draws from Lebanon's plight as a country plagued by war and emigration, both in her landmark work *Al-Iqlaa' Aks Al-Zaman* (1981) as well as in the more recent *Ma Hadath Fi Juzur Tamaya* (2007).

Despite comments from critics who argue that the war experience should be forgotten once and for all, Nasrallah said she sometimes chose to focus on war because "I believe we should remember, to learn a lesson, to make the past a warning for generations to come."

Despite her past success and the publication of an anthology of her work, Nasrallah said her interest "always lies in what I have not yet written." Moreover, her interest lies in Lebanon. "I insist on writing in my native language because my discourse is with my people and nation," she said.

But the task is not an easy one as the world around her undergoes rapid change. "Fiction-writing for local, emerging writers is tougher than ever now," she said. "The criteria are global and standards have changed. The situation is shaky; fiction-writing requires time and distance for ideas to form."

Asked whether her work addresses women and men equally, she said: "[Before] I am a woman, I'm a human being. It is from this perspective that I write. Yet women in traditional society do need awareness-raising as they are still subject to oppression. Arab societies still harbor a lot of people suffering in the same ways for the same reasons as my characters."



Net results

Alumni Relations launches social networking website

By Joelle Roumani



The Alumni Relations office recently began work on a major website renovation in its ongoing efforts to build the university's alumni network. The aim of the project is to help LAU graduates reconnect with old friends and fellow graduates around the globe.

Featuring new tools and a sleek, minimalist look, the site designers hope to increase web traffic by providing greater usability and connectivity. The renovation of the alumni website is one of the first steps toward a general redesign of the main LAU website.

LAU's alumni community is comprised of more than 27,000 members in Lebanon and around the world. "For the university's 23 chapters in different geographical areas to maintain stronger and more dynamic relations with their university and with each other, there's an utmost necessity for the new Net Community," remarked Abdallah Al Khal ('84) director of LAU's alumni relations. "The alumni website is all about being connected — to one another and to LAU."

This new social-networking tool bears some resemblance to Facebook, and will enable alumni "to stay connected to LAU and their fellow alumni and enjoy special events," said Ghada Majed ('00), assistant director of alumni relations. "They [alumni members] have always been asking for a Net community that would allow them more freedom in communication, more interaction and no limitation," said Majed.



Ghada Majed '00, Abdallah Al Khal '84, Karina Rodriguez '98 and Manwa Ghannoum '96.

Senior students
Alumni Relations
orientation.





<http://www.lau.edu.lb/alumni/>

The Alumni Relations office began planning the new website after receiving a huge response to a recent survey. Al Khal's vision for the project was to create a state-of-the-art network that would give alumni another reason to be proud of their affiliation with LAU. After seven weeks of research and development meetings, the project team agreed on the blueprint for the new site.

Aline Nasrallah ('05), the graphic designer who helped create the site, explained that the project was particularly challenging because there were so many heartfelt perspectives to sift through. In her design process, Nasrallah said she sought to bring the site into alignment with today's sophisticated and fast-paced Web environment, while keeping intact the representation of LAU's heritage.

The newly remodeled site is a pleasure to use. Images of the old and the new are artfully juxtaposed, informing even the most casual browser of LAU's history.

Alumni already have expressed enthusiasm about the changes. Beirut resident Maurice Khabbaz ('06) vice president of the School of Engineering and Architecture alumni chapter, noted the importance of being able to access current professional and familial information. The Net Community

tool "makes communication easier, flexible and a lot more interesting," Khabbaz said, "and almost possible at all times."

Adnan Tarabishi ('99), president of the Damascus alumni chapter, remarked that Net Community "is an excellent tool for social interaction; it keeps us connected with LAU community and with each other."

Graduates tend to drift away from their alma mater over time, but the new alumni website aims to bring them back in touch. Majed emphasized the importance of a new feature that announces all upcoming events, posts new content daily, and keeps users otherwise updated.

"With the Net Community," Al Khal added, "our alumni can be instantly updated with the latest campus news and events and other activities worldwide."

LAU alumni are invited to create their own Net Community pages once the feature goes live.
For more information, contact the Alumni Relations Office at +961 1 786456 Ext. 1136 or email: alumni@lau.edu.lb



Alumni Relations events

21 chapters hold elections

Between Oct. 1 and Nov. 30, 2007, 21 official chapters elected new officers and committees. They included Abu Dhabi, Amman, Athens, Beirut, Byblos, Damascus, Dubai & Northern Emirates, Eastern Province (Saudi Arabia), Florida, Jeddah, Kuwait, London, New England, New York, Oman, Qatar, Riyadh, Toronto, Washington, the School of Engineering and Architecture, and the School of Pharmacy.



Lecture addresses stress

On Nov. 30, 2007, the Alumni Relations Office organized a lecture, "Managing Stress: The Route to Inner Peace," by noted psychologist Loulwa Kaloyeros. More than 120 alumni attended.



Communication expert featured

On April 4, 2008, the Alumni Relations Office organized a lecture, "Look Who is Speaking" by LAU instructor Dr. Nabelah A. Haraty, an expert in oral communication. More than 140 alumni and friends attended the event at the Beirut campus.

Alumni on the run

The Alumni Relations Office joined efforts with the organizers of this year's Beirut Marathon at LAU on Nov. 18, 2007. Alumni were invited to participate in this event by running under the name of LAU and by staffing the LAU stand on the race course.



Pharmacy alumni hear cancer talk

On Feb. 7, 2008, the School of Pharmacy chapter organized a lecture as part of its professional development program entitled "Primary Prevention in Cervical Cancer," by Ghassan Khoury '99PHARM, senior franchise manager at Merck Sharp & Dohme (MSD) Lebanon.



LCHE reception

The Alumni Relations Office and the committee of the Alumni Association Byblos Chapter organized a reception on May 2, 2008, for graduates of former Beirut University College's Louaize College for Higher Education (LCHE) campus, LAU's East Beirut branch during the civil war, and the Amchit campus. Former LAU President Riyad Nassar talked about the LCHE and Amchit period, as well as the success that LAU experienced during his presidency.

Jabbara pledged to continue LAU's success story, pointing to LAU's five-year Strategic Plan, the pending New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) accreditation, and the newly established school of medicine. The group took a tour of the Byblos campus.



Reception honors outgoing officers

On May 6, 2008, LAU President Joseph Jabbara held a cocktail reception at his residence to honor the outgoing officers of the Beirut and Byblos alumni chapters, as well as the Alumni Association Executive Committee. Also invited were the members of the newly elected committees of those chapters, the Alumni Association Board and members of the committees of the newly established chapters of the School of Engineering and Architecture and School of Pharmacy. All the outgoing members received awards of appreciation for years of dedicated service.



Chapter Events

The **Abu Dhabi chapter** organized a desert trip on Nov. 16, 2007. More than 500 alumni, family, and friends attended the event.



The **Abu Dhabi chapter** held its 15th annual gala dinner on Valentine's Day in the Thuraya Ballroom at the Beach Rotana Hotel. Choreographer and oriental dancer Amalia Zidan came from Paris, and the music band Las Divas came from Beirut. Miss Lebanon 2007 Nadine Njeim, a current LAU student, acted as master of ceremony. LAU volunteers splendidly decorated the ballroom. The event was attended by a record 700 alumni and friends.

On March 18, 2008, more than 100 alumni mothers responded to the **Amman chapter's** invitation to celebrate Mother's Day together at the Teatro Restaurant.



On Feb. 29, 2008, the **Amman chapter** organized a gathering of more than 50 alumni at 51 Club/Restaurant.

On March 20, 2008, the **Athens chapter** organized a lunch for Mother's Day. The event included a short lecture and video about face and body treatment, a makeup demonstration by M-A-C/Estée Lauder, and several games. There was dancing and a Lebanese singer. More than 150 alumni and friends attended the event.



LAU alumni in **Bahrain** held a social gathering on March 25, 2008, at Al Areesha restaurant.



The **Beirut chapter** presented the pre-release screening of *The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep* on Feb. 22, 2008, at Dunes Center, Beirut. Roula Ajouz, president of the Beirut chapter, together with committee members and Abdallah Al Khal, Director of Alumni Relations, hosted about 200 alumni children and children from different orphanages. The purpose of the event was to strengthen the bond between alumni and their university and to entertain the children.



The **Byblos chapter** and a group from LCHE organized a dinner at Le Yen Restaurant on Dec. 16, 2007.

The **Damascus chapter** held its first activity of 2008, a get-together dinner at Haretna restaurant on Feb. 23. Some 50 alumni and friends attended.



On May 10, 2008, the **Damascus chapter** organized their annual dinner at the Sheraton Hotel. The event, which featured renowned musician Guy Manoukian and his band, attracted more than 300 alumni and friends.



The **Dubai chapter** held its annual dinner at Al Bustan Rotana Hotel, in association with City of Arabia. LAU President Joseph Jabbra, Director of Alumni Relations Abdallah Al Khal, Director of Development Samir Kadi, and Director of Public Relations Christian Oussi attended, along with more than 800 alumni and friends.

The **Dubai and Northern Emirates chapter** held the pre-release screening of the Lebanese movie *Caramel*. Among those in attendance were the film's director and actors. The event was held in collaboration with AUB Alumni and attracted more than 700 alumni from both universities.



On March 28, 2008, the **Eastern Province chapter** organized a family day event at Nesma Compound in Al Khobar. More than 150 alumni and their families attended.



On May 9, 2008, the **Kuwait chapter** organized its annual gala dinner at the Mövenpick Hotel, Free Zone. More than 250 alumni and friends attended the event.



The **Kuwait chapter** organized their annual children Christmas party on Dec. 14, 2007, at the Kuwait Regency Palace, Bedaa.



On March 7, 2008, the **Kuwait chapter** organized an unforgettable family day out in the desert at the Al Ghanim International Camp. More than 500 alumni, friends and children attended the event, which included games, puppet shows and a barbecue.

LAU alumni in **Montreal** met at the Best Western Europa for hors d'oeuvres and refreshments on April 22, 2008. Roger Edde, Rania Hammoud, Leila Isa, Lamia Labban and Ghassan Shamseddine attended the gathering and are members of the alumni chapter organizing committee.



The **New York & New Jersey chapter** welcomed Abdallah Al Khal at a dinner in his honor on April 24.



The **Oman chapter** held an iftar dinner on Sept. 19, 2007, at the Sheraton Resort. Approximately 100 alumni and friends attended.



The **Oman chapter** organized an "Unforgettable Night" of dinner and dancing on March 13, 2008, at the Grand Hyatt. Arabic, English and salsa music and dancing were provided by T-Band and DJ Moody. The event featured a raffle of 27 gifts. The Lebanese Ambassador Afif Ayoub and his wife, and the Palestinian ambassador were in attendance, along with 210 alumni and friends.



Huda Saad hosted the first gathering of LAU alumni from **Ottawa** at her home on April 20, 2008. Approximately 35 alumni and friends attended. Members of the organizing committee for the Ottawa alumni chapter are Hala Elias, Salma Jaroudi, Khalid Malik, Abdul Rahman Mazloom, Huda Saad and Dina Sater.

Visit <http://advancement.lau.edu.lb/index.php?q=node/46> to watch greetings from alumni who attended the gathering.

The **Qatar chapter** organized a reception at the West Bay, Twin Towers on Dec. 7, 2007. More than 60 alumni attended.



The **Riyadh chapter** held an iftar dinner on Sept. 18, 2007, at the Al Reef Restaurant, with approximately 150 alumni and friends in attendance.

The **Riyadh chapter** organized its annual dinner on March 13, 2008, at the Fal Compound in Riyadh. More than 200 alumni and friends enjoyed a fun night of good food, dancing and games.



The **School of Engineering and Architecture chapter** held a dinner at Burj Al Hamam restaurant in Antelias on Dec. 27, 2007.

The **Toronto chapter**, started by 15 alumni in 2001, held their annual gala dinner on April 19, 2008, at Hollywood on Queensway. More than 60 alumni attended the dinner, which was followed by a spirited halfi. More than 125 LAU alumni belong to the chapter. The current officers are May Sarout, president; Leila Sidani, vice president; Seta Rebeiz, treasurer; and Basil Zahed, secretary. Visit <http://advancement.lau.edu.lb/index.php?q=node/49> to watch a video featuring highlights from the evening.



Out and about

Director of Alumni Relations Abdallah Al Khal has been visiting alumni chapters around Europe and the Middle East. On Nov. 3, 2007, he attended the elections of the Athens chapter and congratulated the new committee on their endeavors. They organized a dinner at Bizart restaurant in his honor.



On Jan. 26, 2008, Al Khal held a reception at the Gulf Hotel in Manama to form a new alumni chapter in Bahrain. Many expressed interest, and at the end of the evening, a committee of 10 members was formed. On Jan. 29, the committee held its first meeting and drafted a plan of events for 2007-08.

Al Khal met with the chapter committees in Saudi Arabia's Eastern Province and Muscat, Oman, on Jan. 27 and Feb. 19, respectively, to reiterate the university's support and to discuss their future plans.



On March 13, Al Khal, along with the directors of admissions in Beirut and Byblos, Michel Najjar and Nada Badran; the president of the LAU Damascus alumni chapter, Adnan Tarabishi; and more than 30 alumni, attended a reception in Aleppo at the Mirage Hotel organized by the Alumni Relations Office. The aim was to launch an alumni chapter there. Special thanks goes to Najdat Wannes, head of the Aleppo alumni chapter's organizing committee, who helped make this gathering possible.

This year has taken Alumni Programs Manager Ed Shiner on the road for LAU, beginning in January with attendance at two alumni gatherings along with President Joseph Jabbra and Bob Hollback, director of development for North America. The alumni of the San Francisco area gathered in Emeryville, Calif., on Jan. 11 to welcome Jabbra with a reception, followed by a business meeting to proceed with the organization of their chapter. A dinner gathering at the home of LAU Board of Trustees member Joe Maroun and his wife, Carmen Maroun, followed on Jan 12.



A quick trip south brought Shiner to Huntington Beach for a Jan. 13 Southern California alumni gathering at the home of Susan and Paul Qaundah.



February took Shiner and LAU Vice President for University Advancement Richard Rumsey to Houston for a brief meeting with BIA member Eva Farha, before heading south of the border to Mexico City for several meetings aimed at strengthening LAU's student exchange agreements with Mexican institutions.

The Board of Trustees meeting in March took Shiner to Washington D.C. for several days of BOT events. This trip ended with a dinner for Jabbra hosted by a small group of Washington-area alumni.

For Shiner, it was back to the West Coast again for alumni and development meetings in April and early May. Shiner and Hollback met with alumni and friends in the San Francisco area and then moved on to Southern California to meet several new friends of LAU and visit with BOT member Charles Elachi, director of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena.

Class Notes

Gladys Karam Rihan Azar '58 BA has been living happily in Mexico City for 40 years. She and her husband, Eduardo, have a son and daughter, and four grandchildren. But she is the only known LAU graduate in Mexico and would like to get in touch with other LAU alumni. Contact her at: Sierra Paracaima 1155, Lomas de Chapultepec, México 11000 D.F., México.

After completing graduate studies at the University of San Francisco, United States, **Fadi Soubra '73 AAS** moved to Southern California. He's now a vice president in the insurance industry. He and his wife are avid Harley Davidson riders. They enjoy touring the country on their motorcycles and meeting new friends along the way.

Fadia Nazzal '75 BS was married in 1989; she now has a son and a daughter. Fadia sends her special regards to Dr. Leila Khoury.

Maral George Kalloghlian '84 BS married Ohan Jaberassian in 1987. The couple have two daughters: 17-year-old Kareen, who attends the American University of Beirut, and 14-year-old Liana, who attends the Beirut Evangelical School for Girls and Boys.

Mohamad Soussan '85 AA now holds the position of executive assistant manager at Al Manshar Rotana Hotel in Kuwait. Previously, he was Rotana Hotels' area director of sales and marketing for the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) markets, working out of the Kuwait office. After graduating in hotel management while in Australia in 1992, he worked with the Sheraton Hotel chain in Abu Dhabi. In 1995, he started his career with Rotana Hotels as assistant director of sales with the Beach Rotana Hotel & Towers in Abu Dhabi. In 2001, he moved to Intercontinental Resort in Al Ain as director of sales and marketing, a position he held for three years.



Liza Panjarjian-Telvizian '86 BS worked for several years at Credit Suisse Moyen Orient and is currently at the Lebanese Swiss Bank. She married Hagop Televizian; they have two daughters and a son.



Marwan El Kashef '88 BS is country manager for United Parcel Services (UPS) in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.



Dr. Mohammad Yaghi '88 RCD and **Rowida Hussein Yaghi '97 BA** are happy to announce the birth of their third child and first son, Adam, who was born on Sept. 20, 2007, in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, in the United States.

Ghaidaa Sadek Marouf '89 BS lives in Saudi Arabia with her husband, Mohamed Sadek, and their four children: two sons and two daughters.



Majida Mehana '90 BA completed an M.A. degree from Ohio State University, United States, and a Ph.D. from Penn State in curriculum and instruction. She then spent four years in Al-Ain, United Arab Emirates (UAE), teaching at UAE University. She currently works at the Arab Open University-Lebanon, training teachers. She would like to get in touch with fellow LAU graduates. Contact her at mmehana@hotmail.com.

Mohamad Mohamad '91 BA worked for Tele Liban, New TV and Future TV as the assistant operations manager of production; head of the camera section; and the director of several programs. In 1997, he took a position as a TV director with Abu Dhabi TV, where he still works. He is married with three children: 12-year-old Kareem, 6-year-old Yasmine, and 2-month-old Lynn.



Lina Babetty '92 BS works at the Central Bank of Lebanon in Tripoli. She is married and has two daughters.

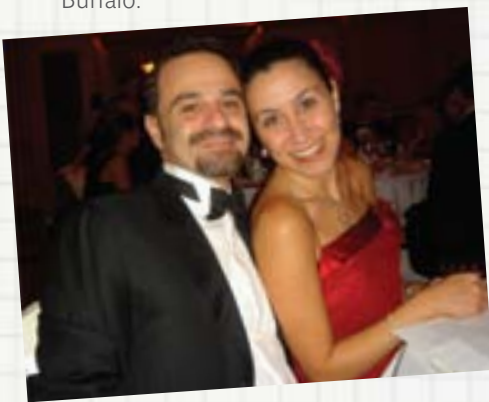
Rania Mustapha Hammoud '93 BS received a diploma in e-commerce management from McGill University, Canada, in 2004, and now works as an information security analyst with the government of Québec.

After a banking career in Lebanon, **Mazen Traboulsi '96 BS** is now studying for his M.B.A. degree. He works as a consultant and analyst at an American-based computer company. He is also a free-lance programmer, system designer, automation consultant and web developer.



Ghinwa Hachache '97 BA is a part-time faculty member at LAU Beirut. She is also a segment producer and editor for Future TV News. In 1999, she received a master's degree in the United States.

Carla Khalil '97 BA married Ali El Zein a few years ago and moved to Oman, where she teaches at the American International School of Muscat. In 2002, she received her teaching diploma and, in June 2007, she earned a master's degree in multidisciplinary studies from the State University of New York, Buffalo.



On July 17, 1999, **Hadi Mezawi '97 BS** and **Lina Nakhoul '95 BA** were married in Beirut. On April 16, 2004, their twin babies were born: Charbel, who is one minute older than his sister, Rita. After graduation, Hadi moved to Dubai, where his parents were living. There he worked as a senior accountant with Adidas Gulf. In February 2000, he joined Nestle Middle East, where he still works. Currently, he is head of the decision and support department for the Middle East region.

Antoine Harb '98 BE '04 MBA is a management information systems manager for the INDEVCO Group.



Zeina Najib Tabbal '98 AAS worked as a graphic designer at Noir Sur Blanc ad agency for five years before becoming art director and marketing manager at Farra Design Center, a furniture store in Mkalles. She recently became engaged to Walid Freiha.

Firas Salah Dandachli '99 BS married **Rana Riad Shams, '02 D.PHARM** in December 2006. In August 2007, their daughter, Aya, was born. After graduation, Firas worked as a private bank manager at the Kuwait office of the National Bank of Kuwait. In 2005, he took over management of his father's contracting company, International Contractors Co. He also established an insurance services business. Firas and his family live in Kuwait.



Ara Salkhanian '04 BE started a business dealing with the manufacturing and trading of bakery equipment. He came up with the idea while pursuing a summer internship while he was a student. Noticing the lack of high-demand machinery, and keen to own his own business, he started the operation soon after graduating with a degree in mechanical engineering.

Four years later, the business exports to more than 20 countries worldwide. Salkhanian also has patented several new machines for this niche market.

He hopes that Lebanon's "brain drain" will be curbed soon and that young Lebanese men and women will invest their potential in Lebanon. He encourages alumni and current students to start their own businesses, which is as rewarding as it is challenging. He said an LAU degree is "added value" to their chosen professions and will help them along the way. He is grateful to LAU for having taught him the necessary skills and know-how to be successful at his undertaking. You can visit his website at www.salkhanianco.com.



In 2001, **Rania Habib Charouk '98 BA** started Events Plus in Beirut with \$2,000 in her pocket and her laptop. Events Plus organizes all kind of corporate events, regional conferences, product launches and special anniversaries with a strong design unit for exhibitions and mall promotions. Weddings Plus recreates environments for weddings. She launched a second office in Dubai in 2007.

Jad Khalil '99 BS '01 MBA spent three years in Saudi Arabia working as a financial and investment analyst while obtaining his certified management accountant (CMA) and certified facility management (CFM) credentials. He then joined MasterFoods in Dubai. He now works for Ford Motors-Middle East, as pricing manager for the region. He is engaged and looks forward to coming back to Lebanon.

Nuha Salami '99 BS works as a personal banking representative at Bank of Beirut– Sour Branch.

Marwan Abdul-Malak '00 BS married Lina Talhouk on Aug. 24, 2007. He works for Arabian BEMCO Contracting in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.



Soha Atallah '00BA '03 MA married Mounir Beyhom in October 2003. They have a son, Rayan. She works for the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) as the national project coordinator for market access and compliance for the Lebanese export project. Prior to her work with UNIDO, she worked for six years with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), and the Ministry of Economy and Trade. She lives in Tallet Khayat.

Ali Basma '00BS has been living in Dubai for five years, working as a media supervisor with Zenith Media Dubai.



After earning a teaching diploma in English as a Second Language in 2001, **Leila Belbeisi '00 BA** returned to her home country of Jordan. For two years she was a learning support assistant at the Modern Montessori School. She then became a third-grade homeroom teacher. Today she works at her former school, the New English School, as a special-needs teacher. She married Sami Al Far on June 24, 2004, and their son, Husni, was born in 2006.

Hassan Daaboul '00 BS is pursuing his M.B.A. at LAU and plans to graduate in 2008. In 1999, he started his own business, Universal Tempered Glass, which he still manages. It is a leading architectural glass company in Syria. He married Hiba Al Najjar, and they have a son, Mohammad, 5, and a daughter, Luna, 4. Hassan is an active member of the LAU alumni chapter in Damascus.



Bilal El-Husseini '00 BS lives in Jeddah and is the western regional manager for AwalNet, the largest internet service provider in Saudi Arabia. A year ago, he married Layal El-Husseini. They had their first baby in January 2008.



Shereen Kaakoush '00BS '02 MBA worked for three years at CreditBank in Beirut. She is married, living in Paris and learning French.

After working in advertising for more than six years **Rana Saab '00 AAS** embarked on a new career two years ago as an image consultant.

Wael Al Sharif '00 BS works as a food and beverage manager at the Sheraton Riyadh Hotel and Towers. He became engaged last summer.



Jalal Abdel Ahad '01 BS has been living in the United States since graduation. In December 2005, he completed his master's of science degree in finance at the University of Michigan. He worked as a senior credit analyst at Comerica Bank. Recently, he was promoted to commercial banking officer at Fifth Third Bank, with a portfolio of more than \$20 million.

Annabelle Matta Kyriakos '01 B.ARCH and her husband, **Mario Matta '99 BS**, moved to Saudi Arabia in 2002. In 2003, she received her Montessori degree in Canada. She now works as a preschool Montessori teacher. Mario is a division manager at Sara Corporation. They have two children: Alex, born in 2003, and Christabel, born in 2007. They come to Beirut several times a year to see family and friends.



Nina Rahal '01 B.ARCH completed a master's of philosophy degree at the Glasgow School of Art, Scotland, in June 2006. She works as an architect for TW-2 Architects in High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire. She is married to Philippe Lott.



Amine Abi Aad '02 BE and **Jamal Maalouf '03 BE** became parents of a son, Antoine, on Aug. 11, 2007.

Ahmad Saleh Bdeir '02 BS works in Riyadh as an account manager in sales at Reuters. In 2004, he married Bissan El Kurdi, who had graduated from American University of Beirut in 2002. They have a daughter, Jana, who was born on Dec. 21, 2006.



Elissar Hamzeh '02 BS received her teaching diploma and is pursuing a master's degree in education. She has a 2-year-old daughter, Yasmina. Busy with her child, a full-time job and graduate studies, she still looks forward to meeting with old friends.

Nadia Moussa Khalifeh '02 BS '04 MBA married **Ziad Riad Khalifeh '02 BS** on Aug. 23, 2002. Their first daughter, Nye, was born in 2005, and Nadia is now pregnant with their second child. She received a certification in global financial risk management. As a result, she has been promoted to deputy head of Basel II Implementation at the First National Bank. She is working to become a certified management accountant.

Nour Abdul Hafiz Ajam '03 BS works with Fashion TV Arabia, traveling around the world covering events. She recently became engaged.



Angie Atrouni '03 BS has been working at Bank of Kuwait and the Arab World since March 2006.

Linda Dahabra '03 BS became engaged to Ahmed Mohanna in 2008 in the United Arab Emirates. She works as an executive secretary at Al Reef Villas.

Maya Hammoud Diab '03 BS married Abdulrahim Salim Diab in 2001 and has a 4-year-old son and a 2-year-old daughter.



Rana Moughabghab '03 BS '06 MBA works for the British Council as marketing and communications manager for Lebanon.

Four years ago, **Dany Nachabe '03 BS** launched MEDILIC, a medical and scientific laboratory supply business in the heart of Beirut. He is engaged to Dima Chaarani.

Dana Shatila '03 BS lives in Dubai and is assistant information technology manager at Dubai Holding. She was married in September 2004.



Serge Abi Raad '04 BE married Rana Al Hakim on May 26, 2007. They live in Cornet Chahwan.



Lara Tarakjian '01BE and her brother, Oskar, started a laser medical and beauty center called SILKOR in Abraj Center, Beirut. In 2007, they opened three local branches (Abraj Center, Kaslik and Verdun 730) and one branch in Dubai (Jumeirah Beach Road).

Lara Tarakjian got her first lessons in competition as a 15-year-old national swimming champion, holding several national records for more than 10 years. Her family in Beirut strongly encouraged her to pursue her dreams and ambitions despite the civil war. Her competitive spirit pushed her to pursue electrical engineering studies and to decide later to set up a new business with her brother.

A nature and photography lover who has hiked in more than 30 countries, she is winning market shares for SILKOR in the Middle East, keeping a close watch on market trends and providing competitive customer services. "Competition moves very fast, and not flinching is the key if you want both to make money and build a loyal customer base in emerging economies," she said.



Batoul Bitar '04 BS has completed the first year of her M.B.A. She married Hassan Sleiman on Nov. 2, 2007, and moved to the United Arab Emirates. She works for the Canadian firm Cansult Maunsell AECOM.

Rita Daher '04 BS graduated from the American University of Beirut in 2006 with a master's degree in financial economics. She works in the Beirut Central District as an economic and research analyst in Bank Audi's head office.

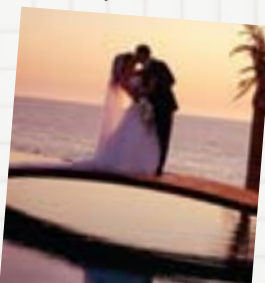


After working for a year at Koetter Kim and Associates, **Karim Fakhry '04 BA** began studying for his Master's of Architecture at Harvard University in the United States. He is now working on his thesis, which deals with identity and memory within architecture. He expects to graduate in a year.

Bachar Omar Habanjar '04 BS just finished his fourth year in Saudi Arabia with Ismail Ali Abu Dawood, where he is a key account unit manager. He was married on July 28, 2007, and lives in Khobar.

In 2006, **Ahmad El Halabi '04 BS** joined Ernst & Young as a consultant in the business management advisory solutions service section of the Oman office. He was recently promoted to senior consultant and has relocated to Kuwait.

Dania Jouni '04 MBA and **Tarek Shehadeh '06 MBA** celebrated their wedding at Janna Sur Mer in Damour on June 23, 2007. They spent their honeymoon in Turkey.

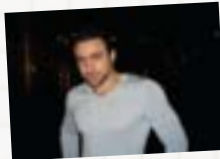


Choucraallah Karam '04 BE and **Jessica Estefane '04 BA** became engaged in November 2006. He joined PricewaterhouseCoopers in Dubai at the beginning of the year. For the past five months, he has been working with the Abu Dhabi government.

Christian Kozma '04 BE has worked for ThyssenKrupp Elevators AG for two years. Six months ago, he helped establish Thyssenkrupp Elevator Qatar, where he is now general manager.

Rabih Reda '04 MBA works at Byblos Bank as a risk analyst in the corporate division.

Hussein Mohamad Hijazi '05 BS worked in a telecommunications company as an administrative director in São Paulo, Brazil, for two years. Today, he works in import/export, focusing on the wholesale market. He also works his own land in Paraguay, where he plants soy, corn and beans. He plans to expand his agricultural business in the coming year.



Wissam Kabbara '05 BS '06 D.PHARM is doing a one-year resident program in pharmacy at St. Alexius Medical Center in Bismarck, North Dakota, United States. He plans to continue for a second year and will specialize in infectious diseases or solid organ transplantation.



Mazen Mamish '05 MBA works for Allied Advertising Agency in Al Khobar, Saudi Arabia.

Issam Abi Nasr '05 BS works at Café Abi Nasr as a marketing director.

Mohamad Nassrallah '05 BS married in August 2007 and lives in Kuwait. He has worked at the National Bank of Kuwait where he has been a bank officer for three years.

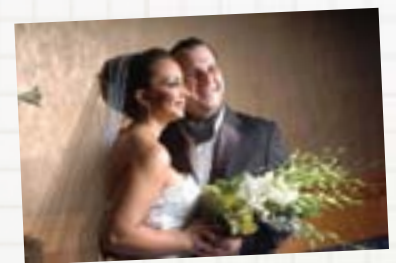


Abdel Rahman Sabban '05 BS '07 MBA is a financial analyst at the Zamil Industrial Investment Company in Dammam, Saudi Arabia.

Lina Salem '05 MA has been a schoolteacher for nine years.

Nadine Taha '05 BA has worked with children for six years. She now works at a nursery in England and was expecting a baby in April 2008.

Sameer Zeenni '05 BS and **Roula Saleh '05 BA** are married and work in Abu Dhabi. Sameer works at Oger Abu Dhabi as chief accountant, and Roula works at Al Hosn University. They visit LAU every time they come to Lebanon.



Abdelrahman Jihad Abdelghani '06 BS works as a network engineer for Consolidated Construction International Company in Abu Dhabi.

Zena Al-Bawwab '06 BS is head of public relations at her father's company, Rafic Bawab & Co., which specializes in exporting and importing tires. She is working on an M.B.A. at LAU, and is looking into the feasibility of starting her own business next year.

After graduation, **Haytham Afif Ghaddaf '06 BS** joined Ismail Abudawood Trading Company in Saudi Arabia as a sales manager. He is now pursuing an M.B.A. at LAU.

Jamal Anwar Maadad '06 MBA lives in Abu Dhabi where he works for Emirates Computers as an account manager in the Dell business unit. His focus is the education sector.



Ahmad Hussein Hijazi '07 BE works in Bangkok as an information technology manager. He enjoys life in Thailand and gets to travel the world to train clients.



Georges T. Ibrahim '07 BE works as a systems engineer at two sister companies in Lebanon: Algorithm and Droguerie De L'Union.



Farah El-Jack Fakhoury '06 AAS and **Karim Fakhoury '03 BS** were married in June 2007. For a year, she worked at Roche-Bobois. Now she is pursuing free-lance projects.

Hiba Moubayed '06 D.PHARM works as a clinical pharmacist at American University of Beirut Medical Center. She married Wassim Alaya on Sept. 1, 2007.

Karim Emile Nahas '06 BE works as a mechanical consultant at Proquest Middle East during the day and free-lances from his own office at night.

Fady Karam '07 BS works at Sakr Generators as a purchasing officer. He is gaining experience that he plans to apply to his family's furniture business. **Shadi Mahfouz '07 BS** is in New York City, United States, working on a master's degree.

Dina Kreik '06 BA is a producer at VTR Beirut, the leading post-production facility in the Middle East.



Ibrahim Salame '06 MBA started his career as an actuarial consultant at i.e. Muhanna and Co. He moved on to Gen Re as the assistant regional manager for life and health reinsurance. He has been promoted to account manager responsible for the Middle East, North Africa, Cyprus and the GCC countries. He plans to marry next summer.

Marwan Moubarak '07 BS is working on a master's degree in marketing at the Grenoble Graduate School of Business in France.



Evelyne Hitti Kanaan (1924-2007)

Throughout her 83 years, Evelyne Kanaan wholeheartedly promoted the social, historical and cultural life of Lebanon. She served on the alumni board of Beirut College for Women and the executive board of the Beirut YMCA. She was one of the first members to join the Association for Protecting Natural Sites and Old Buildings in

Lebanon, restoring the 780-year-old Tanokheh Palace in Abey and transforming it into a museum.

She lived according to traditional values, but supported modern ideas, collaborating with the feminist magazine *Souk el Mara'a*. Using her homes in Beirut and Abey, she hosted literary gatherings for the writers and intellectuals of her time. Well-known for her short stories, she also published a novel in Arabic entitled *Baydaa*.



Mrs. Kanaan was born in 1924 in Souk el Gharb. Her father, Habib Hitti, a professor at AUB, was one of the founders of the American Junior College for Women (AJCW), a precursor of LAU. She and her sisters, Janette, Samira and Souheila, received their associate of arts degrees from AJCW.

In 1946, she married Jamil Kanaan, a professor of dentistry at AUB for 18 years. They had three children, Effat Kanaan, who founded and served as president of the LAU Byblos alumni chapter for 10 years; Salim, a dental technician, antiques dealer and restorer; and Nassim, who died at an early age.

Mrs. Kanaan passed on to her children an appreciation of arts and heritage. She died as she had lived — in peace. The funeral took place at the Evangelica Church in Beirut.



Students raise more than \$40,000 for sick children

By raising more than \$40,000 for the Tamanna children's association, 10 LAU students have demonstrated that attending university is not only about getting an education but also about contributing to society.

The fund-raising effort took place in January during a reception at the Coral Beach Hotel and Resort, after students in Ramez Maluf's Introduction to Public Relations class asked seriously ill children to create drawings with materials purchased by sponsors. The 100 framed drawings were then put up for sale; 80 of them were sold during the four-hour reception. Some guests simply donated money, while others bought the paintings, with all profits going to the organization.

Tamanna is a nonprofit association that fulfills the wishes of children with critical illnesses. It grants about three wishes per week, such as getting new computers, meeting celebrities or traveling to Euro Disney. The funds raised by the LAU students will help make 50 wishes come true.

"I was really impressed with what they did for Tamanna in such a short time", said Diala Rayess, Tamanna's president.

"The result was much more than anyone expected."

Nour Fawaz, the students' group leader, came up with the idea after attending a Tamanna fund-raising dinner. After telling the association about her idea, the students contacted several children's cancer centers and spent a few hours every day for two weeks helping the children paint. They asked sponsors such as Fairco for supplies, Middle East and Africa Bank for \$10,000, and Coral Beach Hotel and Resort for a venue in which to host the event. Taking care of the numerous organizational details, sales strategies, invitations and media coverage took a lot of hard work.

For the students, however, the end result was gratifying. "Making sick children's wishes come true is an extraordinary feeling; being able to turn their tears into laughter was worth the long hours of work," said Fawaz.

The auction was part of a class assignment that required students to develop, manage and get publicity for an event. Maluf guided the students but gave them leeway — a precondition for success, he said — in implementing their plans.





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