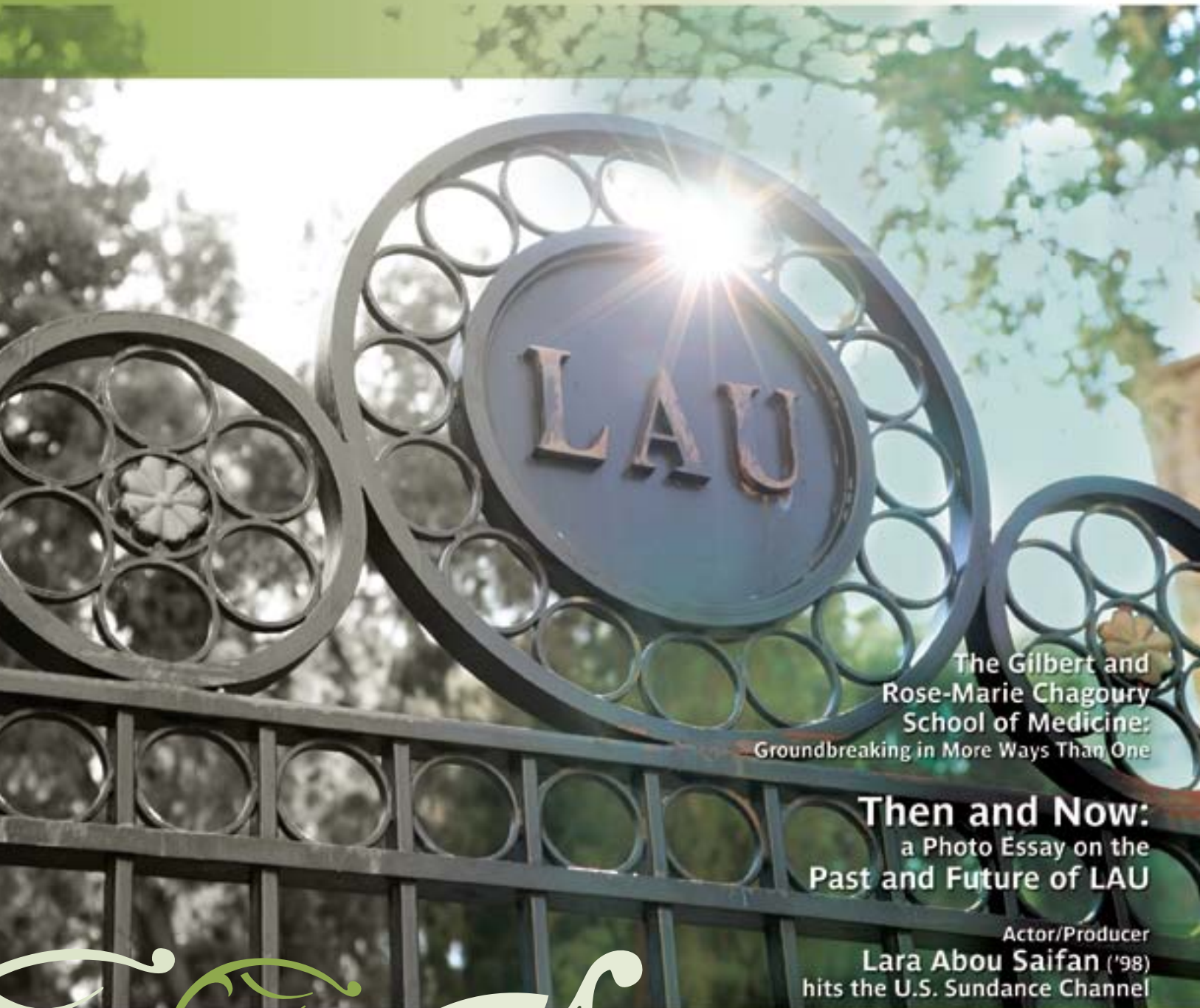


# LAU magazine

VOLUME 10 | issue n° 2 | Fall 2008

## & ALUMNI BULLETIN



The Gilbert and  
Rose-Marie Chagoury  
School of Medicine:  
Groundbreaking in More Ways Than One

**Then and Now:**  
a Photo Essay on the  
Past and Future of LAU

Actor/Producer  
**Lara Abou Saifan** ('98)  
hits the U.S. Sundance Channel

*LAU: The Legacy  
and the Promise*



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## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I just received issue No. 1, Volume 10, Summer 2008 of *LAU Magazine*.

I cannot help but state my admiration for the very high standard of professionalism which you and your staff have applied to this issue. The articles, superb layout, extensive coverage and printing quality made it stand out as a shining reflection of LAU.

Please accept my heartiest congratulations to you and to all those who contributed in producing this remarkable issue. Bravo and keep up the good work.

Warm regards,

Diana Domian Ado  
AA '63, BA '77  
Toronto, Canada

Dear Editor,

Thank you for sending me the Summer '08 edition of *LAU Magazine*. I found it very interesting and refreshing, with so many youth activities mentioned, as well as the inclusion of success stories from all over the world.

Hope to see you in Mexico soon.

Kind regards,

Aline Younes  
First Secretary-Consul  
Embassy of Lebanon  
Mexico City

Dear Editor,

I received the latest issue of *LAU Magazine* and read it with great interest. I appreciate that you are including many profiles about current writers and thinkers. It is also evident that cultural and literary movements are quite alive in Lebanon.

You mentioned an event honoring Khalil Gibran, whose writings I greatly admire. However more is needed! LAU ought to reach out to other Arab countries and their thinkers and writers; there are so many who have enriched the Arabic literary legacies. Hundreds of Arab writers, thinkers, translators, historians, travelogue writers and poets could be involved.

The current and future generations in the Arab world need to be enlightened about the literary pillars who have shaped the world we live in. They need to learn about these literary accomplishments; I urge you to encourage your students to read and respect the exceptional literary works left by their ancestors.

I was pleased to read about the Lebanese novelist Emily Nasrallah in the recent edition of *LAU Magazine*, and hope to read more about other Arab writers and their works in future issues.

Wishing you all the best and further success with all future LAU projects.

With best regards,

Rima A. Mneimneh

Dear Editor,

That we stress excellence so much in this university is clear, and the first thing that I truly rate as excellent is *LAU Magazine*. May God give you the strength to pursue what you are doing!

Keep up the great work!!!

Ramzi A. Haraty  
Associate Professor of Computer Science  
Assistant Dean, School of Arts and Sciences

(Kindly note that letters may be edited for clarity and brevity.)

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## From the President's Desk



Dear Colleagues,

*Four years ago, we began a strategic planning process together. Students, faculty, alumni and friends of LAU joined hearts and minds to set a new strategic direction for our university. The process invigorated both campuses and set a series of striking and powerful actions in motion that led to what the New England Association of Schools and Colleges accreditation team called “dramatic and far-reaching institutional change.”*

*The strategic initiatives arising from this process include the promotion of excellence in all our endeavors. Beneath all of these plans, hopes and dreams lies a simple idea: The peace for which all people yearn, and the progress for which all people hope, can best be achieved through education. In fulfilling our mission of excellence at LAU, we seek the development of leaders who will bring peace, justice and democracy to the Middle East and beyond.*

*Yes, we are aiming high. We are striving to meet our vast potential in all these areas and more. With your support, the LAU Campaign for Excellence will help us achieve our goals. This campaign stretches far beyond our Beirut and Byblos campuses. In this issue of the magazine, you will read about living examples of the ways in which LAU is helping to change Lebanon, the region and the world.*

*Our cover story on Gilbert Chagoury is a portrait of a man of exceptional generosity, and also of great faith, vision and heart. Here the founding donor of the LAU Gilbert and Rose-Marie School of Medicine reveals his passion for what will be the most philosophically and technologically advanced school of medicine in the region. The accompanying coverage of the beautiful and inspiring July 15 groundbreaking ceremony follows a cogent discussion with Dr. Kamal Badr, Founding Dean of the school, and new faculty member Mona Haidar on the broader aspects of social medicine and its potential impact on the Middle East. An alumni profile of the filmmaker Lara Abou Saifan ('98) provides a glimpse into the world of film and television production—including a documentary series called “On the Road” about four Arabs who travel through the United States together—demonstrating how LAU’s communications arts program can impact perceptions and thinking half a world away.*

*The centerpiece of this issue is a pullout photo essay, “Then and Now: the Legacy and the Promise.” These pages offer an articulate depiction of where LAU has come from and where we seek to go. It is a testament to the courage of all those associated with the university both past and present, and a reminder of the high bar set before us as we seek to fulfill the promise of the LAU legacy.*

*While the specific goals of the Campaign for Excellence can be found on page 20, the Campaign’s comprehensive goals are visible throughout this entire issue of LAU Magazine, in the profiles of students, faculty, alumni and friends rising to the challenges set before us.*

*I truly hope that you will find the journey as thrilling and meaningful as I do. And I thank you for all your support in helping us make LAU a world-class institution.*

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Joseph G. Jabbara".

Joseph G. Jabbara  
President

# Chagoury: Philanthropy Begins at Home

By LAU staff



“It is not the amount you give. The important thing is to know how to give. We were brought up in a home where we were told giving is a way of thanking God for many things.”

## Why Gilbert and Rose-Marie Chagoury gave \$13.5 million to the future health of Lebanon

"If God gives, you should give; but you should give to where you know your giving gets results."

If Ramez Chagoury was right, God will be very, very generous.

"No matter how generous one is, God will always be more generous," Chagoury used to tell his son, Gilbert. Those early words of wisdom hit home. Philanthropy became a watchword for the son, who has used part of his self-made fortune to support the arts, scholarships for underprivileged students, and health care for poor children.

And if that wasn't enough, last year, Gilbert Chagoury and his wife, Rose-Marie, pledged \$10 million toward LAU's new School of Medicine in Byblos, and another \$3.5 million to fund a companion nursing school that will be named for Gilbert Chagoury's mother, Alice.

"When we do something it's because we feel it is a duty to give," Chagoury told LAU Magazine. "If God gives, you should give; but you should give to where you know your giving gets results."

The donation to LAU is already producing results. In July, the university broke ground for the \$18 million Gilbert and Rose-Marie School of Medicine, with a projected completion date in time for the class of 2010. But the new construction is not the only groundbreaking aspect of this facility.

The School of Medicine's Founding Dean, Dr. Kamal Badr, envisions a whole new way of educating physicians, including a team approach that incorporates nursing, pharmacy and public health; a broad-based curriculum that brings together business and ethics coursework; and a strong "social medicine" component that emphasizes a medical professional's commitment to his or her community (see page 7). The School of Medicine's research track also will flow from that focus, with an emphasis on diseases indigenous to the region, including cancer and diabetes, as well on women's health – a commitment that harkens to LAU's origins as a women's college.

Chagoury appreciates all those unique features of the new school, but – ever the businessman – he also likes the idea of investing in a project that will create jobs and stability in Lebanon. "I really, honestly believe that this will be one of the best medical schools in the region," he said. "The greatest thing Lebanon can offer is education, health and tourism, and everything we can do in that field to help Lebanon economically is a great thing. We are not just helping a university; we are helping the whole country."

But Chagoury said the School of Medicine's biggest selling point for him was the man at the helm, LAU's president. "I have confidence in the leadership of Joseph Jabbra," Chagoury said. "I chose LAU simply because I was confident that the project I hope to participate in will be realized."

Jabbra said he appreciates that confidence, not just in him, but in the entire university, and he returns the compliment. "I never, ever met a man who is so generous and doesn't want anybody to know about it," he said of Chagoury. "This is an incredible characteristic which is rare to come by."

Badr concurs. "Gilbert Chagoury is a shining example that there are among us those who give freely, seeking only to serve their country, and to better their people," said the School of Medicine dean.

Chagoury credits his upbringing. "You don't learn philanthropy; you are brought up with it," he said. "You don't have to be wealthy to do it. It is not the amount you give. The important thing is to know how to give. We were brought up in a home where we were told giving is a way of thanking God for many things. My children were brought up the same way." 🌸

"I really, honestly believe that this will be one of the best medical schools in the region...We are not just helping a university; we are helping the whole country."



Chagoury and Jabbra discuss the Medical School Groundbreaking brochure





Chagoury was born in Nigeria to Lebanese immigrant parents on Jan. 8, 1946. He left Africa to attend the *Collège des Frères* in Lebanon, returning at age 17 to become a sales executive for a Nigerian company, according to an autobiographical website, [www.gilbertchagoury.com](http://www.gilbertchagoury.com).

In 1967, during a visit to Lebanon, Chagoury met his future wife, Rose-Marie Chamchoum, the daughter of a prominent Lebanese family whose business interests stretched across Niger and Benin. The couple has four children, two of whom followed their father into the business world.

Chagoury's business interests run deep in Africa, where he built one of the most prominent industrial and commercial groups on the continent with interests in agriculture and construction – including civil engineering, public works and the petroleum industry. Today, the company is represented by investments, not only in Africa, but also in Europe and South America.

Chagoury and his wife have a like-minded approach when it comes to giving. "We don't take a long time to decide," Chagoury said. "We're generally always together. We travel together; we are together most of the time. And when we are asked these things, either if they ask her alone or if they ask me alone, we always discuss it. We decide immediately if it's a yes or a no."

Through their charity, the Chagourys have given generously to projects in Mizyara. They also support St. Jude's Children Research Hospital in Tennessee, founded by the late Danny Thomas, a prominent Lebanese-American actor who became a close friend of the Chagourys. Another favorite cause is the Louvre, to which the Chagourys donated a 16<sup>th</sup> century tapestry and a pair of Sevres vases from the Palais Bourbon under the reign of Louis XVI. In 2000, the Louvre opened the Gilbert et Rose-Marie Chagoury gallery.

In 1995, Chagoury was appointed ambassador and permanent delegate of Saint Lucia to UNESCO, steering that small Caribbean nation onto the executive board of UNESCO in 1996 and the World Heritage Committee in 2001, to which Saint Lucia was elected with the highest score, and in 1996, Chagoury became economic adviser to Benin.

But of all his distinguished titles, Chagoury said the one he most values is that of Commander of the Order of Saint Gregory the Great, bestowed on him by the Vatican in 1990 in recognition of his service to the church.

Indeed, whether giving of himself in the service of his church, or his wealth to rebuild his homeland, Chagoury said it is giving that makes him happy.

**"If you are not happy when you are giving you don't give. I enjoy it when I give. It really honestly makes me happy."**

Not only does he encourage others to give, he also points out that it's important to be asked to give.

"Three days ago a friend of mine came to congratulate me on this medical school," Chagoury said. "He said, 'I want to do something in memory of my son but I cannot do a whole project on myself. What do you advise?' I said, 'I will introduce you to Dr. Jabbra. Go and take part of a project in the name of your son.' People want to give. They don't know how to do it or they are not asked to do it."

"This is why I'm praising Dr. Jabbra," he continued. "Dr. Jabbra knows how to ask; he knows how to instill confidence in people; he knows how to make people believe in a project, whether it is a medical school, a law school, or an engineering school. He knows how to show people their responsibility. This is maybe what others don't have."

It's a strong statement, not just in support of Jabbra, but also as a window on Chagoury's approach to giving as a "responsibility."

He continues: "I think if our political situation is solved you will find many Lebanese, both inside and outside Lebanon, who will be racing to rebuild this country economically, artistically if you like, for many things. I really think it is not just Gilbert Chagoury; there are at least hundreds of Gilbert Chagourys among the Lebanese."



# Social Medicine: Science, Art and Social Justice

by Molly Sugarman

The vision of Dr. Kamal Badr, founding dean of the Gilbert and Rose-Marie Chagoury School of Medicine at LAU, is to educate the “new physician.” The science and the art of medicine will merge in the school’s social medicine curriculum to create a physician who treats patients with cutting-edge science as well as compassion, a physician who understands the human condition and the individual as part of a larger community.

Often the ills of the individual are indicative of – or derive from – the ills of the community. Is a child ill because her family has too little food? A doctor trained in social medicine at LAU will take the time to know the patient, her life, her family and her community. The doctor will then become an advocate for those things that will make the patient healthy, whether it is access to clean water or access to drugs needed for treatment.

Social medicine is both preventive and compassionate.

“Today’s physicians are dramatically ill-equipped to deal with the illness experience, and many cannot see the role of the physician as more than the diagnosis and treatment of signs and symptoms,” said Dr. Kamal Badr, in May 2006, describing what he does not envision for LAUMS graduates. He is Founding Dean of the school and a staunch advocate of social medicine.

Graduates of LAUMS will not wear the blinders of 15-minute office visits. Steeped in the humanities – history, philosophy, literature, theology, music and art – as undergraduates, medical students will be educated to the highest standards of American scientific and technological expertise. As they learn this science, they will work in clinics. They will meet individuals, families and communities. They will devise projects to improve community health and will learn how to advocate for those projects.

The integrated curriculum will rely on small-group, self-directed, patient-based learning and emphasize the patient, rather than the disease, Dr. Badr said.

Dr. Mona Haidar will teach social medicine when LAUMS opens in 2009. Social medicine, she said, is “the study of how social, economic and political forces affect health and disease.” Its



practitioners will understand the context of illness as well as the context of their own work: the finances of medical practice, and the influence of pharmaceutical and insurance companies. They will understand how to make a living while making a difference.

Social medicine, she said, looks at the community while still focusing on the individual.

For example, rather than writing a patient off as noncompliant for not taking medicine, the “new physician” will ask why the patient does not take the medicine. Can he afford to buy it? Does he have food to eat with pills that must not be taken on an empty stomach?

The physicians LAUMS graduates will treat the patient, she said, not a disease, and will focus on the person, not just the test results.

“We hope our graduates will be much better at understanding you as a person and understanding the things that really concern you,” Dr. Badr said. Interaction with patients will be acts of healing and mercy, he said, rather than business transactions.

“Today’s physicians are dramatically ill-equipped to deal with the illness experience, and many cannot see the role of the physician as more than the diagnosis and treatment of signs and symptoms.”

—Dr. Kamal Badr





A time capsule containing documents and photos about the origins of the medical school was placed into the corner stone at the cite of the building.

# Groundbreaking in More Ways than One:

## LAU Kicks Off Construction of New Medical School

by Esther Krenz Muller (*courtesy of The Daily Star*)

A consortium of philanthropists, intelligentsia and politicians turned over ceremonial shovels of dirt on Tuesday, July 18 to commemorate the groundbreaking ceremony of the Lebanese American University Gilbert and Rose-Marie Chagoury School of Medicine—Lebanon's seventh licensed medical school.

The formal, stately ceremony, held on LAU's serene Byblos campus, marked the official commencement of the construction phase. On hand to applaud this defining moment in LAU's history was an impressive social stratum of 200 benefactors, distinguished board members and guests.

The projected completion date for the ambitious project is set for 2010 by ACE consultants. Principal philanthropists, Nigerian-born LAU board member and businessman, Ambassador Gilbert Chagoury and his wife Rose-Marie, donated \$10 million toward the medical school, and another \$3.5 million to fund the companion Alice Ramez Chagoury School of Nursing.

Once completed, the 12,500 square-meter campus will house both the new medical school and the nursing school. The \$18 million state-of-the-art complex will be the nation's most technologically advanced medical school—a world-class facility with video streaming, videoconferencing, digitized collections of microscope slides, multi-disciplinary laboratories, an electronic library and a 24/7 cyber cafe.

The new medical school will contain a simulation and skill assessment center for patient encounters, including a mock-up laboratory, a full-scale simulation surgical procedure room, multi-purpose bays and a control room.



Rose-Marie Chagoury, Minister Mohammad Khalife, President Jabbra, Dean Badr, and Gilbert Chagoury gather to lay the foundation of the medical school





"The underlying concept behind the design is to build the medical and nursing school around people rather than just technology. Fundamental human needs like comfort and social ambiance will take prominence. The blueprint allows for ample natural light and large windows to maximize daytime illumination for a motivating atmosphere and inspirational view," said LAU's public relations director Christian Oussi.

Furthermore, LAU and Harvard Medical International (HMI), the medical-consulting arm of Harvard Medical School (HMS), have signed an innovative 10-year collaboration agreement that will significantly reinforce the medical school's standing. LAU will also partner with Clemenceau Medical Center (CMS), an affiliate of Johns Hopkins International, and Rafik Hariri University Hospital for the clinical element of the program.

Since becoming LAU's president in 2004, professor Joseph G. Jabbra has been the driving force behind LAU's aggressive and unprecedented \$100 million expansion campaign.

"The establishment of the medical school is an integral part of our exceptional achievements; building upon past successes," said Jabbra. "The medical school was also established to fill the void created by not having proper indigenous disease research in the region," he added.

Jabbra said that "LAU is the ideal setting for a medical school—simply because quality attracts. By offering a solid program and an American degree at a very reasonable price, we give students the opportunity to earn an excellent education without having to leave their country or region."

The accreditation of LAU is another facet of the university's broadening appeal. "We are rapidly moving toward full accreditation

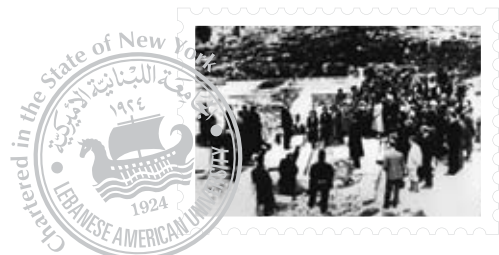
by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) and the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education (CIHE)," Jabbra added. "LAU's five-year Bachelor in Architecture program is accredited by the French government, and LAU's [Doctorate] in Pharmacy program is the only ACPE-accredited program outside the U.S."

When asked if there really was a need for "another" medical school in Lebanon, LAU administrators said "40 percent of Lebanese physicians are graduates from medical schools in Eastern Europe or Arab countries, in which standards of training are, for the most part, below those in the U.S. and Western Europe. The medical school will represent a major qualitative boost to health care in Lebanon because LAU will infuse society with increasing numbers of graduates trained in the traditions of American medicine. American medicine leads the world in research and clinical care."

Johns Hopkins' adjunct professor Kamal Badr, who left his post as professor and chairman of the American University of Beirut Department of Internal Medicine in 2006, has been appointed Founding Dean of the medical school. "The Gilbert and Rose-Marie Chagoury School of Medicine will target regional health needs like women's health, adolescent, pediatric, geriatric and genetic medicine, as well as neuroscience," said Badr. "The medical school will attract acclaimed Lebanese talent in biomedical science from around the world back to their homeland and the region."

LAU already enrolled its first group of pre-medical students in 2006, and will accept its first medical students in 2009.

*A commemorative plaque in celebration of the groundbreaking*





## Widescreen Accomplishments in TV and Film From LAU Graduate Lara Abou Saifan

By Paul Wachter

Early in the summer of 2006, Lara Abou Saifan ('98) was preparing for her first trip to the United States. She had been selected as one of four young Arab leads for the television series "On the Road in America," created by Jerome Gary, who produced "Pumping Iron," the famous documentary featuring Arnold Schwarzenegger at the peak of his bodybuilding career. "On the Road" — a reality series of 12 half-hour shows — was made for broadcast both in the Arab world (on MBC) and the United States (on the Sundance Channel, where it is currently running).

For Saifan, a communications major who had been doing freelance television and film work in Beirut, it was a great opportunity. But just a few days before she was set to embark, the bombs started falling in what would become the most destructive conflict between Israel and Lebanon since the civil war.

"I didn't see how I could go and leave my loved ones behind," said Saifan. But her family convinced her. "I thought, maybe if I go, I can make a difference."

Saifan and her co-stars traveled across the country, stopping in New York, Washington, D.C., and also rural outposts in Montana and the Mississippi Delta. It was, said *The New York Times*, "the sort of television show that Al Jazeera and MTV might produce if they could be coaxed together in front of an editing terminal."

As Saifan and the others interacted with Americans of all stripes there were moments of levity, but the cast and crew never escaped the backdrop of unfolding events in Lebanon. The show did not shy away from airing the raw feelings of its stars. At one point, Saifan, who is Palestinian, expressed ill feeling about Israelis, a pronouncement that was leavened by the discussion she had later in the episode with the production's Israeli cameraman.



Shooting "On the Road in America"





The stars of the show met with politicians and other dignitaries but also spent plenty of time engaging in everyday activities — touring Harlem and shopping along Manhattan’s flashy Fifth Avenue; singing with a gospel choir in Washington, D.C. and hiking with cowgirls in Montana. The final episodes took place in the stars’ homelands — Lebanon, Egypt and Dubai — and Saifan, who was also the series’ production assistant, oversaw the logistics of these visits. “I think it was important, after our trip through the States, for everyone to see the Arab world close up, including our American production crew,” she said.

For Saifan, “On the Road” led to additional work with Visionaire Media, the production group behind the series. “With the exception of the recent governmental crisis, which has brought work to a standstill, I’ve been able to keep pretty busy with freelance work,” she said. She has worked on a number of television shows and documentaries. Saifan also appeared in front of the cameras in a short film that aired on Al Jazeera. She portrayed Dalal Mughrabi, a 19-year-old Beirut resident and child of Palestinian refugees who led 11 others on a commando raid into Israel, where they captured a bus and tried to drive it into the Israeli Parliament building. (Mughrabi was killed in the ensuing gun battle with Israeli soldiers, and her remains were returned to Israel in July as part of a Hezbollah-Israel prisoner swap.)

Not all of Saifan’s work is overtly political, however. She has worked on cooking, music and children’s shows. “I don’t really consider myself political, but then by the very fact of being Palestinian and living in Lebanon you’re involved in politics,” she said.

Saifan said she sees herself as a producer first, and described a typical day. “Basically, I’m organizing everything that goes on off camera, first. This means the logistics, from scouting locations to getting the film crew together and making sure everything is on schedule.”

Much of her training has been on-the-job, but she credits her education at the Lebanese American University with providing her with a solid foundation. “When I attended the school, there was not as much of an emphasis on film work as on television and other media,” she said. “But I remember being surprised when I entered the program that all of the equipment was the top-of-the-line.”

Saifan said that work was picking up with the cessation of the recent political turmoil in Lebanon. Since she is Palestinian and lacks Lebanese citizenship, some avenues of employment are closed to her, she said. But thus far working freelance has been rewarding. “I think I’ve been pretty fortunate, both with my education and the work I’ve been able to do,” she said.





## مهرجان بيروت الأول لأفلام حقوق الإنسان

Lebanese American University  
School of Arts and Sciences, Byblos

Submission Open for Students of Film, Audio Visual and Related Media  
1st Prize : 3000\$  
2nd Prize : 2000\$  
3rd Prize : 1000\$  
Deadline for Entries : 17 June 2008

1st Edition  
Beirut  
**Human Rights Film Festival**  
27-31 October 2008

## The First Annual Beirut Human Rights Film Festival to be Presented by LAU This Fall

A wide array of filmmakers and human rights advocates are descending on Beirut in October. The principle objective of the Beirut Human Rights Film Festival, according to the university's Institute of Diplomacy and Conflict Transformation (IDCT), is to empower youth involvement in human rights and encourage advocacy through the medium of film. The festival is a pioneer arts program in the Middle East, and leaders of the IDCT hope it will become a leading venue for distinguished dramatic, documentary and animated features.

In selecting films, the panel of judges place equal value on artistic merit and human rights content. This November, selected films will embark on a nation-wide awareness campaign to schools, universities and other organizations.

The Beirut Human Rights Film Festival is being organized by the IDCT-Institute of Diplomacy and Conflict Transformation at the School of Arts and Sciences, Lebanese American University, Byblos, and in partnership with the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Middle East, and World Vision Beirut.

The Festival is made possible by a generous grant from the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Beirut, and financial contributions by World Vision and the Lebanese American University.

For more information please visit:

<http://www.lau.edu.lb/academics/centers-institutes/idct/hrff/>

The launch ceremony  
in February





## Beirut Fever— A Fever With a Cause

By Joelle Roumani

This summer, a group of graduates from LAU and other universities organized *Beirut Fever*, an international dance and live music show aimed at highlighting Lebanese talents while raising money to support the Union for Protecting Childhood in Lebanon.

The event came into being after two communication arts graduates, Labib El Choufani ('07) and Nay Mouawad ('07), and Mohammad Abdeen, an LIU graduate, paid a visit to the Fanar Juvenile Rehabilitation Center. The students were shocked by the appalling conditions the inmates were living in, and decided to help.

El Choufani, the event's director, said that they decided to raise funds through their forthcoming show, and to channel the money via UPEL—an umbrella organization, including the Fanar Juvenile Rehabilitation Center, which supports ill-treated and delinquent children in Lebanon.

To the independent group of young graduates, even securing funds for the show itself was a challenge. But everyone contributed a little, said Abdeen.

"We had zero budget," El Choufani explained. "Mohammad, Nay and I paid the theater fees. Madame Georgette Gebara and Arthur Murray gave us their dance studios and dancers for free. We had eleven sponsors that covered everything from makeup and hair to costumes," he added.

*Beirut Fever* premiered on July 31 in Masrah Al-Madina. The show was carried out with great professionalism, said Dr. Mona Knio, an Arts and Communication associate professor at LAU. Almost all of the four performances drew capacity crowds.

Mouawad chose and adapted 13 popular and classical choreographies for the show. *Beirut Fever* was also the title of the opening dance, a medley of different genres—oriental, ballet, Latin,



LAU student  
Dalia Karouta

break dance, hip-hop, modern and neo-classical. Other international pieces such as *Center Stage*, *Save the Last Dance*, and *Step Up* were performed for the first time by Lebanese dancers with live music.

The team organizing the event was deeply thankful to LAU faculty and staff for their support. "Dr. Mona Knio helped us a lot in the light design and talked with Masrah Al-Madina to take good care of us," said El Choufani. "Mr. Nagy Souraty supervised the dance [activities] and gave his opinion about the performance. Ms. Hala Masri helped us to do a better coverage of the entire event. Dr. [Tarek] Na'was also helped and encouraged us by coming to the premiere," he added.

Being the lead dancer and the dance director was extremely stressful to Mouawad, who participated in ten of the performances—but she said it was also rewarding. She, along with El Choufani and Abdeen, wanted to prove that "in Lebanon, there are real talents that can perform the hardest choreographies very professionally."

Mouawad has been already accepted to the prestigious dancing school Steps on Broadway, and will be going to New York in October to earn a dancing diploma. She considered *Beirut Fever* an opportunity to be introduced to the Lebanese public. "Organizing such a huge event was a tremendous challenge for every one of us, but it improved our skills and boosted our self-confidence," said Mouawad.

El Choufani sees his experience with *Beirut Fever* as enriching in the sense that it has also helped define his future. He is currently getting ready for his M.A. in production design for TV and film at Kingston University in London.

After coming back to Lebanon, he wants to stage *Chicago: The Musical* in Beirut.

"I'm seriously planning to get the license and work on it with Lebanese dancers, actors and musicians," he said.







## Rudy Hachache: Olympian and LAU Graduate

By Olga Habre



The crowd in the Bird's Nest cheered and the world watched as thousands of athletes paraded and the flame ignited. Thus began the 2008 Summer Olympic Games in Beijing, China.

Rudy Hachache was amidst the cheering crowd, as an athlete representing Lebanon. Hachache, who graduated from LAU in 2005 with a B.S. in Pharmacy, said his experience of the Olympics only became memorable after it was over. Millions watch the event but the athletes themselves are too busy performing. "You don't get to see the Olympics as an athlete," said Hachache. The nostalgia, he said, sets in afterwards.

One of six Olympic athletes from Lebanon, Hachache competed in the men's +100 kg category in judo, an honor that filled him with both disbelief at his good fortune and great happiness.

His participation was not confirmed until a week before the Olympics, when he received word that his 3rd place finish at the Asian Championships in South Korea last spring had qualified him to go to Beijing. That victory in South Korea was doubly sweet as it came after a seven-year break from the sport.

Ironically, it was his temporary discharge from another sport – rugby – that took him to the Olympics. For seven years, Hachache played for the LAU Immortals, a team he also coached for one year. He was also on the Lebanese national team. A fortuitous rugby penalty gave him more time to practice judo, which led to his Asia win.

"I do nothing but sports all day," said the five-time Arabic champion in judo. He later acknowledged a more well-rounded life. He paints and has played guitar and piano, although he did begin judo lessons at the early age of 12. He encourages young people to take up the sport because it provides discipline, builds character and is not aggressive.

At the Olympics, the judoka placed ninth out of 34, a rank with which he is justifiably pleased. He lost against a Cuban and a Brazilian – who ended up winning the bronze – and won against a Peruvian who weighs 40 kg more than he does. At the Olympics, "ninth [place] is like ninth in the world; it's really, really, really good," he said.

A typical day as an Olympian wasn't much different from any other day in his life, Hachache said. He worked out before breakfast, trained in the evenings, and busied himself as he chose during the day, although sightseeing in China was an opportunity he hadn't had before. The organization and the enormity of the Olympics impressed him, as did the friendliness of the Chinese.

Although he will continue to play for both rugby teams, Hachache plans to concentrate more on judo. He intends to compete in the next Summer Olympic Games in London and to win a medal this time. He is so serious about his intentions that he plans to sell his pharmacy so he can pursue sports professionally. His family members – three of whom are also pharmacists – support his goals.

Fadi Saikali, Hachache's judo trainer, who coincidentally placed 9th in judo at his Olympiad in 1992, believes Hachache could have done better had it not been for the inadequate training in Lebanon. "He's done well. With more training he can do better. We need more training camps in Lebanon," he said, adding, "with a little more help, I'm sure he can take a medal."

Hachache is also adamant about changing the current sports situation in Lebanon. "When you get support from your country, you get results," he said. Conditions for athletes have been improving, he said, but more should be done. He would like the Lebanese government to provide training camps abroad so Lebanese athletes could work with others. In a small country, he said, it is difficult to find enough athletes with whom to practice and to stimulate growth. It's hard to excel without competitors to urge you on to excellence, he said.

Joe Moujaes, athletic director in Byblos, corroborated that Lebanon is sadly weak in the Olympics. He recalls Hachache as a student on campus, and commented that Hachache's participation in the Olympics was "great. Whenever someone qualifies for the Olympics it's great."

Hachache often missed classes in order to compete abroad but remembers the support he received from the School of Pharmacy. He also remembers being honored more than once by the athletic department at the annual athletic dinner for his efforts with the LAU Immortals. LAU's training has been "very helpful," he said, adding that LAU creates a friendly atmosphere that is good for training. His fellow rugby players are now his best friends.

Hachache plans to participate in many upcoming judo competitions, including the U.S. Open in September; the Jeux de la Francophonie, a competition for 52 French-speaking nations that will be hosted by Lebanon in September 2009; the World Championships in the Netherlands next fall and the Asian games in 2010.



Hachache at the  
Opening Ceremony of the  
2008 Olympic Games







The model UN is “a school of leadership” that educates Arab youth in concert with LAU’s mission.

## LAU Model United Nations Expanding Horizons With the Alwaleed Humanitarian Foundation

By Olga Habre

Approximately 1000 high school students will participate in LAU’s Model United Nations program this year, more than triple the participation when the program started in 2005. Moreover, students from schools outside Lebanon will join a one-week course in diplomacy for the first time this year.

The expansion has been made possible by a partnership with the Alwaleed Bin Talal Humanitarian Foundation, which donated \$100,000 to the rapidly growing program.

The partnership will provide multiple benefits. The program will receive \$100,000 annually for three years, and the foundation will equip offices on both campuses. In addition, six LAU students (to be selected) will have the opportunity to meet with Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal.

As part of the partnership, participation by students from public schools will be increased, a project that is already underway.

For a program started with \$30,000 and 550 students, this is rapid growth indeed. “The dream has come true,” said project leader Elie Samia. The program is a labor of love for those involved, he said.

The model UN is “a school of leadership” that educates Arab youth in concert with LAU’s mission. As an added bonus, the program introduces LAU to the high school students, many of whom end up enrolling in the university, Samia said.

Participants in the program learn about UN committees through seven training sessions, which culminate in a final conference. To accommodate the increasing number of UN committees, the conference will be a three-day event this year.

The only such program in the Arab world, LAU’s Model United Nations has gained respect throughout the region. This year’s program will also be co-sponsored by The Bank of Beirut and the Arab Countries.

Such rapid success engenders high hopes for the future of the program. A project for high school students throughout the Arab world resembling the Harvard World Model United Nations is in the works. The project would bring students together for a model UN conference in a different city each year.

This year’s program has been renamed the ALWALEED LAU-GCMUN, an acronym for *Alpha Leadership Web of Arab Leaders in International Diplomacy LAU-Model United Nations*. The program is guided by a steering committee chaired by Dr. Elise Salem, Vice-President for Student Development and enrollment management.



Dr. Layla Nimah, Dr. Leila Solh Hamade, Karim Chaanine, Dalia Morad, Elie Mansour, Nicholas-George Matta and Dr. Jabbra at the final Model UN conference in May



# Coming Home: Dr. Elise Salem Takes the Helm of Student Development

By Olga Habre

**“Student life must be varied and dynamic, and the students need to have ownership of projects.”**

After 25 years as a student, professor and university administrator in the United States, Dr. Elise Salem has come back, to Lebanon, to LAU where she once taught and from which her mother graduated decades ago. “It was my time, my fate,” Dr. Salem said.

Lebanon is her home, she said, and she is ready to become an active citizen again.

“Because the country is in distress, there is a need to help, to change, to improve,” she said of her move back to Beirut. “The brain drain has had a huge negative impact on the country.”

Dr. Salem’s skills will now directly impact this exodus. As LAU’s new vice president of student development and enrollment management, Salem will provide support for students in all stages of their education. She is dedicated to upholding the student-centered education for which LAU is noted.

“LAU, in its mission and in its practice, is really focused on the education of the whole student. That commitment to the student is very serious and not just lip service,” she said. She hopes to extend the reach of LAU to remote, less affluent constituencies of Lebanon. The university’s extensive financial-aid program will make it possible for students from diverse backgrounds to benefit from what she characterizes as a dynamic, high-caliber “university on the move” with a serious academic tradition.

Salem, too, comes from a serious Lebanese and academic tradition. Born and raised in Beirut, she graduated from American University of Beirut and went to the United States to continue her education and her career. Her mother, Phyllis Sell Salem, was a 1960’s graduate of LAU.

Her father, Dr. Elie Salem, is president of the University of Balamand, and served as Minister of Foreign and Expatriate Affairs during Amin Gemayel’s presidency (1982-1988). She and her father, whom she terms her inspiration, joke about being “competitors” now that she has taken her post at LAU. “In the end, we are all working toward the same goal: educating our youth and providing better opportunities for the next generation of Lebanese.”

“It is all about the education, the learning of the student,” Salem said. “There is much else that needs to take place at a university, but



*Dr. Salem has a PhD in Renaissance and 18th Century British Literature from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.*

everything else that takes place needs to be insurance that learning... is taking place effectively.”

Both LAU and the larger community need to “work harder to provide possibilities for students,” she said. The whole person must be educated, she said, “so that the students graduate with the flexibility and confidence to formulate lives for themselves in places that are meaningful to them.”

“Student life must be varied and dynamic, and the students need to have ownership of projects,” Salem said. Connecting with the community is important to education and to Salem. LAU excels at this, she said, adding that a curriculum with more emphasis on community involvement will enable LAU students to be models for positive change in the whole region.

As a professor, administrator and mother, Salem has a wide range of life experience that helps her understand the needs of students and the difficulties that can impact student life. She is also a proponent of teamwork.

“I want to lead by example,” she said. “I am a very hard worker. I have very high standards for myself. I would like to be able to instill in my staff and in our students that sense of ownership and responsibility.”

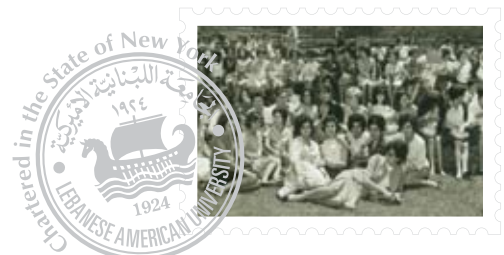
Dr. Salem assumed the vice presidency on July 1, 2008, succeeding Dr. Layla Nimah. As one of her first tasks, she will finalize an enrollment management plan that has been in the works for several years. She will work with prospective and current students on both campuses, as well as with alumni.

When students enroll in LAU, they become members of the LAU family, she said, and it is LAU’s responsibility to provide support for them.

The great challenge facing both LAU and all of Lebanon, she said, is educating future leaders of this troubled country. In a region undergoing enormous change, LAU’s response gives hope to Lebanon, she said.

“I have always admired LAU,” Salem said. “I felt it was an honor to return to play a part in building and leading this venerable institution.”

**“LAU, in its mission and in its practice, is really focused on the education of the whole student. That commitment to the student is very serious and not just lip service.”**



# معتصم محمصاني Mutasim Mahmassani and LAU

## A Partnership for Innovation, Hard Work and Success in Islamic Banking

By LAU Staff



If you don't understand every detail of your business, you'll never succeed, according to Mutasim Mahmassani, general manager of the Islamic bank Al Baraka.

Mahmassani started his career getting experience in the basics: learning the details of every kind of transaction or product involved in finance. In his first position, as a financial controller, he learned it all.

His message to those starting out: Roll up your sleeves. Don't be a "prisoner of your pride." An M.B.A. is not enough, he said. Academic knowledge must be combined with hands-on experience. "You have to experience [the business] yourself," he said.

This 1974 graduate of the American University of Beirut and father of six is not above running the copy machine if need be. "I'm running an institution and I still would do my own filing," he said.

Experience is as important as academic success, he said, because part of understanding comes from life not books. "Whatever you learn [in school] is not enough," Mahmassani said.

The ability to deal with people—a talent critical to good business—is not something one learns at school, he said. "One learns how to deal with people by going out into real life, one has to listen to people, one has to work in a group. You get part of this in a university but you don't get it all."

He is partial to LAU graduates because they graduate with more than book learning. Graduates of LAU are both academically prepared and able to deal with other people as team members, Mahmassani said.

Mahmassani describes his management style as "fairness, honesty and sticking to the basic values and principles," as well as teamwork. He admires all hard-working people who have determination, who do not give up easily, and declares that the Lebanese have honed such determination through hard times. "Wherever you go, the Lebanese individual assumes responsibility and takes up jobs," he said.

As an Islamic banker in Lebanon, Mahmassani faces several challenges, not the least of which is that the Gulf States have a 30-year head start when it comes Islamic banking. Another challenge is overcoming the perception that Islamic banking is only for Muslims.

But Islamic banking in Lebanon has some advantages, he pointed out. "In Lebanon, business still has the personal touch. If you know an individual, you can do business with him," he said, whereas in the Gulf States, banking is more institutionalized.

Another advantage Lebanon has is LAU, which offers undergraduate courses in Islamic finance and is planning to add Islamic finance courses to its M.B.A. program. Mahmassani's bank and LAU are developing a program to award the first M.B.A. in Islamic banking. "[Al Baraka Bank Lebanon's] contribution is the experience we have," he said. "It's only a different way of doing business and complies with the Islamic *sharia* principles... We go into partnership with our clients."

In setting up this program, LAU is once again on the leading edge. Islamic banking is growing, with branches in Europe as well as throughout the Middle East. "There is a big demand for Islamic banking professionals," Mahmassani said. "They're still rare. The university is preparing its graduates to have more opportunities for employment."

The LAU program, working with Al Baraka Bank Lebanon, can bring communities closer, Mahmassani said, by complementing Western banking expertise with Islamic banking principles.

Mahmassani is attracted to LAU's vision and the strategy of its management team because, like him, the focus on meeting community needs. "This basically complements or ties in with what the mission of Islamic banking is," he said. "Islamic banks do business where there is also a benefit to the community so from that aspect [LAU and Al Baraka Bank Lebanon] are tied together."

"[LAU] has a division to develop programs that cater to the needs of the community and this is a good policy, a right policy and right strategy," Mahmassani said. "One should not think only about what we get out of it. One should also think what we can give people."







## Honorary Doctorate in Beirut: Adnan Al Kassar

Adnan Al Kassar, president of the General Union of Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture for Arab Countries, received an honorary doctorate from LAU. The degree was conferred upon him by President Joseph Jabbra at the July commencement ceremonies in Beirut, in recognition of Al Kassar's extensive contributions to Lebanon's commerce and economy.

Al Kassar's strong belief in unity and cooperation throughout Lebanon and among all Lebanese Chambers of Commerce led to the establishment of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture in Lebanon. He has chaired the federation since its inception.

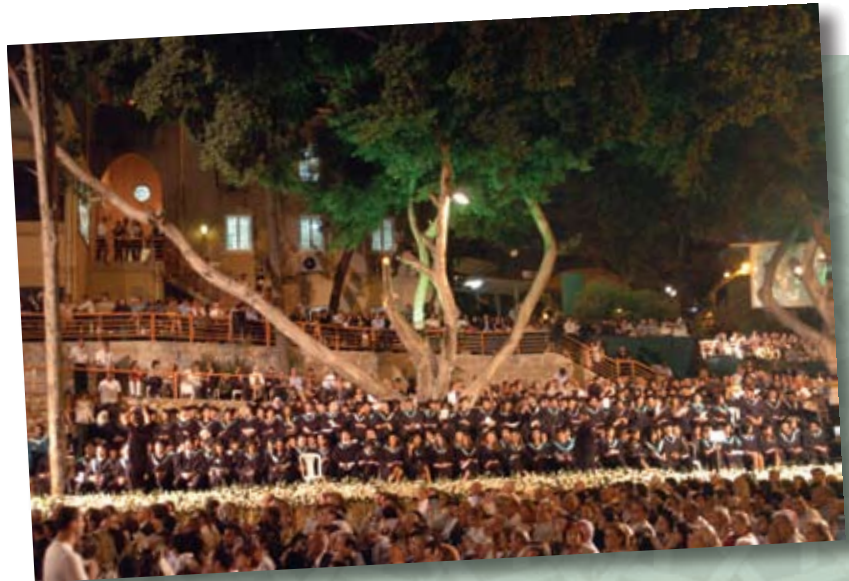
He earned the respect of the Lebanese, Arab and international business communities through his contributions to the growth of inter-Arab trade and investment. His efforts helped create the Greater Arab Free Trade Area. In 2004, he was appointed Minister of Economy and Trade for the Republic of Lebanon.

Upon accepting his degree, Al Kassar encouraged LAU graduates to be confident of their ability to achieve high goals. He urged each of them to contribute to the development of Lebanon and national unity.

He remarked that the degree would have a special place among the honors he has received—not only because it is an acknowledgement of his work by a respected institution, but also because it gave him the opportunity to share his story with, and inspire, the graduates.

Al Kassar also praised the visionary leadership of President Jabbra, and the wise and well-planned expansion of LAU, saying it would ensure LAU's position as a leading university in the country and in the region.

# LAU Commencement 2008







## Honorary Doctorate in Byblos: François Bassil

Dr. François Bassil, chairman and the general manager of Byblos Bank and chairman of the Board of Directors of the Association of Banks in Lebanon, received an honorary doctorate from LAU. The degree was conferred upon him by President Joseph Jabbra at the July commencement ceremonies in Byblos.

As leader of Byblos Bank, Bassil transformed a small company from a local bank into a regional and international institution with branches throughout the world. He is actively involved with LAU as a member of its Board of International Advisors and, through generous contributions to the university, has demonstrated his unshakable faith in the power of education to restore Lebanon's glory.

To Bassil, LAU plays an indispensable role in the education of the young people of Lebanon and in constructing a better Lebanon. "It is the responsibility of [graduates] to cherish these humanitarian, national and moral values which they've learned at the university," he said. "This alone can save Lebanon from the regression it has been suffering from for many years."

Receiving the honorary degree filled Bassil with immense sense of pride and delight, he said, since it represents a "crowning achievement ... a recognition of my substantial efforts in banking and my commitment to human, national and social issues, notably community involvement and education."

He praised President Jabbra's tremendous energy, which has made LAU "an academic institution of the highest caliber at both the national and regional levels." To Bassil, LAU's expansion is of extreme importance to the entire region because it will make high-quality learning accessible to a larger number of students.





# THE LEGACY & THE PROMISE

LAU CAMPAIGN FOR EXCELLENCE

*The Campaign for Excellence comprises three major goals: student support, academic support, and facilities development.*

## STUDENT SUPPORT: \$5 MILLION

In June, LAU proudly graduated more than 1,300 students despite considerable upheaval in the region during the course of the spring semester. We are committed to graduating more students each year for the duration of the campaign. To make that possible, we will require generous gifts in support of financial aid, merit scholarships, and student enrichment.

## ACADEMIC SUPPORT: \$15 MILLION

LAU's Campaign for Excellence will support the recruitment and retention of accomplished faculty, encourage their professional development and increase the number of named academic chairs. The number of full-time faculty members at LAU has doubled since 1992. But to reach our goals we must continue this trend. Through gifts for academic support, we can ensure that LAU will be able to attract and retain first-rate teachers and researchers.

## FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT: \$20 MILLION

The Campaign for Excellence will support major capital investments on both the Beirut and Byblos campuses, including campus expansion and the continuing upgrade of technologically advanced smart classrooms.

Investments on the Byblos campus include the Gilbert and Rose-Marie Chagoury Medical School, the Alice Ramez Chagoury School of Nursing, a new library and the Frem Civic Center.

Investments on the Beirut campus will include enhancements to the Business School, smart classrooms and hands-on labs, a new residence hall and student center and renovations to Sage Hall.

For detailed information on the Campaign for Excellence, please visit [campaign.lau.edu.lb](http://campaign.lau.edu.lb).



# “Then and Now”

THE LEGACY AND THE PROMISE

By Olga Habre







## FROM WHENCE WE COME

*Today, LAU sprawls across two campuses: one a green oasis in the heart of Beirut, and the other nestled into the hills overlooking Byblos. But what was to become one of Lebanon's premier universities began in 1835 as the American School for Girls, founded by the wives of American Presbyterian missionaries who were moved to action by the lack of available education for girls in the region.*

## CHANGING TIMES, CHANGING NAMES

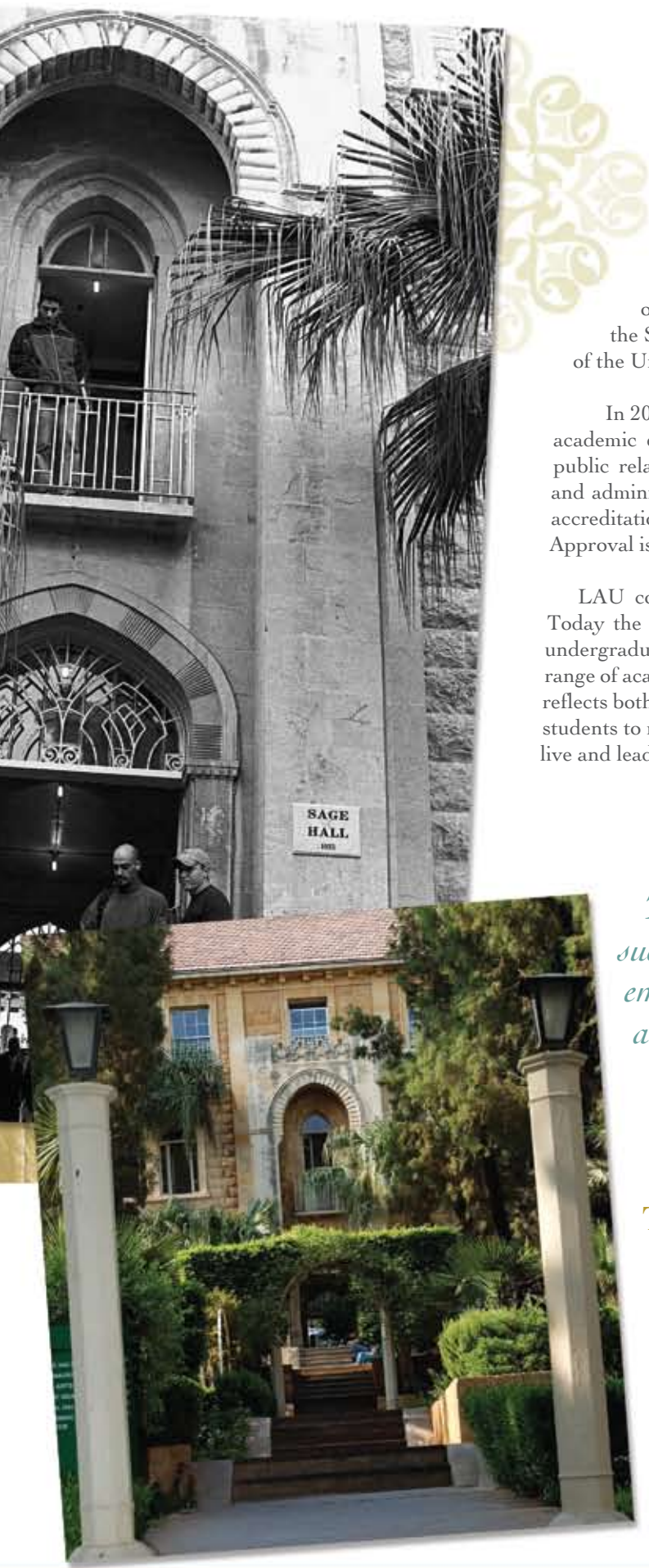
In 1924 the school became the American Junior College for Women, with a founding class of eight. The cornerstone of LAU's oldest building, Sage Hall, was laid in 1933, whereafter the college was moved to its present location.

In 1948-49, the name of the college was changed to the Beirut College for Women (BCW); upon becoming fully co-educational in 1973, the name was changed again, to Beirut University College (BUC).

## IN UNCERTAIN TIMES, A HAVEN FOR EDUCATION

Matriculation at BUC steadily increased until the Lebanese Civil War (1975-1990), when attendance dwindled. Before the present-day Byblos campus began operation in 1991, a few campuses were operated north and south of Beirut in order to facilitate access.





## LAU THEN AND NOW

BUC officially became a university in 1992, and was renamed the Lebanese American University two years later. The university has evolved into a private, nonsectarian institution comprised of five schools: the School of Arts and Sciences, the School of Business, the School of Pharmacy, the School of Engineering and Architecture and the School of Medicine. LAU is chartered by the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York.

In 2005, LAU embarked on a five-year strategic plan encompassing academic excellence, enrollment management, information technology, public relations and marketing, fund raising development and finance and administration. By 2007, the university had become a candidate for accreditation by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. Approval is expected in 2009.

LAU continues to grow with the educational needs of the region. Today the university's two campuses are home to approximately 6,800 undergraduate and graduate students, who are working toward a wide range of academic and professional degrees in a liberal arts curriculum that reflects both LAU's heritage and its future. The university seeks to prepare students to make a significant contribution to the global workforce, and to live and lead responsibly within the diverse needs of their communities.

*Throughout its eventful life, the school has successfully balanced tradition and innovation, embracing change while also cultivating a deep awareness of history.*

**This is the legacy and the promise  
of the Lebanese American University.**





## LIBERAL ARTS FOUNDATION

As a liberal arts college, the Beirut College for Women offered majors in philosophy, education, child psychology and home economics. The School of Arts and Sciences became its own entity when new schools were created to accommodate more specialized majors in the 90's.

Women at BCW were required to take introductory courses such as nutrition, comparative religion, math and music. Such courses were designed to form students into well-rounded individuals.

In some ways, that philosophy hasn't changed. Today, LAU honors its heritage by seeking to educate the whole person. The university is now a mixture of students from various majors; its ethos and courses emphasize diversity, and strengthen critical thinking and oral and written communication.







## THE ARTS IN ARTS AND SCIENCES

LAU's emphasis on hands-on learning is reflected in the school's facilities for the arts, such as the graphic design labs, TV/Film studios, photography labs and theatres. Students direct and perform their own plays and exhibit their work regularly, both on and off campus. Communication arts enrollment, especially concentrations in journalism, TV/film and graphic design, has been on the rise in recent years.

The school offers more than 30 degrees in six major departments, as well as enrichment programs and activities, such as the Harvard World Model United Nations, the International Theatre Festival, major play productions, TV public screenings and a student-run newspaper, *The Daily Tribune*.

The school also offers three master's degrees in the arts, in Comparative Literature, Education, and International Affairs.







## SCIENCE ACROSS THE UNIVERSITY

LAU's comprehensive, graduate and undergraduate science programs span four schools.

The School of Arts and Sciences supports its students with a rich array of labs in the departments of Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Computer Science. LAU is especially proud of the Genomics & Proteomics Research Lab, established in 2005. The \$2 million lab is equipped with state-of-the-art technology.

The School of Pharmacy includes the CVS Lab. Engineering students work in 24 specialized labs of their own.

The School of Arts and Sciences offers master's degrees in both Computer Science and Molecular Biology.





## ENGINEERING AND ARCHITECTURE

In 1978, aspiring engineers at BUC had the option of taking their university requirements in Lebanon, and then travelling to one of 16 collaborating universities in the U.S. and Canada to complete their studies as part of a dual degree program.

In 1995, the School of Engineering and Architecture unified existing divisions. Originally offering civil, computer and electrical engineering—as well as industrial engineering, which is unique to Lebanon—the school has grown to include mechanical engineering and three graduate programs. The graduate and undergraduate programs train students for careers in design, development, research, project supervision and management. Upcoming initiatives include minors in biomedical and petroleum engineering.

From the beginning, engineering programs were designed in accordance with the standards of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) in the U.S. The programs are now on a course for ABET accreditation. The 952 students enrolled in the school benefit from small class sizes, and acquire hands-on individual and collective lab experiences crucial to such practical majors.

The Beirut College for Women offered courses in interior decorating to prepare women to keep attractive homes. The Department of Architecture now offers degrees in interior design, interior architecture and architecture—as well as a minor in Islamic art and architecture. Its program is accredited by the French Ministry of Culture and Communication, and the department participates in exchange programs with multiple universities in Europe. Many students exhibit their work on and off campus, and present award-winning designs.

A School of Architecture and Design is planned for 2010.







## PHARMACY AND MEDICINE

### PHARMACY

In the early '90s, a pre-pharmacy degree allowed students to commence general studies at LAU before completing their degrees at collaborating U.S. universities.

The School of Pharmacy was established on the Byblos campus in 1993, becoming the sole English pharmacy program in Lebanon. The only full member of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) outside the U.S., the school offers a B.S. in Pharmacy and a Doctor of Pharmacy degree. The school's doctoral program is the only one outside the U.S. accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE). Graduates are able to take the North American Pharmacy Licensure Examination (NAPLEX) and therefore become qualified to work in the U.S. LAU students have a passing rate of 100 percent on the NAPLEX, and have consistently and significantly outperformed their counterparts in the U.S.

The school's synthesis of lectures, lab studies, clinical work and patient-centered pharmacy practice provides contemporary, American-style education that meets the unique needs of Lebanon.

Throughout its brief but impressive history, the school has also been involved in projects that provide healthcare to underprivileged communities in Lebanon.

### MEDICINE

The Gilbert and Rose-Marie Chagoury School of Medicine will welcome its first class in 2009, and will be housed in a new facility with state-of-the-art technology for research as well as teaching. The medical school will endeavor to graduate physicians trained in 21st century medicine who bring a working knowledge of family and social medicine to their practices, and seek to treat the whole patient rather than just the disease.

In 2010, the first class of students will be admitted into the Alice Ramez Chagoury School of Nursing.





## BUSINESS

*At the Beirut College for Women, home economics was a popular track. As times changed, women began to seek majors that would help them find employment. Men were also admitted to the school. More practical and market-oriented majors, such as business, were soon in demand.*

Cooking classes still take place today at LAU—but in a new lab, as part of the hospitality management major.

In the late '70s, business students at BUC earned a general B.S. degree. Today, more than 3,000 students are enrolled in three undergraduate programs with various concentrations. In addition to the EMBA program, LAU's MBA program—initiated in 1981 as the first master's program at the school—is now the largest of its kind in the Middle East. Officially begun in 1996, the School of Business operates on both campuses and enjoys a prominent reputation in Lebanon.

The school maintains four institutes for professional research, and has founded an internationally refereed journal. It provides theoretical, methodological and practical skills to track with the latest developments in business. The school provides modern technology and facilities, including a stock market room. Students of the business school undergo a multi-layered education which includes case and laboratory analyses and hands-on training.







## SMART CLASSROOMS

*When the American School for Girls opened in 1855, its students and teachers were equipped with chalkboards, desks, paper, pens, and books. Today's schools offer computer labs, science labs, studios, theaters, workshops and a myriad of integrated technology.*

*LAU provides 196 advanced learning spaces. Among these are LAU's "smart" classrooms. By the spring of 2009, LAU will have 29 such classrooms, with another 25 to follow in 2010.*

Smart classrooms made their debut at LAU in 2004, when 27 multimedia projectors and state-of-the-art screens were installed in the Riyadh Nassar Library and Business Building. But the new smart classrooms are more sophisticated. Level 1 classrooms provide instructional tools such as a multimedia LCD data projector. Level 2 classrooms add a document camera and sound system.

Lecture halls include all of the above, as well as LCD multimedia projectors, wireless microphones and video conferencing capabilities.

At the "smartest" level are the computer labs, which include 20 to 50 work stations. In addition to the technology provided in the lecture halls, these rooms will soon feature a computer at each seat, a dedicated server, special software and UPS and network distribution.







## LIBRARY

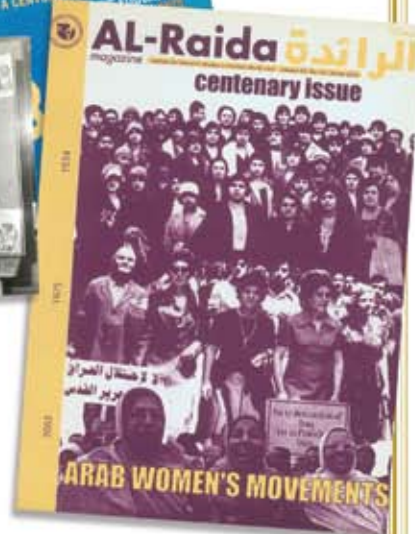
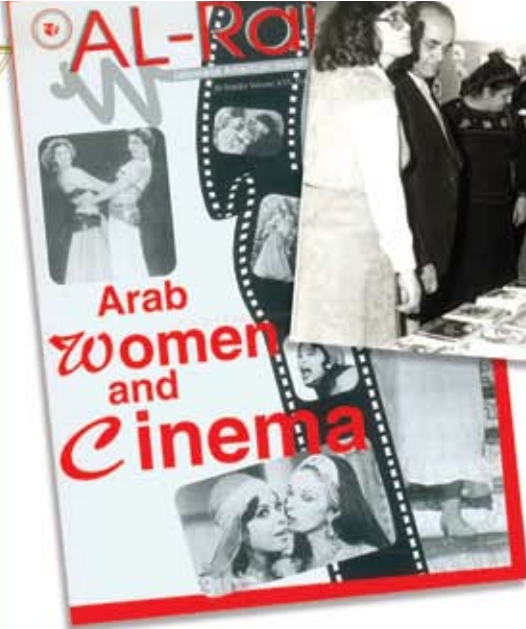
*LAU has come a long way from the one-room library at the American Junior College for Women. Today the Riyadh Nassar Library and the Byblos Library house more than 350,000 volumes, almost 2,500 periodicals, and 80 databases, as well as other electronic resources.*

In addition to the technological services available at both libraries, the Riyadh Nassar Library houses a children's library, established in 1967 as the first of its kind in Lebanon. The children's library keeps 11,300 volumes in English, Arabic and French.

The libraries also house specific collections on women (especially Arab women), Islamic art and architecture and practice-teaching materials for Education students.







## INSTITUTE FOR WOMEN'S STUDIES IN THE ARAB WORLD

*LAU has a long tradition of working towards gender equality. Although a diploma from the Beirut College for Women may have been considered a privilege of the elite, the education of women at that time prompted a regional change in society and in the lives of other women.*

In 1973, President William Schechter wanted to continue the tradition of women's education, despite the decision to go co-ed that year. He founded the Institute for Women's Studies in the Arab World (IWSAW) with an \$80,000 grant from the Ford Foundation and the support of Dr. Riyad Nassar. Dr. Julinda Abu Nasr was appointed as the institute's first director. Today, IWSAW continues to change women's lives.

The institute produces its own publications in English and Arabic, including *Al-Raïda*, a quarterly journal produced since 1976. *Al-Raïda* promotes research on women's issues, and highlights the dissemination of current information regarding the condition of women in the Arab world. IWSAW seeks to integrate undergraduate and graduate courses on women's studies into the LAU curriculum, and hosts conferences and workshops regularly.

IWSAW offers a Basic Living Skills Program that educates women in a variety of areas including health, nutrition and legal rights, and provides marketable job skills. IWSAW also developed a literacy program, Empowering Arab Women through Literacy, that enables illiterate women to learn how to read and write.

Since 1998, the institute has been involved in rehabilitation in vocational training projects for women in Lebanese prisons (most recently in Baabda and Tripoli.) Last year, one such project offered psychological counseling for inmates; this year's project consists of enlisting human rights advocates in order to improve the legal status of eligible inmates.

IWSAW, like LAU, continues to serve the needs of society by enlightening and empowering women who can go on to make positive changes in their own communities.





View from the Science Building on the Byblos campus

# LAU Students Earn Honors Worldwide

By Joelle Roumani

At LAU, great care is taken to provide guidance and ensure that students are on the right course, that they set challenging targets for themselves and that they receive the support they need to achieve their goals. This focus on academic excellence and the potential of each student has been affirmed yet again by student success here and abroad. The outstanding achievements of nine students in particular testifies to the quality of the learning experience at LAU and to the limitless horizons opened to LAU scholars.

Scholarships for continuing education abroad are one measure of academic success. Eight students received such acknowledgement:



**Juliana Sadek, B.S. in biology ('08):** accepted to the interdisciplinary program (biochemistry, cell, and molecular biology and biophysics) at the University of Missouri, Missouri, U.S.

"All my professors contributed to my success. Their encouragement and support were instrumental in helping me reach this distinctive academic achievement. I am very excited that a very far dream is now coming true and thanks to LAU."



**Abbas Abdallah, B.S. in biology ('08):** accepted to the molecular genetic program at Purdue University, Indiana, U.S. He will pursue an M.A. and a Ph.D.

"My interest in biology and genetics found a perfect environment at LAU," Abdallah said. "Encouragingly supportive and caring, the LAU family gave me the greatest opportunity of my life."



**Mirvat Hammoud, B.S. in chemistry ('06):** accepted at Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan, U.S. She will pursue her M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in organic chemistry.

"At LAU, I was able to get the best education that entitled me to receive acceptance from more than one university in the States. I am so proud to be an LAU graduate and I feel that I will always belong to LAU."

Students take a break between classes on the Beirut campus







**Zeina Youssef, B.A. in education ('08):** received a full-tuition scholarship from the University of Northern Iowa to pursue her M.A.

"I felt that dreams do come true at LAU! My ambition and hard work expedite the realization of this dream. It is the first step in my thousand-mile journey."



**Chantal Hayek, B.A. in architecture, ('05):** accepted at Princeton University to pursue her M.A.

"Being accepted at a very selective school like Princeton, with a fellowship, was a victory to me. It was a great piece of news to my professors as well, who felt so proud of me. LAU provided me with great motivation and energy to excel in the realm of architecture."



**Sheeraz Moujally, B.A. Communication Arts (journalism emphasis):** granted a full scholarship and salaried internship at the European Training Foundation, Turin, Italy.



**Rowaida Abou Eid, B.A. Communication Arts (journalism emphasis):** granted a full Peace Scholarship for a year of undergraduate studies in Arizona, U.S.

"I felt that I am highly valued and qualified, and that I should be a very presentable ambassador to my home country, my university, my family and myself as well."



**Razan al-Saleh, B.A. Communication Arts (journalism emphasis):** full scholarship for her final semester at Georgetown University, focusing on political journalism. She interned at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Pennsylvania, U.S.

Shawky Amine Eddine, a merit scholar at LAU, was the only Lebanese selected to attend the Youth Arab League, held in Egypt, and the Thought Forum, held in Jordan under the umbrella of the League of Arab States. The 19 year-old Arab activist is the secretary general of Leaders of Tomorrow, an organization that seeks to bridge the gap between age and social effectiveness, and promotes multiculturalism and social/environmental change in the Middle East.

In addition, he is the permanent representative of Lebanon in the Youth Arab Council and will receive the Oscar of Distinction in Youth Work, presented annually by the League of Arab States to a young activist in an Arab country.

Amine Eddine is the first Lebanese to receive this honor and the youngest activist in the history of the Arab states to do so. He spoke to Amr Moussa about the role of youth in policy-making and about creating the Youth Arab Parliament. Amine Eddine is now working with other Arab activists to prepare the action plan, bylaws and constitution for the parliament. "My participation in these forums was very rewarding; it exceeded my expectations," Amine Eddine said. "It was a great honor to me to represent my country and LAU, and to meet with very prominent people."



# CampusNotes

## Center Stage

Twelve blind men and women found themselves paralyzed by change in an unpredictable world as ***The Blind***, this year's **major spring theater production** took to the stage. The play was performed in May at the Gulbenkian Theatre. Reminiscent of *Waiting for Godot*, the absurd, tragic, existential and poetic production was directed by assistant professor Lina Abyad.



The Blind

**The 11<sup>th</sup> International University Theater Festival** in July brought together performers from throughout the Arab world. The talents of LAU students were showcased in five student productions and two poetry readings. Other forms of art were highlighted as well: a local street-theater group's improvised performance, a presentation on the evolution of Sri Lankan theater and a dance performance by Syria's Higher Institute for the Performing Arts. Plays were also presented by Jordan's Yarmouk University, Algeria's University of Wahran, the University of Bahrain, the Lebanese University, St. Joseph University and Al Bayan Institute. The program also included training workshops.



Students from Jordan's Yarmouk University perform A Life Online

## On Display

About 70 students presented their work at the **Student Photography Exhibition** in Byblos in June. The project categories included technical, action, depth-of-field, self-portrait, campus atmosphere and architecture-detail portrait.

Paintings, drawings, prints, sculptures and ceramics were on display at the **Fine Arts Annual Exhibition** at Sheikh Zayed Hall in Beirut in June. The projects explored notions of femininity, everyday life, Palestine and social restraints on individual freedom.



Students interact with the photographs at the Byblos exhibition



The Lebanese University staged Insomnia for the International University Theatre Festival



## On Display



Two **Graphic Design Exhibitions** entitled “BrainstormInk” on the Beirut campus and “Origin” on the Byblos campus took place in June. The projects included posters, CD and book covers, corporate logos, a board game for children, caricatures, advertising and packaging design, silkscreen, animation, web design and Arabic typography in motion. The works explored tourism, violence in video games, the calendar and the seasons, the origin and evolution of chocolate and humanitarian issues, such as child soldiers. During the exhibit, one student designer raised \$1,000 for cancer awareness and research. Awards were presented to Dana Abdul Ghani for print media, and Hayat Sheikh and Ahmad Shami for digital media.

Architecture and Design seniors displayed their work at the **End of Year Architecture Exhibition** in July at the Sheikh Zayed Hall in Beirut. Two of the top projects involved plans to convert abandoned Beirut spaces into a Turkish bath and an Oriental music institute. Students in Byblos worked with the Jounieh municipality on designs that might actually be implemented. Prizes were awarded to Jemma-Elizabeth Chidiac and Tamara Saab.



Four LAU students and a faculty member were five of the six winners in this year’s **Beirut Photo Contest** held at the UNESCO Palace in mid-July. The contest focused on the theme, “The Orient: Land of Contrasts.” Works compared classical and modern architecture, people, nature and religion in the Middle East. John McGill, assistant professor in the Beirut School of Business, won first prize for the second time.

## Live Science

The **Molecular Biology Poster Conference** was held in June. At the conference, 25 graduate students created academic posters and explained their research at the Rima Hourani Exhibition Hall in Byblos.

In June, Industrial and Mechanical Engineering students at Byblos showcased their projects at **Manufacturing Day**. Designs including a gyrating fork for spaghetti; a high-tech potato peeler; and a rotating fondue set. The students talked about their class trip to production laboratories, offices, a factory and research centers in France. At the event, LAU’s industrial engineering program—the only one in Lebanon—demonstrated how it successfully unites academia and industry.



*Students explain their poster to Dr. Wex at the Molecular Biology Poster Conference*





SINARC students explore Lebanon.

## Summer Learning

Participants in LAU's **Summer Institute for Intensive Arabic Language and Culture (SINARC)** were mostly university students from the U.S. They studied Arabic language and culture in 20 hours of intensive classroom instruction per week, which included five hours of Lebanese dialect. Students were taken on five trips around Lebanon and Syria.

Children aged 5 to 13 came to the Beirut campus in July to participate in the annual **Summer Camp** offered by LAU's Continuing Education Program. Activities included basketball, tennis, swimming, water polo, gymnastics, dance

and Wushu, along with chess, storytelling, music, art and cooking. This year, the Universal Concept in Mental Arithmetic System, based on the ancient practice of mental arithmetic using the abacus, was introduced. Some children also took part in the Little Business Leaders program in which they thought of products they wanted to manufacture and created ads to market them.



Twenty-seven students participated in the **4<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer School for Emerging Leaders on Conflict Prevention and Transformation**, organized by the Institute for Peace and Justice Education (IPJE) on the Byblos campus. Starting on August 16, the ten-day residential summer program taught groups of students how to make peace by learning the nature, type and source of various conflicts as well as theoretical models for analyzing them. The program included many hands-on, educational activities that proved fun as well as instructive. Groups created and presented proposals concerning a challenge, problem, or a conflict in Lebanon.



Charara at the ALA Conference



## LAU Libraries Take a Trip to the U.S.

By Olga Habre

The story of LAU and its libraries went abroad this summer, to the American Library Association Annual Conference in California. The LAU delegation included three librarians from the Byblos campus: Mrs. Houeida Kammourié-Charara, electronic resources librarian; Mrs. Gihade Costantine, acquisitions librarian; and retired LAU librarian Ms. Zeina Abou Fayad Guoin, catalog librarian.

Through a visual presentation, Charara described the historical stages of the Beirut library and its evolution into a state-of-the-art facility that uses the latest in internet technology and architecture.

"I explained the history of LAU as an institution and the library in particular, how we moved the collections during the [July 2006 war] and how our library evolved from a one room library to a 13-floor library," said Charara of her presentation.

During the 90-minute session, many curious librarians visited the LAU stand to inquire about the Riyadh Nassar Library, LAU and Lebanon.

The annual conference is one of the biggest library events worldwide. Approximately 25,000 librarians from all over the world attended this year. The conference featured an exhibition of new products in the library industry as well as lectures.

In library news closer to home, the Riyadh Nassar Library recently received an electronic bulletin board. The board will hang in the entrance of the library, and will display announcements for students and visitors.



## Business as Usual

A two-day colloquium entitled “**Global Trends and Local Challenges Facing the Arab Family**” explored the ways in which globalization has transformed the traditional Arab family. In mid-June, the Institute of Family and Entrepreneurial Business at LAU brought together prominent scholars, U.N. representatives and civil society members on the Byblos campus to explore issues of migration, children’s rights, education, war, conflict-management, demographic changes, governance, psychological aspects, family relations, business, gender norms and values, eating disorders and social care.



For the 11<sup>th</sup> year, the **Institute for Banking and Finance** presented a series of **seminars**. At the July event, 80 local professionals discussed customer service, human resources management, internal communication, conflict management and the recent U.S. sub-prime mortgage crisis.



Carlota Laurenti receives an award at the Beirut Athletic Awards Banquet



## Sidelines

The Beirut campus held its **14<sup>th</sup> Athletic Awards Banquet** this June. About 140 people attended the dinner ceremony at which 26 awards were presented. Mohamed Ezzo and Aline Hatab received the Best Athlete awards; Jimi Helou and Haifa Dbouk won the Sportsmanship awards; and the dance groups and swimming team won the Best Team Achievement awards. The LAU Folk and Latin dance groups entertained.

In June, the Byblos campus held its **6<sup>th</sup> Athletic Awards Banquet**. Twenty awards were presented. The Best Athlete awards went to Samer Mechref and Krystel Jalkh; the Sportsmanship award went to Nidal Safatli; and the Best Team Achievement award went to the Men’s Basketball team. Abed Orr, a graduating computer engineer, won the Legacy award for his six years on the basketball team. The event also featured a show that included a Georgian dance and new Arabic music band.

The **LAU Summer Basketball League 2008** in July was pre-season preparation for the LAU varsity basketball teams. Six teams competed in a tournament on the Byblos Campus: LAU Byblos, LAU Beirut, United States Athletes in Action (USAIA), BLOM Bank, Universite Saint Joseph (USJ), and the Lebanese National Basketball Team under 19 (LEB U19). The Lebanese Basketball Federation supervised and international referees officiated at 15 games. In the final game, USAIA beat LEB U19 by six points to become the tournament champion.



# From the Boardroom



## Board of Trustees Meeting

On September 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, LAU's Board of Trustees held their bi-annual meeting in Lebanon.

After a brief presentation from LAU senior administration, the discussion revolved around the progress of the strategic plan as well as the implementation steps of the LAU Campaign for Excellence. Board members also met with the President of the Lebanese Republic, H.E.M. Michel Suleiman, to share LAU's major development plans.



## Board of International Advisors Meeting

LAU's Board of International Advisors (BIA) met on campus on July 14 and 15, 2008. The two-day meeting focused on new university projects and initiatives. BIA members were briefed on LAU's accomplishments and achievements over the past few months; the BIA members also discussed new initiatives that they would like to develop into recommendations, to be submitted to the President and the Board of Trustees for approval and implementation.



*The Board of Trustees met on both campuses in September*





# Board of International Advisors: In Profile



## Mohammad (Mike) Ahmar

Mohammad Ahmar describes himself as an entrepreneur. He has started many companies and has been so successful that one of them – ICG – has been twice listed as one of the 500 fastest growing U.S. companies by Inc. Magazine.

He also describes himself as Lebanese, despite having lived in the U.S. for decades. “I tell my children they are Lebanese,” he said. “We live in Beverly Hills, California. We’re Lebanese in Beverly Hills so we’re on vacation.”

His success allowed him and his wife, Hania, to start the Ahmar Family Foundation, which benefits educational undertakings and other charitable projects.

He attributes his good fortune to his Lebanese heritage as well as to hard work and passion. “You’ve got to have passion in anything you do, no matter what it is,” he said. “If you like what you do, you will have success.”

Ahmar has a passion for Lebanon, so much so that he was honored last year by the Lebanese American Foundation for his contributions to the Lebanese community in Southern California, U.S.

Now he is on the Board of International Advisors, where part of his task will be to encourage people to contribute to the university. With those who are Lebanese, he foresees an easy task. They will be attracted to LAU, he said, because the university is so successful and because “They know that they’re Lebanese.”

Those Lebanese who live abroad are all fed up with what has been going on in Lebanon, he said, but “we don’t let it affect the way we feel about Lebanon. You have to be able to separate [the politics and the country].”

Non-Lebanese donors may be harder to attract, he said, but the quality of LAU’s new programs will help, as will the quality of the leadership at LAU.

There’s work to be done, he said, but LAU has the team to do it.



## Kanaan Hamzeh

You can take the man out of Lebanon but you can’t take Lebanon out of the man.

Kanaan Hamzeh is proof of this adage. Despite living outside Lebanon for many years, he is dedicated to the well-being of his homeland, to the improvement of relations among Lebanese people, to bettering the understanding of Lebanon by outsiders and to promoting the excellence of LAU.

Hamzeh left Lebanon in 1975 to pursue a successful career in electronics manufacturing and sales. He founded several companies, including Novetrix Corporation, which he sold to Novell in 2001.

Now living in California, he spear-headed the Los Angeles-Beirut Sister City relationship, a relationship that will provide Beirut with business and educational programs.

He is also one of the founding members of the Lebanese American Foundation, an effort by Lebanese Americans to create a place that brings the Lebanese community together, where they can all “gather under one roof, disregarding all those things that divide us,” he said.

Now he has the opportunity to help LAU as a member of the Board of International Advisors. It is a role he relishes. As a board member, he will raise funds that will make an LAU education available to more students throughout Lebanon. He views that opportunity as a gift of great value.

Graduates of LAU will be ambassadors for the university and for the country. “[Our graduate] ... is not just a student with mechanical or electrical or business knowledge,” he said. “They are whole human beings ... who are going to work with you and will give you a fully balanced human being ... You can find few universities that can truly claim to be student-focused.”

At LAU, “they know what they are doing,” he said.

In Hamzeh’s view, an investment in LAU – of time, such as he is giving, or of money – will pay dividends for years to come.



## Youmna Salamé

Youmna Salamé ('74) has seen dreams come true.

She has watched her alma mater progress, expand and become well-known. "We talked about this medical school a long time ago," she said, "but it was talking, it was a very difficult dream, something we looked at and said 'we hope we can have it.' Now I see it."

But what she likes best about LAU is not its size or its reputation but its spirit. "Here the student is considered as a human being. The faculty, the staff – everybody – they take care of the students as if they are part of their family." Student-centeredness is not just a slogan, she said, it is a reality.

Her concern about students is two-fold: Not only should they be treated well while at LAU, they should stay loyal to the university. Many, she said, feel as if their ties to the university have been severed once they graduate.

Not so, said Salamé. One should feel proud of the university and, as she is, "proud that I am able to give back a little of what the university gave me."

The amount, whether \$100 or \$1, is not important, she said. What matters is the link between the university and the student. "They have to feel that when they are not here anymore, they are still part of the university."

A university cannot live on the income from tuition, she said, although many alumni don't realize how important their role is. Without donations, large and small, the university cannot move forward.

As a long-time member of the Board of International Advisors, Salamé introduces people to LAU. She entices them to invest in its dreams, to recognize that when you associate your name with a university – especially one as dynamic as LAU – you've done something important. When a corporation gives scholarships to students, it is an investment in the future, one that will come back to the corporation in the form of well-trained employees.



## Dr. Hanna John Shammass

Dr. Hanna John Shammass has made a name for himself as an ophthalmologist and surgeon. He has titles, he has books, and he has academic positions to his credit, all indicators of his first passion: "eye surgery and helping people, especially our Middle Eastern people in Southern California."

But he has a second passion: serving Lebanon and Lebanese institutions from abroad. He has been active as an alumnus of American University of Beirut, president of the Arab American Medical Association and involved in the American Lebanese Medical Association.

"I never thought in my wildest dreams that I would be able to help the Lebanese cause more from Los Angeles than I could have had I been in Lebanon," he said.

He pursues this passion vigorously, most recently by raising funds for the House of Lebanon, a project of the Lebanese American Foundation, which he chairs. The House of Lebanon will be a cultural center in California that will expose Lebanese culture to the American public, show people that not every Lebanese or Arab is a terrorist and bring Lebanese people of all backgrounds together as a community, he said.

Now he has added membership in the Board of International Advisors to his heavy schedule. "I'm a firm believer in hard work," he said. "I give nothing to luck and nothing to chance. Nothing comes easy, you have to earn it."

He joined the board because President Joseph Jabbra's enthusiasm and commitment are contagious, and his work admirable, Shammass said.

"I'm very excited," he said. "It's not easy to establish a medical school. The concept of a new medical school gives you the opportunity to create not only a different curriculum but to fashion this curriculum to the modern way of life."





# LAU Welcomes New Staff

LAU faculty requirements adhere to international standards of excellence. Prospective instructors must pass scrutiny by a search committee, make the dean's list of most desirable candidates and meet the standards of the Vice President of Academic Affairs. The uncertain political situation in Lebanon has not deterred highly qualified candidates from undergoing this application process.

LAU welcomed over 20 new faculty members this year, including:



Barbar Jawad Akle, Ph.D. in mechanical engineering, Virginia Tech, U.S., 2005; master's degree in mechanical engineering, Virginia Tech, 2003; bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering, American University of Beirut, 2001. Dr. Akle is an assistant professor in the School of Engineering and Architecture.



Chadi Abourjeily, Ph.D. in digital communications, École Nationale Supérieure des Télécommunications (ENST), France, 2006; master's degree in digital communications, ENST, 2003; electrical engineering degree, Lebanese University Faculty of Engineering, Lebanon, 2002. Dr. Abourjeily is an assistant professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering.



Grace Abou-Jaoude, Ph.D. in civil engineering, Purdue University, U.S., 2006; master's degree in civil engineering, Purdue University, 2003; bachelor's degree in civil engineering, American University of Beirut, 2001. Dr. Abou-Jaoude is an assistant professor in the Department of Engineering and Architecture.



Joanna El Kassis, Pharm.D., Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, U.S. 2003; bachelor's degree in medical laboratory technology, American University of Beirut, 1994. Dr. El Kassis is an assistant professor in the School of Pharmacy.



Rony Zeenny, Pharm.D., Lebanese American University, 2005; bachelor's degree in pharmacy, 2004. Dr. Zeenny is a clinical assistant professor in the School of Pharmacy.



Samar Zebian, Ph.D., in psychology and cognitive science, University of Western Ontario, Canada, 2000; master's degree in psychology, University of Western Ontario, 1994; bachelor's degree in psychology/philosophy, University of Western Ontario, 1993. Dr. Zebian is an assistant professor in the Social Science Division.



Sola Bahous, Ph.D. in cardiovascular pharmacology, University of Pierre et Marie Curie, France, 2005; master's degree in cardiovascular pharmacology, University of Claude Bernard, France, 2000; doctor of medicine, Lebanese University, Lebanon, 1995. Dr. Bahous is an assistant professor in the School of Medicine.



Tony Zreik, fellowship in reproductive endocrinology and infertility, Yale University, U.S. 1994-1996; residency in obstetrics and gynecology, Yale-New Haven Hospital, 1991-1994; doctor of medicine, American University of Beirut, 1986. Dr. Zreik is an assistant professor at the School of Medicine.



Ramy Harik, Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering/Computer Science, Henri Poincaré University, France, 2007; master's degree in automated production, Henri Poincaré University, 2004; bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering, Lebanese University Faculty of Engineering, Lebanon, 2003. Dr. Harik is an assistant professor in the Department of Industrial and Mechanical Engineering at the School of Engineering and Architecture.





## LAU Retirees' Circle: A Link of Love

By Joelle Roumani

Early this year, Dr. Layla Nimah, former Vice President for Student Development and Enrollment Management, met with Dr. Jabbra to discuss her desire to create a retirees' circle. "With great enthusiasm, Dr. Jabbra approved the idea and encouraged me to form what we now call the LAU Retiree's Circle," said Dr. Nimah, president of the Circle's executive committee.

Following the President's approval, a meeting that joined a large number of LAU retirees was held to announce the idea. "The retirees' reaction was great. They loved it; they were really happy to feel that they can come to LAU in a certain status... They are mainly seeking a connection with LAU, a link that will make their previous experience valuable to them again," added Dr. Nimah.

Functioning as an official link between LAU retirees and the university, the Circle aims at furthering the mission of the university and at providing a forum for its members to share information and discuss varied interests. It is a voluntary task force, assisting the president in an advisory capacity.

Open to all the retired LAU faculty and staff, the LAU Retiree's Circle strives to maintain contact with the university; to encourage good fellowship among its members; to promote recreational, social and community service activities; and to undertake any other worthwhile projects of interest to its members.

The Circle has four standing committees that are conceived for the aim "of getting the retirees, each in his/her own potentials to suggest, to come up with ideas of how they can still serve, help and promote LAU," said Dr. Nimah. "I am confident that each in his/her own way can valuably contribute to LAU's growth," she added.

The first committee nominates retirees for membership on the executive circle. Next is the public relations and communication committee that promotes the university's interest, enhancing the contact between the circle and the LAU community.

The third is the social and recreational committee, charged with strengthening the bond among the Circle's members and between the latter and the LAU community. The fourth is the cultural and educational committee that arranges and schedules activities, along with lectures, programs and workshops of interest to the Circle and to the larger LAU community.

"We may be retired, but our activism as members of the LAU community knows no end," said Dr. Leila Dagher, an active member of the executive committee. With an unconquerable dedication to always serve LAU, Dr. Dagher happily joined the Circle to prove to everyone that senior members can still contribute to the expansion process of LAU. "Senior members play an indispensable role in spreading LAU's mission everywhere. They are all glad to remain in touch with the university and to do what they can to pay back to LAU," said Dr. Chawki Chamoun, a member of the executive committee.

Dr. Leila Harmoush, another active member of the executive committee, sees the Circle as an association that will help invalidate all the misconceived notions about retirees. "Retirees are not 'expired citizens' that should be excluded from the LAU community; this circle will strive hard to bring about a completely drastic change to this very negative attitude towards retirees," she added.

Dr. Nimah believes that this new association is going to be a very good program for LAU that other academic institutions will soon adopt as well. "LAU is the first university to have this association. We are pioneers in creating this circle here in Lebanon." She asserted, "We formed it to convey a message to all the retirees: 'Your past experience with LAU is still appreciated and highly treasured. It is not thrown away.' We created it to say that we are still linked. But this link is different; it's a link of love with no monetary value attached to it."



*Leila Saleeby Dagher ('60)  
retired in 2005 after having  
worked in several departments  
in LAU over almost two decades*





# Alumni Relations

Reunions and Homecoming Weekend July 3-6, 2008

## Alumni Reunions

More than 200 alumni returned to campus in July 2008 for milestone reunions, marking the 5<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 35<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 45<sup>th</sup> and, yes, even 50<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of their graduation. They celebrated at a reception with the president of LAU, friends, staff and former professors. The alumni received graduation jubilee pins.

## Alumni Brunch

The annual President's Forum Brunch at the Beirut Campus gave alumni the opportunity to spend time with the president of the university in an informal setting. The graduates were able to ask questions about the university's current undertakings and future plans at the July event, which was organized by the Alumni Relations Office. Former presidents of alumni chapters were honored and presented with awards of appreciation by the Steering Committee of the Alumni Association board.

## Annual LAU Alumni Dinner

At a gala dinner in July, the Alumni Relations Office honored four of LAU's stellar graduates. The dinner, held at La Terrace du Biel in Beirut, was attended by more than 400 alumni, board members and friends. Entertainment was provided by the renowned band Al Foursan Al Arba'a. At the dinner, the **Alumni Recognition Award** and the **Alumni Achievement Award** were each presented to two honorees.

The Alumni Recognition Award was given to Dr. Paul F. Boulos ('84), president and chief operating officer of MWH Soft, Inc. and Chairman of the Board of International Advisors of LAU. The co-recipient of this award was Saad El Zein ('89), managing director of Abraj Property Developers and president of the Dubai and Northern Emirates Alumni Chapter.

The Alumni Achievement Award was given to two recent graduates: Diala Fil Rayess ('03), founding member and president of Tamanna Organization, and to Tala Sinno ('04), the visionary leader and co-founder of Toufoula Organization.

(From left to right) Saad El Zein received an Alumni Recognition Award, and Diala Fil Rayess and Tala Sinno received Alumni Achievement Awards





## Alumni Trip to Tannourine

To top off the July Homecoming Weekend, a group of about 50 alumni breakfasted together then hiked in the Tannourine cedar forest. After lunch prepared by the local community, they visited Deir Mar Chalita, which was built in the 12th century. The trip was organized by the Alumni Relations Office.



## Chapter Events



### Bahrain Chapter Meets

In June, Bahia Juma, president of the LAU Bahrain Alumni Chapter, welcomed about 80 alumni, their families and friends to dinner at the Coral Beach Club. The dinner was followed by a raffle.



### Dubai Desert Trip

In May, the LAU Dubai and Northern Emirates Alumni Chapter, in collaboration with an AUB Alumni chapter, organized a family day in the desert. The event featured activities for all ages. Prizes and gifts were distributed to all and sundry.







## Alumni Donations to LAU on the Rise

By Joelle Roumani

Student involvement with LAU does not end at graduation. The presence and participation of alumni are integral to LAU's present and its future. More than 30,000 graduates in Lebanon and in 30 chapters world-wide are already active members of the LAU alumni community—and the number is growing.

"All LAU alumni chapters show an exceptional sense of dedication and gratitude to their university, and strive hard to promote its name and reputation wherever they are," said Abdallah Al Khal ('84), director of LAU's alumni relations.

The chapters promote a positive image of the university. "Ongoing events like gatherings, reunions, brunch, lunch, dinner, or trips are organized by all the chapters, all year long, to raise funds that help and support LAU," said Al Khal. These events are attended by many people, who come away impressed by the quality of LAU graduates and their commitment to their alma mater, he said.

Most important is the benefit these groups provide to students now at the university. This year the Dubai and Northern Emirates Chapter funded 22 scholarships for disadvantaged students. The \$320,000 raised was the largest chapter gift to the university. "Due to the advantages of its location, this chapter succeeded in raising scholarships for the first time during last year's gala dinner," Al Khal said.

The Abu Dhabi Chapter also gave generously, donating \$100,000 to LAU. These two chapters are not alone. Donations from alumni chapters increase each year, an indication of the pride and loyalty of LAU graduates—and one measure of their commitment to their alma mater.



"All LAU alumni chapters show an exceptional sense of dedication and gratitude to their university, and strive hard to promote its name and reputation wherever they are."



# Alumni News



**Maha Minkarah Salaymeh ('59 B.A.)** has three children and seven grandchildren. Her oldest son is a surgeon, like his father. Her middle son and her daughter are both lawyers.

**Amal Ayoubi Horoub ('63 B.A.)** is the former president of the Dubai Alumni Chapter. Her family endured a heartbreaking tragedy this year.

"It is with a heavy and sad heart that I announce to you the tragic passing away of my youngest child, Myrna Azmi Al Horoub, on Monday July 21, 2008. Myrna had just turned 29 and she lost her battle with cancer. My husband Azmi, my son Mohammad, my daughter Maya and I are extremely devastated at losing her."



Myrna was a graduate of Concordia University in Montreal where she had been an honor student and member of the Golden Key Society. She had a bright future ahead of her and will be missed by all those who knew her warm, kind, and loving nature.

**Rima Shadid ('70 B.A.)** is an instructor of English and business communication at the American University of Beirut, a post she has filled since the 1980s. Prior to that, Rima worked in Vienna, Austria, at the OPEC Fund for International Development; in Beirut as a freelance journalist and editor/proofreader; and in Abu Dhabi as an instructor of English and business English. She has written articles and book reviews, some of which are published on 'Lebanonwire'. Rima has three sisters—Leila, Mona and Nadia—all graduates of LAU when it was still Beirut College for Women, or Beirut University College.

**Ramzi Timothy Ledger ('75 A.A.S.)** remembers that graduation ceremonies were cancelled for his class due to the internal country conditions at that time. He was one of a handful of men who enrolled the first year that the Beirut College for Women accepted men into what had become the Beirut University College. He has not kept in contact with classmates but would like to know where his fellow graduates are. It was a troublesome time, he said, but, as always, the students of then-BUC always came together.

**Bushra Alamuddin ('76 B.A.)** describes herself as "a single old woman." She lives peacefully, she said, due to her charming and lovely personality.

**Ghada Ahmad Itani ('91 B.A., '06 M.A. and T.D. '91)** took a vital step in her career development when she got her masters degree. In 2007, she was accepted to the 5-month International Educators Program in Ohio, U.S. The program gave her the chance to co-teach language arts at a public secondary school. She taught American students English, although her training had been in teaching English as a second language. At the same time, she attended two graduate courses at Kent State University. The experience was enriching and beneficial, she said. When she came back in June 2007, she became a member of the exam committee at the Civil Service Bureau. She is an English language instructor at the University of Saint Joseph. She hopes that one day she'll be an English language instructor at her home university, LAU.

**Ghina Edelby Sabra ('91 B.S.)** worked from 1991 to 2004 in several managerial positions. She is now seeking a part-time job. Four years ago, Ghina married Riad Sabra. The couple has a daughter, Stephanie, born on August 5, 2005.

**Hanady Haj ('92 B.A.)** started her career in the field of cargo transportation. After 13 years, she is working with EDGHURST, a company that specializes in raw materials for beverages in the Nigerian market.

**Camille Thomas Barkho ('94 B.S.)** is married and has three children – Pamela, Christopher and Peter. He is a regional manager for an American company that specializes in combating money laundering, Amerab Business Solutions. His region includes the Middle East and North Africa.





**Abdul Kader Doughan ('95 B.A., '00 M.A.)** worked for BLOM Bank, Sony Gulf, and Adidas AG in Dubai. In 2004, he joined Proctor and Gamble, the multinational consumer products company. He's married with three beautiful children: Haya, 8, Nada, 5, and Omar, 1 ½. His wife, Mirna, teaches at the International College in Beirut. She is a graduate of American University of Beirut.

**Marwan Mayassi ('96 B.S.)** is an IT Manager in Dubai Holding.

**Joseph Shailos ('96 B.S.)** was married on May 17<sup>th</sup> to Emilia Orphanidou from Nicosia. They are expecting their first baby.



**Karim Najjar ('96 B.S.)** now lives in Dubai after spending almost 7 years traveling between Saudi Arabia and Bahrain. He is British American Tobacco's retail communications manager for the Gulf Cooperation Council. Four years ago, he married **Lara Shaaban ('94 B.S., '99 M.B.A.)**. On the 9th of June, their first child was born, a daughter, Kenzie, whose name means "my treasure" in Arabic and "beautiful" in Gaelic. Lara and Kenzie are still in Lebanon but plan to be in Dubai by the end of year.



**Abdallah Abdelkhalek ('99 R.C.D.)** became a stock broker on Wall Street in the U.S. after graduation. He moved to Saudi Arabia and worked as a managing director for Matrix Investments, a financial company in Jeddah under Prince Faysal Bin Thamer Bin Abed Alaziz. After a few years, he returned to the U.S. to become a financial advisor with Morgan Stanley in California. Later, he transferred to a management position at HSBC. His Lebanese entrepreneurship led him to join State Farm Insurance and open his own insurance and financial services agency. Abdallah married Manal Ghobar, whom he met in Lebanon at a friend's wedding. The couple is expecting a child. He misses Lebanon and his family very much, but is working hard toward his dream: retirement in Lebanon when the time is right.



**Firas Abouzaki ('99 B.E.)** was given the Diploma of MRICS (Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors' Membership) in 2008. This required many technical research papers, examinations and coursework. In 2006, he received his Ph.D. in engineering management. In June 2008, he was elected vice president of AACEI Arabian Gulf Section (Association for the Advancement of Cost Engineering International).



**Nader Saleh ('97 B.S., '99 M.B.A.)** is married to Zeina Alaa El Dine. He's about to complete his 8th year with HSBC Saudi Arabia Limited in Riyadh, where he is head of international discretionary services and product development.

**Hicham Nasreddine ('99 B.S.)** is married and has two children, Yasmine and Faisal. He is sales and marketing manager in PowerPharm s.a.r.l., a pharmaceutical company. Since September 2003, he has been responsible for sales and marketing in Lebanon, as well as for all international commerce within the company.



**Naeem el-Solh ('99 B.S.)** works with Rotana. In 2004, he became supervisor of TV revenues for interactive services. He is tired of living abroad, away from his family and friends, and so he is looking for a good job opportunity in Lebanon.

**Mayssa Al Azem ('00 B.A.)** has been appointed TV producer at the Dubai branch of the advertising agency Impact BBDO.



**Nazek Al Sous ('00 B.S.)** worked as a stock broker with the Beirut Stock Exchange until 2006, when she moved on to Dubai. She is licensed as a stock broker in the Dubai Financial Market and the Abu Dhabi Securities Market. Last year, she married Moustafa Mezher. The couple lives in Dubai and has a son, Mohamad, born July 18th, 2008.



**Mahfoud Aji ('00 B.A.)** has worked at Saint George Hospital University Medical Center - Achrafieh, Beirut since 1998. He's a project manager on the rehabilitation of the existing hospital. He married Soha Maalouf in September 2006. They have a son, Andrew.



**Jack Haddad ('00 B.E.)** finished his military service in January 2002. He then worked in Germany for Methode Electronics, which develops vehicle electronics. He moved to Sweden where, in 2005, he earned a masters degree in quality development from Växjö University. In 2007, he was hired by a consulting firm for which his first assignment will be at Volvo Parts AB. He will be responsible for software used in electronic control units. On August 11, 2007, he married his wife Petra, who had encouraged his move to Sweden.

**Mohammed Jaber ('00 B.A.)** After his graduation in 2000, Mohammad faced difficulties finding a job. He traveled to the Gulf, but in 2001, he came back to Lebanon, where he obtained a position in the credit card department of Fransabank. In 2002, he took a position as a marketing executive with Master Card International in Beirut, after which he joined Procter & Gamble Beirut as a supply planner. He worked there for three years before taking a job with Tetra Pak East Med, a multinational Swedish company. Today, he is a key account manager with Tetra Pak, based in Beirut, and responsible for 5 other countries in the region. Mohammad is 29 years old, single and hopes to continue his education at LAU by studying for his M.B.A..

**Malek Mawlawi ('01 B.S.)** is married to Ghida Sinno. They have one child, Faysal, who is four years old. Malek lives in Qatar where he works with Al Jazeera Satellite Network as a unit supervisor in the global distribution and licensing department. Before joining Al Jazeera, he was with Libanpost for four years as an account executive in the sales department.

**Mohamad Maarouf ('01 B.S.)** has been a senior accountant at Al Diyar United Co. in Kuwait since 2002. He married in 2004 and has two daughters: Maya and Tia.



**Ezzat Osman ('03 B.S., '06 M.B.A.)** married Hiba Dandan in 2007. He is moving to Belgium where he will work as a marketing manager, specializing in selling pharmaceutical and medical equipments products.

**Karim Fakhoury ('03 B.S.)** recently opened the Corners furniture gallery in Verdun.

**Marwan Abu Teen ('04 B.S.)** has been working as a private contractor in Doha Qatar since 2005. He is also country representative for Lingram Financial Advisory.

**Bilal Haidar ('04 B.E.)** is working on a new book about ASP.NET 3.5 Security at the request of Wiley Publishing in the U.S. He is in the final stages of preparing for publication. The book will be available November 3, 2008.



**Choucraallah Karam ('04 B.E.) & Jessica Estefane ('04 B.A.)** got married on the 6th of July 2008. They both live in Dubai.

**Rasha Mookaddem ('04 B.Pharm)** married **Fadi Marhaba ('93 B.S.)**. They live in Dubai. She is a product manager in KCI medical and her husband works as country sales manager for Dell Computers. They have both earned their M.B.A. and they have a 2-year old daughter, Lea.



**Abdel Rahman Sabban ('05 B.S., '07 M.B.A.)** is a senior investments officer at the Arab Investment Guarantee Corporation at the Arab Organizations Headquarters in Kuwait.







**Hiba Moubayed ('05 B.Pharm.), ('06 D. Pharm.)** was married on April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2008 and then traveled abroad with her husband.

**Ali El Hussein ('05 B.S.)** works for Dubai Islamic Bank as a relationship officer in real estate finance.



**Ghinwa Barakat ('05 B.S.)** obtained her masters degree at American University of Beirut medical school in 2007. She is working on her Ph.D. at Beirut Arab University where she is also a lab instructor. She hopes to receive her degree in 2010.

**Shereen Taki ('05 B.S.)** works at Burgan Bank in Kuwait in the private banking department.

**Tarek Saade ('05 B.S.)** moved to London, studied for his M.B.A., and worked there for one year before returning to work in Lebanon. He misses LAU and his friends.

**Abir El Naboulsi ('06 B.S.)** resides in Abu Dhabi and works with Ernst & Young as a financial analyst in various sectors in the United Arab Emirates and several Arab countries. She is enrolled in the Chartered Financial Analyst program and was married last year.



**Zakaria Ghalayini ('06 B.S.)** is a senior accountant at Oger Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates and looks forward to earning higher certification. He visits LAU campus whenever he comes to Lebanon.



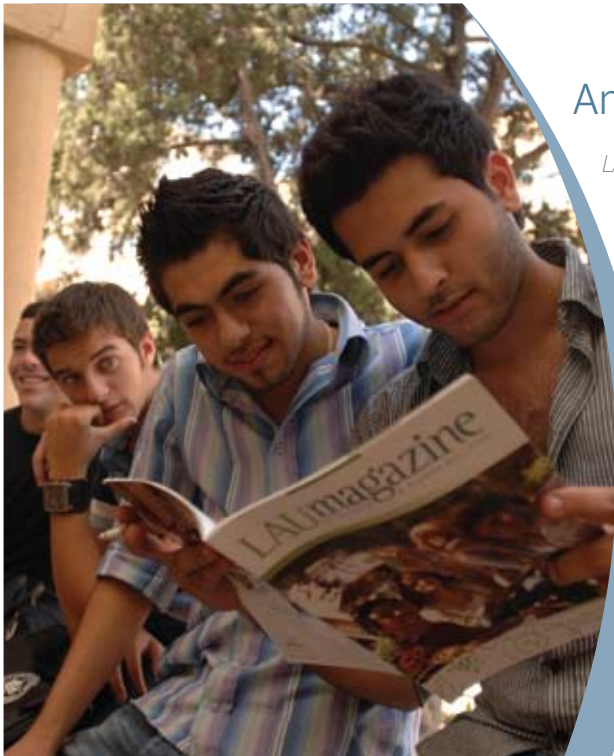
**Maya Doueihy ('06 B.A.)** is pursuing her masters degree in international affairs at the LAU Byblos campus.

**Mohammed Al-Othman ('06 B.A.)** works for the Ministry of Health as an office manager in the department of international health, Riyadh. He married in March 2007.

**Afif Tannir ('07 B.S.)** has worked at Ernst & Young in Lebanon since his graduation.

**Jessica Hajj ('07 B.S.)** is in the management trainee program at Expeditors International, a global logistics company. The program, organized by the regional office in Beirut, requires extensive training in each department as well as travel to Dubai and Cairo.

**Hussein Nassar ('08 B.S.)** works in Abu Dhabi as a property consultant for Property Shop Investment, a real estate company.



## Anytime, Day or Night \_\_\_\_\_

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## Remembered With Love: Miled Karkour

By LAU Staff

Miled Karkour lived not seeking happiness, but generating it. He found fulfillment in hard work; in doing a good job; in indiscriminate politeness and tireless service to others; in exposing the foolishness of fighting; in bringing people together.

This is how he will be remembered by the students, faculty and staff members who knew him. He died on July 21 as the result of an electrical accident at his home. He is survived by his parents, Youssef and Farida, his wife, Jocelyne, and his 2-year-old daughter, Nai.

Miled was laid to rest in Ain Zebdeh, the village he used to praise and to which he invited everyone he knew.

He was a vital part of LAU's theater life. Throughout his 18 years of service to LAU, countless students were privileged to know him and learn – from his example – good nature and genuine friendliness.

An outpouring of sorrow and disbelief spread around campus and the extended LAU community upon his death. Hundreds of messages can be found in a special Facebook group created in his memory.

"When we think of Miled, we think of the endless services he gave us," wrote Dr. Samira Aghacy, Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences. "He would interrupt any free weekends (which were very few) and drive all the way from his village (Ain Zebdeh in the Bekaa) to run a small errand at LAU."

At work, the only thing he enjoyed more than the theater was sharing his knowledge of it. He was "a responsible technician, a practical teacher and trainer," said Dr. Raed Mohsen, chairman of the Arts and Communication Department, in his eulogy.

This year's International Theatre Festival was dedicated to his memory. Miled will be sorely missed; his kindness will remain forever in the minds of those who were lucky enough to know him.



The LAU community poured out their feelings about Miled on a graffiti wall set up on the Beirut Campus

**"When we think of Miled, we think of the endless services he gave us."**



Candles lit on campus in memory of Miled







“Coming back on campus, you see the dynamism in the university and it makes you feel very proud ... It’s impressive how market-ready LAU students are.”

# Why I give Back Hani Harik, '85

## DEGREE

B.S. Computer Science

## CAMPUS

Beirut

## WHERE HE LIVES NOW

Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

## OCCUPATION

Chief Executive Officer and President of Emirates Computer

## WHAT HAS HE GIVEN TO LAU?

Time, to talk with and encourage students, money, to educate needy students, advice, as a member of the International Board of Advisors; and opportunity to graduates through training programs.

## WHERE HE'D LIKE TO SEE HIS MONEY GO

Promoting education throughout Lebanon, building partnerships between LAU and corporations to educate for the future, encouraging educated people to live and work in Lebanon, ending the “brain-drain” of talent from Lebanon.

## WHY GIVE BACK TO LAU?

Harik’s career was made possible by the sponsorship and mentoring of others. From that caring, he gained a sense of community. “This is, I think, the fabric of societies: feeling that you belong to something,” he said.

Good education helps reduce polarization in society, Harik said. The gratitude he felt, when multiplied by hundreds or thousands, is what builds a society. This is how we can create “a future country, a country where people don’t look at color, don’t look at religion but look at people as people,” he said. “If we make [giving and caring] a mainstream way of life, then Lebanon would not be the Lebanon we lived of the past 30 years. It would be the Lebanon we all aspire to.”





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*Help us fulfill our promise to our students and tomorrow's leaders by making your gift today.*

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*From its humble beginnings in 1835, LAU has become a pioneering force in the education of women and men. The traditions of student-centeredness and commitment to service underlying LAU's mission have led to a comprehensive vision for academic excellence and the reaffirmation of LAU's cherished ethical values. With your assistance, we can build our legacy for the benefit of our students, Lebanon, the region, and the world.*





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