

LAU magazine

VOLUME 13 | issue n° 1 | Spring 2011

& ALUMNI BULLETIN

Lebanon Lights Up
the national tobacco vice

Pirate Pills
the phantom menace
of fake pharmaceuticals

Silicone Valleys
the plastic surgery boom

The Modern Physician
medical education in transition

New Horizons in Health Care



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New Horizons in Health Care

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marcom@lau.edu.lb, or

Marketing and Communications Department
Lebanese American University
P.O. Box 13-5053/F24
Chouran, Beirut 1102-2801, Lebanon

New York Office
Lebanese American University
475 Riverside Drive #1846
New York, NY 10115-0065

Letters to the Editor

"I read your last issue cover to cover. I'm a big supporter of the creative and performing arts and truly believe we have a niche and need to sustain it here at LAU. Good writing, varied but related topics, great all-around job."

—Elise Salem, Vice President, Student Development & Enrollment Management, LAU

"I always wanted to congratulate you for the wonderful work you are doing especially with the magazine. I always read it and have it at my desk. My clients adore it and admire the content, quality of the printing and the layout."

—Farid Abboud (B.S. '91), Systems analyst / Website developer

Corrections for LAU Magazine, Volume 12, Issue 3, Fall 2010

Fadi Shayya (author of *At the Edge of the City*, mentioned in "Beirut's Changing Skyline" on p. 32) is an AUB graduate in Urban Design, not Graphic Design. The book's graphic designer is Danny Khoury, an LAU graduate. The book cover included in the article is from *Beyroutes*, a different book.

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Michelle Harrane

Contributors

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Anita Nassar

Rita Sayyah

Editorial Assistants

Fidele Hamzeh

Ghazal Jbeily

Joseph Kanaan

Nadine Maknieh

Copy editors

Salma Abdelnour

Nanor Karageozian

Graphic Designer

Marianne Amkieh Siblini

Photographers

Zeina Abdallah

Marc Abi Zeid

Mazen Jannoun

Bassam Lahoud

Emily Morris

Anthony Saoud

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Direct comments can be sent to
marcom@lau.edu.lb.

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Marketing and Communications Department
Lebanese American University

P.O. Box 13-5053/F24

Chouran, Beirut 1102-2801

Lebanon

Tel. +961 1 786 456 ext. 1940/1917

Fax +961 1 786 470

New York Office

475 Riverside Drive #1840

New York, NY 10115-0065

Tel. +1 212 870 2592

Fax +1 212 870 2762

Please send changes of address to:

alumni@lau.edu.lb

+961 1 786 456 ext. 1341/1136

From the President's Desk

Dear Friends,

In a world of risk and instability, few things are as important to us as our health and that of our loved ones. As the field of healthcare has matured, we have enjoyed a sustained period of medical advances, allowing us to live longer and healthier lives. Notwithstanding this long-term record of improvement, we find ourselves faced with serious public health challenges today.

Those who work in the healthcare system carry a serious burden, in Lebanon and throughout the world. Nurses and doctors everywhere work punishing hours, sometimes neglecting their own health to serve their patients. In Lebanon and elsewhere, nurses and other healthcare professionals receive all too little in return for their service, in terms of both pay and prestige, and many of the most talented and dedicated are moving abroad. Meanwhile, healthcare professionals everywhere are increasingly burdened by an aging global population.

Every crisis presents an opportunity, however, and this is an excellent vantage point from which to take stock of the last hundred years, consider the advances we've made and plan for present and future challenges. Daunting though the latter may be, we are building the institutional foundation for new solutions and new practices. In addition to pharmaceutical research and development, doctors, nurses and researchers are pursuing and refining other approaches to fighting disease, including preventative and palliative care. More attention is given now to the implications of diet and exercise for disease, especially in light of rising rates of obesity in the developing world. New ways of delivering basic care to needy populations throughout the world are also being explored. Perhaps most importantly, we are witnessing a resurgence of the field of social medicine, which seeks to understand not only the biological causes of disease but also the social, political and economic factors contributing to it.

LAU is proud to be part of this effort, and our new medical and nursing schools are at the cutting edge in incorporating social medicine into the curriculum. We believe the physician's calling is ethical as well as clinical and scientific, rooted not only in knowledge but wisdom. Our students are learning to attend to the health both of the patient and the community, and to understand the moral imperative of delivering care to all, regardless of means. This humane vision of community-based care can be a transformative one for all of us as we turn to the challenges of the 21st century.



Joseph G. Jabbara
President



Joseph G. Jabbara, Gilbert and Rose-Marie Chagoury during the LAUMS groundbreaking ceremony



LAU medical students visiting a health center in Byblos

Bringing Community into the Curriculum: Social Medicine at LAU

By Emily Morris

Around the world there are hundreds of millions of people living in poverty, with poor access to education, quality health care and support organizations. At LAU's Gilbert and Rose-Marie Chagoury School of Medicine (SOM), the physicians of tomorrow are learning that their responsibility to a patient extends beyond diagnosing diseases and writing prescriptions: they must also understand the context in which the patient lives.

Such is the mantra of the Social Medicine and Global Health Program, a relatively new component of the medical school's curriculum. According to Dr. Mona Haidar, director of the program and an instructor at SOM, broader socioeconomic and political forces affect the occurrence and course of most diseases. These forces strongly influence who gets sick, what diseases afflict them, what treatments are available to them, and what are the likely outcomes of treatment.

"The unique vision of our medical school is to create a different kind of physician. By that I mean someone who is culturally compassionate as well as scientifically competent and willing to serve the community," Haidar explains. "So to us, social medicine is as important to a physician's formation as anatomy and pathophysiology."

An integrated course that runs through each of the four

years, the program aims to make social medicine as relevant to the students' clinical studies as possible. So far, the response from the students has been positive. Last year, they formed a club called the Social Medicine Society, with Haidar as adviser, to determine what problems are affecting the health of their community, so they can provide more sustainable solutions for patients. The club organized LAU Byblos Health Day, with medical students screening community members for diabetes and hypertension.

At the School of Pharmacy (SOP), social medicine initiatives have been under way since 2007, when the No Apathy Pharmacy and Health Awareness Student Society (NAPHASS) was formed by students and faculty to establish a relationship between the community and LAU. For a pharmacist, it is crucial to understand that socioeconomic conditions directly affect a patient's access to medication, according to Dr. Aline Saad, chairperson of the Department of Pharmacy Practice and a clinical assistant professor.

"Of course we have a solid practical component, but I've found that involving the students in the community allows them to retain the information much faster than using the didactic approach alone," says Saad. "It simply enhances their overall experience."



A rigorously holistic approach to medicine, pharmacy and social work is taking place at LAU, challenging the next generation of health professionals to reach out to local communities.

NAPHASS organizes various community outreach events throughout the year, including an LAU Workers Health Awareness Day and visits to SOS Children's Villages, nursing homes, hospitals and schools.

SOM and SOP are not the only schools at LAU seeking a more active role in the community. Social work students are required to take two practicums out in the field, such as at a child advocacy organization or in a hospital, depending on individual interest.

Dr. Hassan Hammoud, associate professor and head of the social work program, is a strong advocate of this experiential method of learning. "We ought to be involved in the community. We don't live in an ivory tower; I like to practice what I preach. And we give our students the opportunity to do the same," he says.

Sabah Haidar, a social work major in her final year, had a keen interest in the social component to medicine and is now doing a practicum at American University of Beirut Medical Center, an experience she describes as "amazing." She works in the hospital's social services department, which assists sick patients and their families psychologically, socially, and sometimes financially.

"We have very oppressed, deprived patients with no national health security. Medical care can run into the millions sometimes. Our department has to find ways to cover costs," she says.

Hammoud hopes that with this kind of community outreach, more hospitals, organizations and schools around Lebanon will have full-time, trained social workers within the next five years. Collaborating with other faculty and students could help in achieving this goal. Both he and Haidar are on the steering committee of a new initiative at LAU called inter-professional education. In principle, the initiative will place students from different disciplines (i.e. social work, medicine, pharmacy and nursing) together in the community to complete their fieldwork.

"The schools share the same concerns, same approach, same philosophy," Dr. Haidar says. "It would be ideal to put students from different backgrounds together to teach them how best to care for the patient."

"We ought to be involved in the community. We don't live in an ivory tower; I like to practice what I preach. And we give our students the opportunity to do the same."

—Hassan Hammoud, associate professor, School of Arts and Sciences, LAU



Grand Rounds

Lebanese medical education in transition

By Curtis Brown

Consider this: Lebanon has a saturated physician job market and one of the highest physician emigration rates in the world. And yet its medical education capacity continues to expand, as new medical schools — most notably in recent years LAU's — continue to open.

The apparent paradox has furrowed brows and prompted questions. Is there a health-care-related “brain drain” in this country, and if so what can be done to stanch it? What market niche is left in the area of medical education? How healthy is the health care system in Lebanon, and what can medical education providers do to improve it?

To begin to answer such questions, one must understand that medical education in Lebanon is at a crossroads.

Actually — with the factors in play ranging from emigration and repatriation to efforts to “regionalize” health care delivery to major shifts in medical school curricula both here and abroad — it's more like a six-way intersection with a roundabout, no stoplights, and plenty of honking.

In a recent academic article, “Regionalizing Healthcare: A Vision for Transforming Lebanon into a Regional Academic Hub,” the founding dean of LAU's new medical school addressed some of these issues while arguing that a highly trained and globalized Lebanese physician workforce “can turn threats into opportunities.”

In view of the growing shortage of physicians in the Gulf countries, as well as the difficulties prestigious American medical schools and centers in the Gulf have had in recruiting clinicians and faculty, Dr. Kamal Badr and his co-author proposed that Lebanese medical schools establish “triangular collaboration” between Gulf institutions and their North American counterparts, making Lebanon into a regional academic hub.

The authors suggested that regional academic expansion would not only help dissuade recent Lebanese medical graduates from emigrating, but also encourage the repatriation of Lebanese physicians abroad.

According to a “mission and vision” statement published by LAU's medical school, the apparent physician “glut” in Lebanon is not all that it seems. Lebanese physicians' levels of training and competence are wildly uneven, almost a third are minimally productive, and more than three quarters practice in the greater Beirut area, while poorer and more rural areas suffer from a lack of quality medical care.

LAU's “vision for Lebanon” is fourfold: to raise standards of Lebanese health care through high-quality American-style medical education; to provide attractive residency and fellowship opportunities to Lebanese medical graduates, thereby countering the brain drain; to improve health care delivery to the country's underserved rural regions; and to mold compassionate, ethical, and socially aware physicians.

“By inculcating community-based service in its training program,” the school says, it plans to “extend its medical mission to the underprivileged in Lebanon.”

Interim Dean Lynn Eckhert, who has worked for Harvard Partners Medical International for years, says that LAU's social mission is reflective of a larger trend in medical education in Western countries.

“Most medical schools are trying now to be more responsive to the communities in which they practice,” she says.



LAU medical students attending a working session

While opinions vary as to whether a new state-of-the-art medical school is the answer to Lebanon's health care challenges, there is a general consensus that medical education is in transition here, and — for both professional and ethical reasons — must awaken to the needs of local communities.

Professor Samir Adib, a former professor of Université Saint-Joseph who now works as a manager of the Department of Public Health at the Health Authority of Abu Dhabi, says Lebanese medical schools are still overly focused on training and graduating secondary- and tertiary-care specialists, for which domestic demand is limited. Such specialists typically do their residency abroad, he says, and never return because their specialty is saturated.

“The investment is thus lost for health in Lebanon. Ideally, medical schools should reorient their expectations around graduating community-oriented primary health care physicians able to manage diseases, from education and prevention to palliation and rehabilitation.”

Dr. Mona Haidar agrees. She recalls that 90% of her graduating class at AUB left Lebanon to specialize abroad. Haidar, who designed the social medicine component of LAU's curriculum, says the new school's *raison d'être* is precisely to shape physicians whose understanding of health is rooted not only in the science of their specialization but in the social and ethical context of their patient community.

Haidar says the LAU curriculum is at the Lebanese vanguard in its incorporation of social medicine. “Increasingly, you find it at other medical schools, but it's not given as much weight as it is here,” she says.

The increased stature of social medicine is part of a larger shift toward an “integrated curriculum” — a more holistic approach to medical education — that began in Western countries in the late 1990s, says Dr. Ghassan Hamadeh, assistant dean of AUB's School of Medicine.

In an integrated curriculum “you're taught to think clinical early on — there isn't this division between basic science and clinical,” Hamadeh explains, adding that students have early contact with patients, which in a classical curriculum typically wouldn't happen until the third year. Course “modules” are by organ system, and emphasize “problem-based learning.” Rather than studying anatomy, physiology, biochemistry, pharmacology, pathology and so on in separate courses, for example, a given module might focus on the pulmonary system, with students each in turn presenting on its anatomy, its physiology etc., to arrive collectively at a comprehensive understanding. 🧩



LAU medical students attending a working session

Finally, Hamadeh stresses, an integrated curriculum is weighted toward applied and interactive exams, for example interviewing standardized patients. “You’re building thinking skills, it’s person to person, with the emphasis on communication, perceptiveness, and ethics.”

“Medical schools are trying now to be more responsive to the communities in which they practice.”

—Lynn Eckhart, interim dean, LAU School of Medicine

LAU is in the enviable position of coming out of the gates with an integrated curriculum, Hamadeh says, noting the challenges AUB has faced in transitioning from the classical.

LAU has its sights set on yet another level of integration — between its schools of medicine, nursing, and pharmacy. When the medical building currently under construction on the university’s Byblos campus is complete, students in each program will work with and train alongside one another, mirroring the way the work of their professional counterparts is interwoven in a hospital setting.

Dean Eckhart has seen a similar form of integration in the U.S., between students in parallel public health, nursing, and medical programs. She extols the benefits of the model, saying it produces not only experiential knowledge but also a “much greater appreciation for the skills of another profession.”

Appreciation and respect of this kind are critically important in the case of the nursing profession, which among the medical professions has been historically stigmatized in Lebanon. Hamadeh says that “the hospital is the kingdom of the nurse,” but that people often don’t understand the level of education involved in the profession.

“The work environment for nurses in many contexts needs to be improved,” says Dr. Huda Huijer Abu-Saad, director of the Hariri School of Nursing at AUB. “And there’s a need for national

accreditation standards for schools of nursing. Along with the misplaced — but unfortunately persistent — negative image of nursing, these things discourage young people from pursuing it as a career.”

Several physicians and academics interviewed for this article remarked on the increasing relevance of the humanities — with their traditional focus on intuition, wisdom, ethical insight, and integrated formal elegance — to the new paradigms of medical education.

Université Saint-Joseph’s curriculum has gone the furthest in this direction, providing, according to Adib, up to 40% of credit hours to humanities courses. Alongside basic medical courses in anatomy, physiology, and pharmacology, students must take electives in subjects ranging from art, culture, language, and history of religions, to sociology and its application to medicine.

“I see a convergence between medicine and the humanities, more now than ever before,” says Hamadeh. Whether the brain of a renaissance man is less likely than that of a specialist to drain westward from the Levant remains to be seen, but that is the vision of those working to improve Lebanese medical education, and the goal is a worthy one. ■



Deans of medical schools in Lebanon and the region meeting at LAU

Mona Haidar At the front lines of social medicine

By Curtis Brown



Giving a speech on AIDS Day in Bobete



When Dr. Mona Haidar, in the midst of her residency in internal medicine at AUB, proposed to deliver grand rounds on the topic of social medicine, the idea raised eyebrows.

“Grand rounds in residency usually requires a hard-core scientific topic, something like stem-cell research,” she explains. Social medicine — which seeks to understand disease not merely at the molecular level but also as a function of large-scale “social determinants” — was initially a tough sell.

That was 2006. Less than a half decade later, Haidar would be helping to lay the groundwork for LAU’s new medical school, which — as a direct result of her role — is a regional pioneer in incorporating social medicine into the very fabric of the curriculum.

The years between — which took Haidar to Lesotho in the southern tip of Africa, to Boston, Massachusetts and Harvard University, and back to Beirut — were transformative for Dr. Haidar.

They may prove to have been equally transformative for medical education in Lebanon.

If your idea of a physician is a white-coated specialist with an air of institutional authority, even a touch of paternalism, then Haidar may not seem like much of a physician at all. She is unassuming and low-key, but at the same time charismatic, exuding an egoless intensity.

Her frame of reference is as often ethical or aesthetic as it is scientific. You sense this when she talks about “the beauty of integration” in LAU’s medical school curriculum, or recalls delivering babies by candlelight in Africa, or describes AIDS as a “barometer of injustice and human-rights violations,” or evokes the way root structural forces determining health and disease cease to be abstract — and instead become palpable and visceral — the moment you set foot in a refugee camp. Her conversation tends to be jeweled with metaphor.

Notwithstanding the initial skepticism, her grand rounds on

social medicine were a big success. “It was the first time we exposed the clinical community to that language,” she says.

Her AUB preceptor Dr. Kamal Badr was particularly supportive, and close collaboration between the two continued after her residency and right up through the 2009 inauguration of LAU’s medical school, where Badr was founding dean.

“Any idea without support at the level of leadership will not survive.”

—Mona Haidar, instructor, LAU School of Medicine

The idea for making social medicine an integral part of LAU’s curriculum evolved over those years. Haidar traveled to Lesotho in 2006 to help establish a rural AIDS clinic. She worked there with the Boston-based Partners in Health (PIH), whose co-founder, the renowned physician and medical anthropologist Paul Farmer, has been a major source of inspiration.

Describing Lesotho as the “most daunting” of PIH’s rural sites, Farmer says Haidar’s “talent, experience, and knowledge” were crucial to the clinic’s success. “She has also served as a living link between the people of Lesotho and research and training centers like LAU and Harvard,” he says.

Following her 2006–2007 stint in Africa, Haidar set off for Boston to work further with Farmer and his colleagues in PIH and Harvard’s Department of Social Medicine. Upon receiving her Master’s in Public Health at Harvard in 2009, she returned immediately to work on the LAU curriculum.

“We have the advantage at LAU that it’s a new medical school,” Haidar says, explaining that institutional inertia can make curricular innovation more difficult to implement.

“Any idea without support at the level of leadership will not survive. It is institutional support that makes something grow, and ultimately have an impact.”



Changing Faces

Beirut becoming a global
cosmetic surgery hub

By Tracy Lynn Chemaly

When Rahaf Abdallah was crowned Miss Lebanon 2010 after answering a question about plastic surgery at the pageant finale, there was widespread speculation that her eloquence on the subject had secured her victory over the odds-on favorite, Jessica Kahawaty. Half a year later, Abdallah, a third-year business management student at LAU, stands firmly behind her response.

"I support plastic surgery treating injuries, defects or disfigurement, but I am not a fan of it for purely cosmetic purposes," says the 22-year-old. Abdallah believes beauty takes many forms, stressing that "it's just not normal to see people walking around with the same noses and lips."

It was an appropriate — if pointed — question to put to beauty contestants in a country that has become, according to a recent French report, the plastic surgery capital of the world.

An estimated 1.5 million surgeries are now conducted every year in Lebanon. The boom shows no signs of abating, as offshoot industries such as "plastic surgery tourism" begin to take root. Even banks are getting in on the action, with some offering surgery loans of up to \$5000.

Dr. Naji Hayek, a plastic and reconstructive surgeon at the University Medical Center – Rizk Hospital in Beirut, confirms that cosmetic surgery — in particular rhinoplasty — is a booming industry in Lebanon. Hayek alone performs 10 to 15 "nose jobs" a month.

"In America it's the breasts; In Lebanon it's the nose," he laughs.

Hayek has worked in both countries over the past 12 years, and notes a shift in Lebanese attitudes and social mores during this period. "It used to be taboo to have work done, and most people would try to hide it. Now they don't care — they're proud of it."

Farah Sibai, a 21-year-old LAU business management student, is forthcoming about her stomach staple and bypass surgery. "I'd tried diets, pills and exercise," she says, "but my metabolism is zero."

Sibai has shed 24 kilograms since the \$6000 procedure, and feels her life has turned around. "People look at me differently, I have more self-confidence, and I can actually shop for clothes now. I used to be ashamed of how I looked."

"Unfortunately, we're not raised to think that we're judged for who we are."

—Ketty Sarouphim, associate professor of Psychology, LAU School of Arts and Sciences

Noting the importance placed on external beauty in Lebanon, Sibai recalls that before the operation even her mother used to cry at the sight of her.

According to Dr. Ketty Sarouphim, associate professor of psychology at LAU, the pressure to fit in physically is especially acute for girls. "Unfortunately we're not raised to think that we're judged for who we are," she says.

The popular image of plastic surgery as the province of aging beauties hoping to preserve their youth is not really accurate in Lebanon, according to Sarouphim. The typical candidate is in late adolescence or early adulthood. With the country's ratio of young women to men believed to be six to one, she says, the race is on to "increase your chances of a good catch."



Plastic surgery under celioscopy

Though Sarouphim laments the societal trend, she concedes that surgery can enhance individual self-confidence and needn't entail psychological harm. "It's not necessarily different from dieting — if you can afford it!" she says. She notes however the risk of developing body dysmorphic disorder, a pathological disorder involving excessive preoccupation with perceived defects in one's physical features.

Dr. Hayek insists that it is the physician's job to prevent patients from doing anything excessive. "If the result of an operation is going to be bad, it's my responsibility to tell my patient. Sometimes people simply become addicted to surgery. They come to me saying, 'Can't you just do something?'"

Mohamad Hodeib, a 20-year-old political science and international affairs student at LAU, is opposed in principle to such procedures. He is bemused by the flaunting of plastic surgery on campus. "Nose jobs are the most popular — but wearing the sticker after the operation is even more popular!"

Although Hodeib had surgery on his own nose two years ago, it was for breathing purposes only, and he ensured the surgeon didn't change its exterior form. "I would never fool around with my shape. I was created this way," says Hodeib, noting his classmates' predilection for straightening their aquiline Mediterranean noses.

Dr. Hayek confirms that some patients cite breathing problems as a pretext for changing the shape of their noses, but points out that the two issues are in fact rarely related. 🐸



Press ad of plastic surgery loans from a local bank



As the ubiquity of nose “stickers” attests, however, a great many feel no need to fashion excuses or pretexts for going under the knife. Twenty-three-year-old human resources practitioner Nathalie Chelala freely admits that she had her nose fixed “for pleasure.”

“When something is bothering me and I can fix it within limits, I will do it,” she says, still slightly swollen from the operation she underwent six weeks previously.

Melanie Tabet, a 23-year-old sales executive, had her lips enlarged at the age of 21. “They were very small, so I started with one injection, but they were still small, so I ended up doing it three times,” she says, adding that she will probably redo them in five years’ time. “It’s made me feel much prettier and more self-confident. I can wear red lipstick now!”

Tabet was initially encouraged to have the collagen injections by a friend who had undergone the same procedure. She remarks however that her friend’s lips are “overdone,” out of proportion with the rest of her face. The observation leads to more general misgivings. “Some people don’t need to do it,” Tabet reflects. “It’s becoming too much.”

Dr. Hayek acknowledges the risks of cosmetic surgery. “A surgeon is not God, so there’s always the chance of infection, bleeding, swelling and scarring. It’s important to choose your surgeon well and to have realistic expectations.” He advises patients to avoid permanent lip fillers, which are dangerous and can lead to infections, recommending as an alternative collagen injections that require refilling every year.

The reputation of Lebanon’s plastic surgery industry dates back to the country’s civil war days. During that period, however, most procedures were reconstructive rather than cosmetic. The reverse is true today, of course, and as Beirut has grown into a glamorous international mecca for cosmetic surgery, a boutique tourist industry has grown up around it.

“Sometimes people simply become addicted to surgery. They come to me saying, ‘Can’t you just do something?’”

—Naji Hayek, plastic and reconstructive surgeon, UMC–RH

Zeina El Haj, founder of Image Concept, a cosmetic surgery tourism company based in Dubai, has since June 2009 been organizing surgery-and-recovery trips to Beirut from the Gulf countries as well as Canada, North Africa and Australia, under the auspices of the Lebanese Ministry of Tourism. Less than two years into the venture, she is turning a brisk trade, with two to three clients per week.

Cosmetic surgery tourists stay in Beirut for approximately 10 days after their surgery — sightseeing, shopping and eating out — with only the slimmest chance of being recognized. El Haj notes that a surprising number of clients — she estimates between 30 and 40 percent — are male.



Some of Dr. Hayek's clients bring their families along and make a summer holiday of it, with the most popular bookings coming for rhinoplasty, breast lifts or augmentations and liposuction.

"Lebanon has the best surgeons in the field," Dr. Hayek says of the popularity of such tourism, adding that the country itself is an attraction. "Lebanon is a trendy place, and its decadent image goes hand in hand with the spirit of freedom associated with cosmetic surgery." Procedures are generally cheaper in Lebanon, moreover. A nose job that would cost approximately \$9,000 in New York, for example, costs only \$2,000 in Beirut.

As for the older generation's love affair with Botox and facelifts, Dr. Sarouphim describes this as a classical symptom of midlife crisis. "They're afraid their husbands will look at younger women without wrinkles, and they feel the pressure to compete with other Botoxed ladies. It's a continuous struggle to remain young." She warns that having work done at an older age is more dangerous. "It's fighting something that cannot be fought."

Abdallah agrees: "I have seen many who have had work done with the aim of looking younger, but the question is: did they end up looking younger or looking fixed?"

Now there's a question for the judges. 🎲

Figures for the Figure

Rhinoplasty

LEBANON	\$2,000
USA	\$6,000
UK	\$4,000

Breast Augmentation

LEBANON	\$5,000
USA	\$8,000
UK	\$8,000

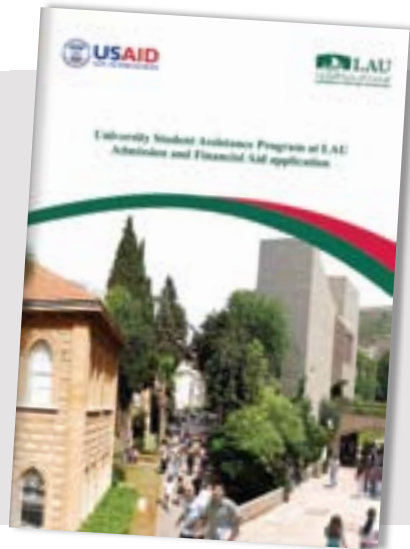
Collagen Injection

LEBANON	\$300
USA	\$500
UK	\$450

Botox

LEBANON	\$300
USA	\$400
UK	\$400





USAID Grants LAU Nearly \$7 Million for Need-based Full Scholarships

By Marc Abi Zeid

Fifty-two students will enter LAU tuition-free next year as part of a first-time USAID program to provide university education to economically disadvantaged Lebanese from public schools throughout the country.

USAID informed LAU in late September that the university had won the \$6.9 million grant to execute the program, which will educate one female and one male student from each of Lebanon's 26 districts. In order to qualify, the students must demonstrate leadership potential and meet a host of other requirements.

"We developed a strong application," says Dr. Elise Salem, vice president for Student Development and Enrollment Management at LAU, explaining why she believes LAU won the grant. "But LAU also has a track record in leadership development. We are becoming known not only as a university of high academic standards, but of student-centeredness as well."

The program is designed not only to provide educational opportunities to disadvantaged students but also to facilitate the country's long-term development, by cultivating the kinds of knowledge and expertise deemed critical to — and presently lacking in — Lebanon. With this goal in mind, students will be required to select from a restricted list of majors, which will include engineering, education, nursing, social work, nutrition, business, economics and communication arts.

"This grant really is well-aimed because it's going for needy kids across Lebanon to do good, not just for themselves but for their communities," Salem adds, "and at a university that can help transform their lives and the lives of their families."

To be eligible for selection, the students must come from very low-income families, score a minimum of 12/20 on the Lebanese Baccalaureate, obtain qualifying SAT and EEE scores, hold Lebanese citizenship and be fairly proficient in English.

The selected students will receive stipends and have their tuition, housing, books and most other expenses covered by the program.

"It is LAU's belief that no student should be denied a world-class education due to financial circumstances," says Abdo Ghié, LAU assistant vice president for Enrollment Management. "It is our duty to help each and every student achieve their educational goals."

"We decided to make the investment for our youth," says Zeina Salame, project manager for USAID at the American Embassy in Beirut. "It's about promoting educational opportunities for promising young people who graduate from public schools and cannot afford to attend a university."

She adds that the program is in line with USAID's current five-year strategy for Lebanon, in its emphasis on support for basic and higher education.

The program is being executed in stages. After securing the grant, LAU began the advertising and recruitment phase.

In November, teams of recruiters were dispatched throughout the country to visit hundreds of schools and spread news of the opportunity. Once applications are submitted, 10 students will initially be chosen from each district, then shortlisted to two after a rigorous selection process.

When the selected students arrive at LAU next fall, the responsibilities for overseeing them will shift to the newly established Outreach and Civic Engagement (OCE) unit. The unit will first be tasked with integrating the new recruits into LAU with the help of student mentors, although the long-term goal of OCE will be to develop the leadership skills of those students.

"By giving leadership skills to these new students, we're giving them an equal opportunity to be integrated into an affluent university, while at the same time putting them in contact with civil society to become leaders of tomorrow's Lebanon," says Elie Samia, OCE executive director.

"But working with an affluent society is not enough," he adds. "We need to show philanthropy by helping the underprivileged. This is part of our integrity, our legacy."



> LAU MUN leaders giving an awareness session

Students Take the Lead

LAU's new Outreach and Civic Engagement unit sees students becoming future leaders

By Tracy Lynn Chemaly

Philanthropy, leadership and student activism are on the rise at LAU, thanks in part to the formation of the new Outreach and Civic Engagement unit (OCE). Established in October 2010, OCE is galvanizing student action for the benefit of society, while equipping LAU students with necessary leadership skills for today's competitive environment.

Elie Samia, OCE executive director, describes it as a student-centered unit involved in the creation of future leaders. "It aims at engaging students with civil society and adds the kind of extracurricular activities that build a well-rounded personality," he says.

Comprising two divisions — International Exchange and Study Abroad, and Civic Engagement and Leadership — the unit is run by three administrative staff, 20 part-time student employees and hundreds more who participate in its activities.

Dr. Elise Salem, vice president for Student Development and Enrollment Management at LAU, is enthusiastic about Samia's role: "He's nurturing and developing students who have limitless potential."

Samia agrees that this generation of students is unusually ambitious. "The beauty of this unit is that we provide the spark — we coach, facilitate and motivate the students — but they're the ones with the passion and energy to run their projects. They're active, creative and competent, and this becomes a snowball of positive energy because their enthusiasm is so contagious."

OCE projects tackle a variety of issues, from environment cleanup to human rights, youth empowerment to violence against women. "The unit is already a beehive of student activism with a wonderful, creative spirit," says Salem.

The student-exchange program within OCE aims to connect students with Ivy League universities in America, allowing them to attend institutions such as Princeton and Yale for credits that

count toward their degrees at LAU. Travel, exposure and experience "take them out of the cocoon of their society," says Samia.

The UN Fair at LAU aims to be similarly enriching, exposing students to 22 organizations and specialized agencies that offer new experiences and sought-after internships.

In addition, a leadership training program took place in December, in collaboration with the Safadi Foundation, where children from 54 public and private schools in Tripoli and Sidon were trained by LAU students in conflict resolution, peace education, public speaking and leadership.

In much the same way, the LAU Model United Nations program (MUN) reaches 1,350 youths in grades 10 and 11, who come from 150 schools to learn public-speaking skills from LAU students. The grade-schoolers act as ambassadors while calling for resolutions in the UN.

One of these LAU student trainers, Sandy Hanna, has been part of the MUN program for three years. "I have watched people enter as students and leave as 'stand-up-for-what's-right' individuals," she says, adding that the program has helped build her own individuality, as well as her CV.

Rindala Mikhael, another student involved in OCE projects, said that each presents different opportunities. She said the white-ribbon campaign to end violence against women offered her new insights into gender discrimination and female empowerment, and allowed her to engage in an international project that involved numerous countries and organizations. Mikhael describes OCE projects as "boosting my confidence, enhancing my knowledge and giving me a taste of practical work."

Which is precisely the point, according to Samia. "LAU should not only provide a classical education, but also build on students' character, emotional intelligence and sense of volunteerism. We want them to serve society."



State-of-the-Art Makeover

UMC – RH: LAU’s new teaching hospital

By Curtis Brown

If you speak to anyone involved in laying the foundations of innovative medical education at LAU, they’ll tell you the same thing: that it’s liberating to be starting from scratch. There’s no institutional inertia, no messy transitional period, no puzzle of how to overhaul the engine of a car you’re driving at full speed.

Everyone, that is, except those responsible for transforming the well-established, decades-old Rizk Hospital into University Medical Center – Rizk Hospital (UMC–RH), a state-of-the-art teaching hospital and mini-campus, all the while keeping it open and fully operational.

“It’s easier to build something new than to fix something already in existence, especially if it’s been around a long time,” says Roy Majdalani, LAU vice president of Human Resources and University Services and member of the hospital’s board of directors, who is in charge of renovating the hospital’s IT systems.

“What’s the next big challenge on the horizon?” asks Dr. Elie Badr rhetorically. Badr, LAU assistant provost for Academic Programs and acting dean of the School of Architecture and Design and a member of UMC–RH’s Board of Directors, is responsible for the building’s structural renovations. “The biggest challenge on my horizon is when the hammers start pounding in radiology, and pound for two months, with patient rooms directly above.”

Majdalani, Badr, and other members of UMC–RH’s Board of Directors say that Rizk Hospital — of which LAU recently became majority shareholder — has an established reputation for talented physicians and quality care in Beirut, but agree that

the decades have taken their toll on its infrastructure.

“We are renovating all facilities physically, technically, and at the IT level,” Majdalani says.

But the biggest challenge in turning a city hospital into a regional academic medical center, Majdalani says, is not one of renovation but transformation.

“For us, UMC–RH is not just a hospital. It will be a backbone to our academic institution, working hand in hand with LAU in its commitment to academic excellence and outstanding medical care.”

UMC–RH will support LAU’s schools of Medicine, Nursing, and Pharmacy provide the clinical environment and service for teaching and training for health care students and professionals, and support academic research programs.

“UMC–RH will be a landmark in a country already well-known as the medical hub of the Middle East.”

—Roy Majdalani, member, Board of Directors, UMC–RH

The scope of the transformation, directors say, is both daunting and exhilarating, a testament to LAU’s ambition as it enters the field of medical education.

The new equipment and infrastructure will include two MRI machines, gamma cameras, a mammography unit, an advanced ophthalmology clinic, a refurbished emergency room and intensive care unit, a new nurse-call system and new operating



LAU president giving a talk at UMC – RH



Educational sessions at UMC – RH

rooms. The data center — “a closet with a couple of servers stacked up, almost like a mom-and-pop operation” when Majdalani began his work — will be state-of-the-art, and there will be high-speed wired and wireless network infrastructure throughout the facility, fully backed up by LAU’s servers. The current capacity of 100 beds will increase to 250.

And when the hammer blows ringing through the old radiology lab finally subside, there will be a 1500-square-meter regional “center of excellence,” digitally linked to a world-class radiology lab in New York. Badr points out that the advanced radiology equipment being installed is one of a kind, available only in Germany.

“The trend now in medical care is centers of excellence,” explains Dr. Tony Zreick, medical director of UMC – RH, “where specialists in different aspects of the same problem come together in one center.” UMC – RH will have a breast unit, for example, with a breast imaging expert, a surgeon, a gynecologist, an oncologist, a clinical psychologist, and so on, all of whom are breast specialists.

UMC – RH will have 10 regional centers in all, including a cardiovascular center, a women’s health center, and a neuroscience center.

“UMC – RH will be a landmark in a country already well-known as the medical hub of the Middle East,” Majdalani says.

“Every unit we are newly establishing or redesigning conforms to international norms so that the hospital can be accredited by the JCI,” says Badr, referring to the U.S.-based Joint Commission International, the premier accreditation organization for international hospitals.

The transformation is not only infrastructural but also institutional, directors say. This means a large-scale human-resources task of assimilating personnel from an established and

well-known hospital. In order to facilitate this, LAU conducted the hospital’s first HR Study.

“The study was designed to revamp the structure of UMC – RH, and will be used to provide its employees with equity, fairness, incentive for retention, and progression and advancement within the institution,” says Dr. Cedar Mansour, LAU’s vice president and general counsel of UMC – RH.

Other steps are being taken to strengthen human resources both at the medical and administrative levels.

“We are hiring additional top-notch physicians trained in the U.S. and Europe, who will join the highly skilled medical body already in place at the hospital,” says Majdalani. He adds that there will be continuous education and training for the nursing team, too, as well as additional hires.

The directors point out that an institutional makeover as extensive as this goes beyond questions of training and personnel.

“You have to change the culture of the institution. It’s a state of mind,” says Antoine Choueiry, UMC – RH’s general director. “It’s not only know-how and training.”

Dr. Zreick agrees that the issue is not one of technical credentials but rather institutional culture. “This hospital has a tradition of clinical care to the community,” he says, but the challenge is to “inject academics into its way of thinking.”

UMC – RH aims to retain as many of the hospital’s original staff as possible, and is providing yearlong training to improve their English skills. Meanwhile most of the physicians have been offered either full-time or part-time positions with LAU.

“One of the most important goals for us was to integrate and capitalize on what gave the hospital its good name — the medical staff and the workers there,” says Dr. Mansour.

“Our intent is to integrate everybody and to grow together.”



Pirate Pills

The menace of fake pharmaceuticals

By Marc Abi Zeid

Fake drugs. They're dangerous, sometimes deadly, and in many cases, nearly undetectable.

The problem has probably existed in Lebanon for decades, though long periods of conflict and absent government have prevented action. Organized efforts to address the issue began taking shape in recent years, though a clear, long-term strategy remains elusive.

"It's been a problem for a long time," says Dr. Atef Majdalani, head of the Parliamentary Health Committee.

He explains that the government launched a campaign several years ago to address the issue of counterfeit drugs, held a special meeting with the Lebanese Order of Pharmacists and Prosecutor General's Office, and created a committee to control and monitor the sale of medication.

Their efforts led to the closure of several pharmacies and pharmaceutical warehouses, but the initiative proved short-lived.

"As is always the case in Lebanon, they soon stopped investigating the issue and everything returned to how it was before," Majdalani says.

The lull was not to last. In January of last year a counterfeit version of the heart medication Plavix — containing just 40% of the active ingredient — was found first in the possession of one pharmacy, then in a number of others. The scandal prompted the Lebanese Minister of Health, Dr. Mohammed Khalifeh, to hold a news conference.

"We can't be silent about this subject. It has become a matter of life or death," Khalife announced, adding that the counterfeit heart medication was manufactured in China and smuggled into Lebanon through Dubai.

Khalife called for a large-scale crackdown. In the ensuing sweep, nine pharmacies and four pharmaceutical warehouses were shut down.

According to Khalife, the manufacturing and smuggling of counterfeit medicine is part of an organized drug ring involving university graduates with degrees in the medical field. He added that all pharmacists selling counterfeit drugs were doing so knowingly.

"Lebanon is the leader in combating counterfeit drugs in the region."

—Rony Zeenny, clinical assistant professor of pharmacy, LAU

In a separate conference three months later, Khalife announced a number of measures being taken to counter the phenomenon. He promised that the ministry would place tags on all medication specifying its origin in order to track sources more easily. He also said pharmacies would be permitted to sell medicine approaching its expiration date at a discounted rate, with the approval of the ministry.

All ministry actions, Khalife said, are being undertaken with the cooperation of concerned agencies and unions.

"The main reason pharmacists exist is to protect and help people," he said. "Any pharmacists who compromise public health through illegal actions, selling counterfeit and smuggled drugs, or manipulating prices, will receive the maximum penalties associated with their crimes."



He vowed that the ministry would "not allow the actions of a few to jeopardize the reputation of Lebanon's pharmacists."

Armand Phares, president of the Lebanese Pharmaceuticals Importers Association, says that it is the responsibility of pharmacists and importers alike to "remain vigilant, to inform public authorities and the public itself, and to take appropriate measures to stop the spread of such dangerous products."

"They are the most efficient prevention against the presence of such products in the market," he adds.

Government investigators believe the sale of counterfeit drugs is part of an elaborate scheme run by a large organized network of smugglers operating under the radar.

Since pharmacies buy smuggled drugs at a fraction of their market price, the government believes they are doing so with full knowledge and complicity.

Dr. Majdalani says the problem is directly related to lack of universal health care, which creates acute demand for cheap drugs and a high toleration for risk. "If we look at France, for example, where they have universal care, they don't encounter this issue," he says, citing for contrast a World Health Organization study's conclusion that 200,000 people die each year in Africa as a result of counterfeit drugs.

"In my opinion, the solution to this problem is to expand the National Social Security Fund to cover the entire Lebanese population," he adds. "This is the ultimate goal."

In the meantime, Majdalani says, the government needs to continue its investigations, more closely monitoring what comes through the borders as well as what is being sold in pharmacies, clinics, hospitals and warehouses.

"Still," Majdalani says, "this is only a partial and temporary solution to the problem."

The sweeps of pharmacies and drug warehouses have turned up all kinds of counterfeit drugs, including those used for cancer and cardiovascular disease. 🌿



They have also discovered another form of pharmaceutical fraud. Diet pills advertised as pure herbal slimming agents were discovered to indeed contain drug components used in diet pills with known side effects.

"It's another form of counterfeiting — it's cheating the public," Dr. Rony Zeenny, clinical assistant professor at LAU's School of Pharmacy, says.

In many cases, counterfeit pharmaceuticals are extremely difficult to detect. Much of the contraband is imported to Lebanon through legal channels rather than smuggled, and appears authentic to the naked eye.

Furthermore, the 3D holograms that show the Lebanese Pharmaceuticals Importers Association's name, the importer's name, and the motto "from the producer to the citizen" written in Arabic — which were introduced as an anti-counterfeiting measure in 2004 — have themselves been forged, making it difficult for even experts to spot the fake.

It's not just counterfeit pharmaceuticals that are of concern to authorities. Some drugs may be genuine, but enter the country illegally.

"Hiding original pharmaceuticals duly registered at the Ministry of Public Health from the administrative controls of the customs and the ministry raises serious questions regarding their safety and conformity with the registered standards," says Phares.

In the face of Lebanon's debilitating drug debacle, some may find solace in learning that the country is far ahead of other Arab countries when it comes to action and awareness.

"Lebanon is the leader in combating counterfeit drugs in the

region," Zeenny says, noting that the country was the first in the Middle East to bring the topic to light.

"It's a worldwide issue — we're not the only ones dealing with counterfeit drugs," he adds, "but we are definitely more aware of it due to the campaigns launched to bring attention to this issue."

The frightening reality exposed by the investigations raises the question of how medical professionals, entrusted by the public and sworn under oath to serve with compassion and care, could betray their moral duties.

"We can't be silent about this subject. It has become a matter of life or death."

—H.E. Mohamed Khalifeh, Lebanese Minister of Public Health

LAU's School of Pharmacy requires each student to pass a rigorous course in ethics tailored specifically to their field, providing a comprehensive background to the dilemmas facing pharmacists.

Dr. Lydia Sholy, clinical assistant professor at LAU's School of Pharmacy who teaches the ethics course, says they don't directly address the issue of counterfeit pharmaceuticals, but attention is given to the pharmacists' moral and professional responsibilities.

"We cover the code of ethics for clinical practice point by point, examining the duties you have toward your society and toward your profession," Sholy says. "We don't talk about



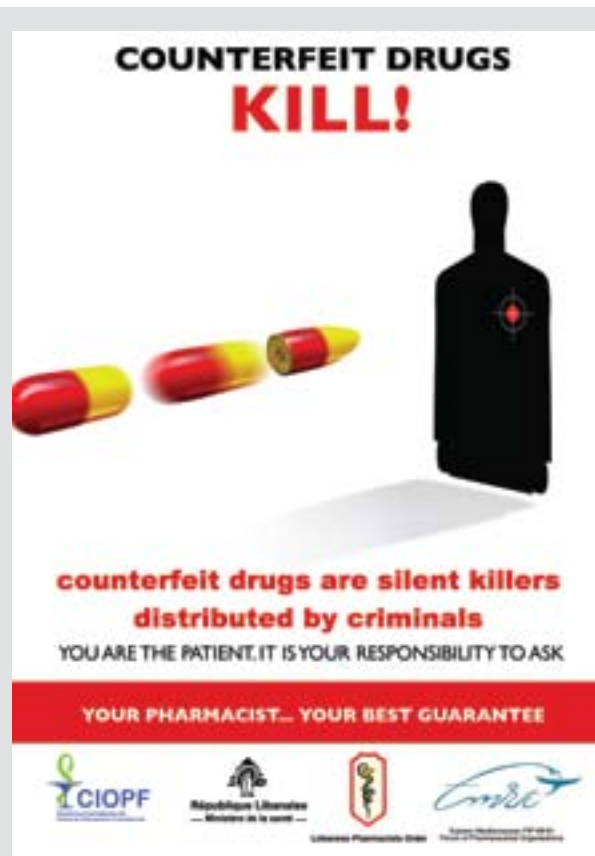
counterfeit drugs as a topic unto itself. We convey that you are responsible for everything you give to your patient, so making sure that it's the right drug is part of your responsibility."

Sholy explains that getting students to care requires more than simply lecturing them. Her technique is to delve into the history of ethics to help students understand why medical professionals abide by certain procedures such as informed consent and confidentiality.

For example, the class looks at the infamous Tuskegee syphilis experiment in the United States, in which American doctors studied the progression of the syphilis disease in poor black sharecroppers over a period of 40 years, from 1932 to 1972. The subjects were never told they had syphilis, and were never treated.

When students examine cases like Tuskegee — or the Nuremberg trials where German doctors were tried for their involvement in human experimentation — they gain a larger sense of the ethical code's implications, Sholy says.

"They come to me and say, 'we've never thought of it this way.'" 📌



Press ad produced by the health authorities

Educating the Next Generation of Nurses

By Marc Abi Zeid



LAU seemed like the obvious choice for the 13 young men and women representing the founding class of the Alice Ramez Chagoury School of Nursing, which opened its doors in fall 2010.

With the prospect of receiving automatic 50 percent scholarships, interdisciplinary learning and hands-on training opportunities at hospitals across Lebanon, students jumped at the opportunity to become the next generation of highly skilled nurses while making history as pioneers of the new LAU program.

"LAU's scholarship program made it possible for me to attend the university," says Chant Kazandjian, a nursing student, who also cited the school's "modern form of study, the interdisciplinary experiences between nursing, pharmacy, medicine, nutrition and social work students, and the cooperative learning experiences in hospitals" as factors in his decision.

"What many people don't understand is that nurses use scientific knowledge and contemporary research findings."

—Nancy Hoffart, Dean, School of Nursing, LAU

To help attract qualified applicants regardless of their financial situation, the university covered half the tuition costs of all admitted students. In addition to these automatic scholarships, a handful of private donors agreed to pay the remaining tuition costs for many of the students, resulting in free education for almost everyone.

The donor support and the push by the university to ensure the success of the nursing program came largely in response to the severe shortage of nurses worldwide.

According to Dr. Nancy Hoffart, founding dean of the Nursing School, some of the donors decided to invest in the program because of their own past experiences with poorly trained nurses. The donors were convinced that LAU's scientific curriculum would provide students with the medical background and skills to properly treat patients.

"What many people don't understand is that nurses use scientific knowledge and contemporary research findings," Hoffart says. "They must understand not only normal physiology, pathophysiology, and pharmacology, but also psychology and

human development to take care of patients. They don't just give them bed baths and walk them around. Our students will learn how to access the latest research in nursing and health care, evaluate it, and apply it to improve care for patients."

The prerequisites for the B.S. in Nursing include courses in chemistry, biology, nutrition, human development and psychology. They also complete LAU's liberal arts core, which enables them to develop their critical thinking skills.

"Nursing combines both affection and scientific knowledge. With a growing number of people getting sick, more nurses are needed to perform a variety of duties to contribute to a more rapid healing process," says Kazandjian, the nursing student, explaining why he decided to pursue a career in the field.

The establishment of the Nursing School alongside the schools of Pharmacy and Medicine creates opportunities for students to study and train together through shared experiences in courses, and during hands-on exercises at University Medical Center – Rizk Hospital and other hospitals. The school has developed a strong partnership with the nursing department at UMC–RH so that the hospital's nursing staff can assist and serve as role models for the students.

"With our unique interdisciplinary model, students will be prepared to communicate effectively with other team members to maximize patient care," says Ola Sukkarieh, faculty member at the Nursing School. "Students will be exposed to other disciplines through theoretical courses and will practice skills in simulation labs as well."

"LAU's scholarship program made it possible for me to attend the university."

—Chant Kazandjian, LAU nursing student

Another feature of the Nursing School is the co-op model, which will allow students to perform nursing tasks at hospitals under supervision. According to Sukkarieh, this additional hands-on experience will allow students to "enhance their clinical judgment and utilize their clinical skills effectively."

"Co-op bridges the gap between theory and practice," she adds. "It's a feature of our Nursing School that strongly prepares students for the nursing practice early on."

Donor Profiles

Rima Hourani

Opens doors to Palestinian students from the refugee camps

By LAU Staff

LAU alumna Rima Hourani donated \$200,000 in October to fully sponsor the education of four Palestinian students from refugee camps who recently matriculated at LAU.

Mrs. Hourani and her husband Amal have since 1993 contributed generously to various endeavors at LAU. The inspiration for their present donation came when they recently reflected on the predicament of prospective students interested in studying at LAU but unable to afford it.

Mrs. Hourani, who is of Palestinian descent, seized the opportunity to pay homage to her roots as well as give back to her alma mater by offering other Palestinian students the possibility of an LAU education.

"It is important to give, so those less fortunate have the chance of a better life," she says. "We chose to provide aid to nursing and pharmacy students because they will be of invaluable service in the ever-demanding health care sector. These are professions that heal people," she added.

At the signing ceremony President Jabbra praised the Houranis' generosity and related it to LAU's mission. "We feel strongly about giving everyone the chance to receive a higher education. This is the essence of LAU."

The Houranis' substantial donations to LAU over the years

have gone toward naming the Rima Hourani Exhibition Room on the Byblos campus in 1993 and the Amal Issa Hourani Lounge at the School of Business on the Beirut campus in 2008.

Besides contributing to education in Lebanon, Mr. Hourani has assisted in the rapid economic development of the Emirates over the past four decades through ALGECO, the prosperous UAE-based contracting company he co-founded in 1963.

Mr. Hourani also sits on the advisory boards of LAU's schools of Engineering and Business.



Hala and Mohammad Finj

"Helping others from afar"

By LAU Staff

Hala and Mohammad Finj are establishing an Endowed Scholarship Fund in the name of their late son Ahmad, an LAU alumnus, as well as naming a bench after him on the Beirut campus. Ahmad suffered most of his life from a rare and debilitating bone disease, and passed away in 2006.

Ahmad forged close friendships at LAU and continues to be remembered with affection. Mohammad Finj described his son's university years as the happiest of his life, and expressed gratitude for the steps LAU took to facilitate his studies.

The administration rescheduled room assignments to make Ahmad's classes more easily reachable, provided him with a writing assistant for lectures and exams, and even built a wheelchair ramp on the Beirut campus. Such measures "demonstrated that disabled people can fully succeed academically," Mrs. Finj says.

Ahmad is remembered as a bright student, a great listener and a witty companion. The Finjs never felt they had a sick son, they both say, because Ahmad knew how to live his life to the fullest.

A dedicated student, Ahmad insisted on attending classes even in the face of mounting medical complications. He also enjoyed working at his father's company, and wanted eventually to open his own business.

Ahmad's mother describes him as "our inspiration to be patient, to love, and to always give." Before naming a bench and endowed scholarship fund after him, Mrs. Finj published a book about his life, proceeds from which helped people with cases like his.

The bench is in the upper gate area of the Beirut campus, where Ahmad liked to relax and socialize with friends. "Ahmad's name shall live at a place so dear to his heart," Mrs. Finj concludes.



CampusNotes

For more details about these LAU activities, visit the news section of www.lau.edu.lb.

Shaping Leaders

New grant for Tomorrow's Leaders program

The Tomorrow's Leaders (TL) scholarship program at LAU received a \$2.4-million grant from the U.S. government's Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) in September. Starting in 2011–2012, the grant will finance the expenses for 18 students (enrolled in four-year bachelor's degree programs at LAU) with leadership potential from Saudi Arabia, Algeria and potentially Iraq. LAU's University Enterprise Office, charged with overseeing the program, won its first MEPI TL grant three years ago and welcomed its first six students from various Arab countries in fall 2008. Sixteen additional students joined in 2009, and 15 more this year.



Global Model UN conference participation

Over 1,000 university students from countries where Model UN programs are organized, including seven from LAU, were chosen to participate in the second annual Global Model United Nations Conference (GMUN), which was organized by the UN Department of Public Information and was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from August 14–18. Role-playing as foreign diplomats, they simulated UN General Assembly sessions, under the theme "Towards an Alliance of Civilizations: Bridging Cultures to Achieve Peace and Development." The LAU delegation (the only Lebanese group) included Khaled Kabbara, who served as GMUN's under-secretary-general for General Assembly Affairs and Conference Management — one of just five secretariat positions — after having been selected among hundreds of applicants from around the world.



Conflict-prevention training

The Summer School for Emerging Leaders in Conflict Prevention and Transformation gave the opportunity to 20 young Arabs from different backgrounds to come together for an intensive program on peace building, August 2–11. It included a series of activities that instilled the values of cooperation, trust and tolerance in the participants, who also resided together in the LAU Byblos dorms. The summer school was organized for a sixth consecutive year by LAU's Institute for Peace and Justice Education, with the support of the Mennonite Central Committee Lebanon and Consensus, a negotiation and conflict-resolution consulting private firm based in New York.

Community Outreach and Civic Engagement

Environment clean-up campaigns

About a dozen LAU students, mostly from the university's UNESCO Club, helped clean up Ramlet al-Baida, just one of the 88 locations that were swept by thousands who participated in a campaign to clean Lebanese shores, May 16. Dubbed "Operation Big Blue," the annual event was held under the patronage of the Lebanese President, Prime Minister, and the Ministry of Youth and Sports, in collaboration with the Lebanese Scouts Association and the NGO Cedars for Care.

In a separate event, 10 LAU students cleaned up a small forest in the village of Deddeh in El-Koura, North Lebanon, October 10. They filmed the campaign, which was held as part of the "One Day on Earth," a global media project supported by the United Nations and several non-profits, in which thousands of students, documentary filmmakers, and inspired citizens from over 190 countries across the world participated, documenting their experiences on 10/10/10. Organized by the newly established Outreach and Civic Engagement unit at LAU, the event was designed to shed light on climate change and global warming, and to promote a culture of activism among Lebanese youths.





Standing up for Millennium Development Goals

On September 17, LAU and the UN Information Center (UNIC) in Beirut organized an event under the motto "Stand Up, Take Action and Make Noise for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)," to galvanize Lebanese youth and civil society into action for the implementation of the eight MDGs in the country by the 2015 deadline. During the event held at the UN House in Beirut, LAU and Lebanese high school students participating in the LAU Model UN program, together with representatives of NGOs, took an oath to raise awareness on the MDGs. A proclamation containing a set of recommendations on the implementation of the MDGs in Lebanon was handed over by students to the representatives of the Lebanese executive and legislative authorities and to the UNIC representative, who later delivered a copy to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

Visiting Lecturers

Shedding light on body language

Imad Mekahal, a body-language consultant to various public figures, gave a presentation titled "The Essentials of Body Language," at LAU Beirut's Irwin Hall Auditorium, June 4. Through an interactive discussion with around 150 audience members, made up mostly of LAU alumni, Mekahal offered tips on improving work and social exchanges. The event was organized by the Alumni Relations Office.



Interdisciplinarity in gender studies

Dr. Martina Rieker, director of the Institute for Gender and Women's Studies at the American University of Cairo, gave a lecture titled "Interdisciplinarity and the Emergent Field of Gender and Women's Studies in the Middle East/North Africa Region" on May 20, at LAU Beirut. The event was organized by LAU's Institute for Women's Studies in the Arab World.

Arts, Culture and Language

Intensive Arabic language and culture program

A record number of 164 participants joined LAU's Summer Institute for Intensive Arabic and Culture June 28–August 6 — over 50 more than last summer. The program included six weeks of courses (standard Arabic and Lebanese dialect for four different levels), in addition to weekly trips, guest lectures, and social activities aimed to familiarize participants with the local culture. The program will expand to offer spring courses for the first time next year, besides the summer and fall sessions.



Arts, Culture and Language

International university theater festival

Around 200 young thespians from the Middle East and Europe presented diverse performances during The 13th LAU International University Theatre Festival, held on the Beirut campus, July 22–28. Organized by LAU's Department of Communication Arts, the event featured over 20 theater productions, in addition to concerts, workshops, installations and discussions. Participants came from Belgium, the Netherlands, Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Kuwait, Syria and Lebanon.



Interactive dance performance

I Matter, a dance production written, choreographed and directed by Dr. Nadra Assaf, lecturer of English and dance at LAU, was performed throughout May at Monnot Theater by Assaf's Al-Sarab Dance Troupe. The interactive theatrical dance relied on the audience to play central roles in the progression of the dance, based on the concept that anyone, at any moment in time, matters and makes a difference in the big picture sense. The project's first round consisted of nine performances with 347 attendees. The second round, which was sponsored by LAU's School of Arts and Sciences in Byblos, consisted of six performances gathering 187 attendees.

Architecture and Design

Italian architect Aldo Rossi in the spotlight

The concepts of the late Italian architect Aldo Rossi were re-examined within the context of Lebanon's rapid urbanization, during a symposium organized by LAU's School of Architecture and Design, October 21 at LAU Beirut. The symposium, which featured several renowned experts from Europe and North America who presented on Rossi's life and work, was followed by an exhibition of Rossi's drawings. The event marked the release of an Arabic translation of Rossi's 1984 book, *A Scientific Autobiography*, by Dr. Elie Haddad, assistant dean of the school and associate professor of architecture.



Graphic design student exhibits

The annual end-of-year graphic design exhibitions on both campuses brought together dozens of graduating students who showcased their final-year print and digital-media projects, in May and June. It was the first end-of-year exhibit organized by LAU's School of Architecture and Design, which opened its doors in fall 2009. In Byblos, the exhibit was called "Echo10" and challenged students to consider the impact of their work on culture and society. The Beirut event was themed "Propel": it was about the progression and evolution of the times, particularly signified at LAU by the establishment of the School of Architecture and Design. Like each year, projects on both campuses were judged in a single competition for best design.



Science, Technology and Engineering

Computer programming contest

Nineteen teams of computer science students from 11 universities throughout Lebanon competed in the second annual Lebanese Collegiate Programming Contest (LCPC), held at LAU Beirut, June 25–26. For the second year in a row, the event was organized by LAU Beirut's Computer Science and Mathematics Department. LCPC is a local chapter of the regional Arab Collegiate Programming Contest, itself is a regional chapter of the International Collegiate Programming Contest. (See story on page 47.)



Engineering internships in Dubai

Six LAU civil engineering students completed an intensive internship program in Dubai in May and June, working alongside six peers from New York's Syracuse University. Working in teams, the students visited construction sites and learned about contracting from professionals with the Dubai Contracting Company, which began sponsoring the annual program last year. The students also attended a series of lectures, and prepared presentations and reports.

Computer science students present final projects

On May 24, 17 computer science students presented their eight final-year group projects at LAU Beirut's Academic Computer Center, as part of the annual capstone project competition. The winning project was a business intelligence portal that allows businesses to streamline day-to-day operations by automating data-analysis processes. Representatives from the computer science industry were also invited to the event, where they had the opportunity to meet students and scout for potential recruits. The winners were announced during a gathering on May 26.



Business News

LAU in Qatar: Training and educational programs

On October 4, LAU signed three letters of intent with a three-member Qatari delegation, representing construction giant Al Jaber Group, that included plans to offer an LAU Executive Master of Business Administration (E.M.B.A.) degree in the Gulf country, an executive-training program that could lead to an E.M.B.A., and a massive program to train teachers and principals at over 130 independent Qatari schools. The launch of the three programs, which is being overseen by LAU's University Enterprise Office, is expected to take place in early 2011. LAU's School of Business, School of Arts and Sciences, and Teacher Training Institute will be involved in the implementation of the programs.



PR forum

TRACCS, a regional PR network, in collaboration with The Institute for Media Training and Research at LAU, organized the second Beirut Public Relations Forum that explored strategic issues in the region's PR industry through a series of presentations, panel discussions, and workshops. Themed "Brilliance," the event was held under the patronage of Lebanon's Minister of Information, Dr. Tarek Mitri, July 7–8 at the Gefinor Rotana Hotel in Beirut.

Business News

Seminar on multi-generational family businesses

Business owners and entrepreneurs gathered at LAU Byblos June 19 for a seminar titled "Success of Multi-Generational Family Business," which was given by Dr. Joseph Astrachan, executive director of Cox Family Enterprise Center at Kennesaw State University in Georgia, USA. Organized by LAU's Institute of Family and Entrepreneurial Business, the event shed light on the myths surrounding family business and the keys to effective succession. E.M.B.A. students from Kennesaw State University who were visiting Lebanon were also present.



Donors Give Back



Lebanese banks offer scholarships

Two Lebanese banks affirmed their commitment to offer scholarships to LAU students, during two meetings held at the university in October. Jammal Trust Bank (JTB) will offer one business student a full scholarship (the Ali Abdullah Jammal Memorial Scholarship, named after Ali Jammal, JTB's founding chairman) throughout her years at LAU. Byblos Bank will sponsor 50 percent of the 2010–2011 tuition of five business and two engineering students, through the Byblos Bank Annual Scholarship Grant.

Donation contributes to Byblos cafeteria renovation

The inauguration of the renovated Byblos-campus cafeteria was held October 6. Former Minister H.E. Dr. Leila Solh Hamade, vice president of the Alwaleed Bin Talal Humanitarian Foundation that financed the summer-long renovations through a donation of about \$300,000, was present to cut the ceremonial ribbon. The dining hall was equipped with a cybercafé, large LCD televisions, new furniture, and a modern layout, among other upgrades that were all overseen by the Human Resources and University Services.



Naming LAU seats and benches

LAU's Development Office publicly launched the Seat and Bench Naming Campaign, with a ceremony held at the Beirut campus, July 8. The campaign offers LAU alumni, faculty and staff the opportunity of naming a seat in Irwin Hall Auditorium (Beirut) or Selina Korban Auditorium (Byblos) for a \$500 donation, or a bench on either campus for \$5,000. The initiative, which is a part of the university's Campaign for Excellence: The Legacy and the Promise, had started with a silent phase at the end of 2009, when a select number of potential donors were contacted. At the ceremony, certificates were granted to those who have contributed to the campaign so far.



Entertainment

FIFA World Cup fiesta

Hundreds of families gathered at LAU Beirut over the June 19–20 weekend for the second annual LAU Fiesta, featuring games and entertainment for all ages. Organized by LAU students and the Beirut Alumni Chapter, this year's event was themed "FIFA World Cup."





Tarek Na'was A revered dean of students changes hats

By LAU Staff

Dr. Tarek Na'was, associate professor of biology and pharmacy at LAU, relinquished his position as Dean of Students on the Beirut campus in October 2010. In addition to his teaching duties, Na'was now serves as LAU's official representative at the Association of Lebanese Universities; as liaison with and ombudsman for LAU's international students; and as advisor-in-residence to the pre-med, pre-pharmacy, and pre-nursing students on the Beirut campus, working closely with the deans of Medicine, Pharmacy, and Nursing.

Na'was' tenure as Dean of Students was a fruitful one, and his work in that role was widely admired. Student services such as advising, career placement, and counseling took root, and he oversaw a huge expansion of varsity intramural athletics and extracurricular activities at LAU. Na'was is passionate about sports and a devoted fan of LAU's teams, attending their home and away games on a regular basis. He brought that same generosity and school spirit to the many campus programs he helped to facilitate, including Spring Fiesta, International Heritage Day, and various awareness campaigns, blood drives and charitable initiatives.

Na'was organized and led numerous ceremonies, receptions and programs honoring LAU students. He has also welcomed dozens of delegations from foreign embassies, represented LAU to universities and other organizations around the world, and coordinated student orientations and annual commencements. In his capacity as Dean of Students, he also supervised the offices of the Registrar, Admissions and Financial Aid, helping LAU develop a professional enrollment management team.

Dr. Elise Salem, vice president for Student Development and Enrollment Management at LAU, recalled Na'was in his previous position as "the ultimate advocate for students."

"He ensured that students' rights were maintained and their voices heard. They in turn flocked to his office for counsel. When he walks through the Beirut campus, he is walking amongst friends."

In his public announcement regarding the reassignment, President Joseph G. Jabbra asked the LAU community to join him in "thanking Dr. Tarek Na'was for his excellent years of service as Dean of Students, and congratulating him as he prepares to assume his new responsibilities."





Frem Civic Center

Brick and Mortar

Laying the foundations of a vision

By LAU Staff

From their inception, the Gilbert and Rose-Marie Chagoury School of Medicine and the Alice Ramez Chagoury School of Nursing were envisioned by LAU as pioneering. The medical school is designed to educate a “new physician,” one both trained in state-of-the-art skills and invested in the role of compassionate healer. The integrated curriculum, with its reliance on small group, self-directed, problem-based learning, is designed to develop the depth of character and insight into human nature required of doctors in the 21st century. The schools of Medicine and Nursing are integrated to an unprecedented degree, with future physicians and nurses training alongside one another, their interactions modeled on those of their professional counterparts in a hospital setting.

Realizing this vision requires more than an excellent curriculum and an outstanding faculty; it requires exceptional facilities as well. The School of Medicine and Nursing building nearing completion on LAU’s Byblos campus is visionary in its own right. Flanked by a new library and the recently inaugurated Frem Civic Center, it is a six-story state-of-the-art educational structure, designed to motivate students, support collaborative learning as well as formal practice, and provide an environment responsive to the dynamic needs of progressive health care education.

Creating space around people rather than technology was the guiding design principle. Human needs like comfort, natural light, social ambiance, and window views took precedence over mere utilitarian function. At the same time, the building features world-class facilities and technologies, ranging from videoconferencing to simulation labs to digitized collections of microscope slides.

The Entrance Hall welcomes visitors with a four-story skylight. A large plasma screen overlooking the entrance informs students of key events in the faculty calendar or activities for the day. The ground floor comprises spaces designed to facilitate collaboration between faculty and students, as well as 24-hour cyber café.

The design team drew upon a range of architectural influences, recalls George Hamouche, assistant vice president for Facilities Management at LAU. Partners Harvard Medical International (PHMI) provided a tour of medical school campuses in New England, including Harvard, Northeastern, and UMass Boston.

“They returned with design ideas related to these new ways of teaching medicine, and with the help of HMI conceived the space, its distribution over the floors, where the labs would go. It was a synthesis,” Hamouche explains.



The first floor includes simulation laboratories designed to represent various clinical settings, from patient interviews to sophisticated treatment areas. The second floor will house the Case Method Rooms, electronically advanced amphitheaters with individual “voting” systems creating an interactive lecture environment. Floors three and four will include “smart” laboratories for both student and faculty research.

“We aim to be a leader in interdisciplinary education and this building will help us achieve that goal.”

—Nancy Hoffart, founding dean, School of Nursing, LAU

Classrooms, laboratories and clinical areas throughout the building will be used jointly by students from the School of Nursing and the School of Medicine. Dr. Nancy Hoffart, founding dean of LAU’s School of Nursing, says that interdisciplinary education is a “must” in today’s health care environment.

“The design of this building will facilitate faculty efforts to bring together not only nursing and medical students, but in many situations also pharmacy, nutrition, and social work students,” Hoffart explains.

“We aim to be a leader in interdisciplinary education and this building will help us achieve that goal.” 🧩



New Appointments

Lynn Eckhert



Dr. Lynn Eckhert took on the post of interim dean of the Gilbert and Rose-Marie Chagoury School of Medicine in October. Eckhert had been a key player in the development of the medical school in the years leading up to its establishment, through her membership in Partners Harvard Medical International.

Before joining LAU, Eckhert enjoyed a distinguished career in pediatrics as well as serving as professor of family medicine and community health, professor in the Graduate School of Nursing and adjunct professor in public health at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, and senior lecturer in population health at Harvard Medical School.

She holds a Master of Nursing from the New York Medical College Graduate School of Nursing, a Doctor of Medicine from State University of New York at Buffalo School of Medicine, and a Master and Doctorate of Public Health, both from Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health.

Following several years of postdoctoral training, Eckhert began an academic career in 1976 at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, where she held several teaching and administrative positions, including associate professor of pediatrics, assistant dean for admissions, chair of the Family and Community Medicine Department, and professor of family and community medicine.

Eckhert's position at LAU is hardly her first outside the United States. Her interest in international health began during her first international rotation as a medical student in Liberia. Since then, Eckhert has held visiting professorships in China, the United Kingdom, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Hungary, South Korea and Japan. She also taught at LAU for two months in 2009.

Pierre Zalloua



Dr. Pierre Zalloua became interim dean of LAU's School of Pharmacy in October, three years after joining the university, where he has been serving as associate professor and assistant dean for research at the Gilbert and Rose-Marie Chagoury School of Medicine.

Zalloua is an internationally recognized geneticist specializing in complex diseases with particular relevance to Middle Eastern populations. Even with the new administrative duties that go along with his new post, Zalloua says he remains dedicated to his research.

In 2010, Zalloua won a \$1 million grant from the Qatar National Research Fund to assemble a team and research Type II Diabetes, a rapidly spreading disease in the Middle East. He received international attention in 2009 after discovering a genetic signature unique to the ancient Phoenician civilization.

Zalloua has made considerable progress in identifying susceptibility gene variants for Type I Diabetes and coronary artery disease in the last few years, as part of an ongoing research project to study complex diseases and their interactions with the environment. He was also the principal investigator for the FGENTCARD Project, a European Union research project from 2007 to 2009.

Zalloua holds a bachelor's in biology from the American University of Beirut, a master's in biological sciences from San Jose State University, and a doctorate in genetics from the University of California, Davis.

After several years of postgraduate fellowships in genetics, molecular biology and population genetics at UC Davis, Applied Biosystems, and the Harvard School of Public Health, respectively, Zalloua served as an assistant professor, then associate professor, at AUB's school of medicine between 2003 and 2007.

Raed Mohsen



Dr. Raed Mohsen was appointed Dean of Students at LAU Beirut effective October 1. He has been part of the LAU community since 1996, when he joined as a faculty member in the Department of Communication Arts.

A specialist in human communication, Mohsen serves on the Board of Directors of the Learning Center for the Deaf, and is a co-founder and honorary member of the Lebanese Association for Mediation and Conciliation.

Mohsen received a bachelor's in interpersonal and public communication in 1983, a master's in political science (public administration) in 1984, and a doctorate in interpersonal and public communication in 1987 from Bowling Green State University in Ohio. In 1996, he earned a Master of Social Work from Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C. He later taught for seven years in Gallaudet's Department of Communication Arts.

Mohsen said he is dedicated to serving students by "enhancing student life, contributing to the college experience, protecting their rights, and ensuring they receive the services that are expected of a leading institution of higher education."

Mohsen served as chair of the Department of Communication Arts from 2006 to 2009, prior to his appointment as Dean of Students. He was also a faculty representative for six terms.

Outside the university, Mohsen has practiced social work in his private clinic, counseling adolescents, couples and families. He has also hosted a tri-weekly morning television segment addressing social, marital and family issues. In addition, he has headed workshops and training seminars on topics of conflict management and resolution, team-building, presentation skills and parenting skills.

Christian Oussi



Christian Oussi has recently been promoted to executive director of public and media relations. He joined LAU in 2006 after being appointed as director of that office.

Oussi, a veteran journalist, is a well-known figure inside Lebanese media circles. He started his career in 1980 as a reporter at Voice of Lebanon radio station and Al Anwar newspaper, before taking on more prominent positions in the field. His clout in the industry has helped attract a strong media focus on LAU in the press.

He graduated from Lebanese University in 1981 with bachelor's degrees in journalism and in political studies. He later earned a master's in political science, and is currently enrolled in a Ph.D. program in political science at Aix-Marseille University in France.

Elie Samia



Elie Samia was recently appointed executive director of the newly established office for Outreach and Civic Engagement. Samia, who is also a lecturer in political science and sociology, first joined LAU in 1991.

He holds a master's in political science with an emphasis in political development, and a bachelor's in political science, both from the American University in Cairo. He became a faculty adviser for the Harvard World Model United Nations in 2002.

Three years later, Samia was appointed director of guidance at LAU Byblos. Also in 2005, he became director of the Global Classrooms – LAU's Model United Nations.

Samia writes and lectures about leadership and negotiation skills as well as political and constitutional reforms in Lebanon. He aspires to engage the largest number of LAU students in leadership outreach programs and voluntary civic action.

Welcoming Faculty



JENINE ABOUSHI

Dr. Jenine Abboushi became an assistant professor at LAU's Department of Humanities in 2010, teaching a graduate seminar on methodologies in comparative literature, sophomore rhetoric, and the 19th-century British novel. She holds a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from Harvard University. She says she joined LAU because it is "changing and developing rapidly," and because creative thinking and initiatives are valued. She also took as a good sign the support of a vibrant theater culture at LAU.



THAMARA ABOUANTOUN

Dr. Thamara Abouantoun is a fresh face to LAU, where she teaches medical anatomy, and physiology and pathophysiology. She is a trained molecular oncologist investigating cancer stem cell therapy in childhood tumors, and is currently working on publishing her manuscripts with her former mentor at the Children's National Medical Center in Washington, D.C. She says she came to LAU to be part of a "prospering institution" with the hope of establishing a cancer research studies program. She holds a Ph.D. in Molecular Medicine from George Washington University.



ASTERIOS AGKATHIDIS

Asterios Agkathidis is currently a visiting professor at LAU's School of Architecture and Design, where he teaches Design III and Design V. He studied architecture at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki in Greece, the RWTH (Aachen, Germany) and the Städelschule (Frankfurt, Germany). His research focuses on systematic design methods and emerging technologies. He is the editor and author of four books, which are being distributed internationally. Agkathidis is currently working on his fifth book, a chair collection, which will include teaching and research activities from LAU and some architectural projects in Greece and Germany.



GUY ASSAKER

Dr. Guy Assaker joined LAU in 2010 as an assistant professor at the School of Business. He holds a Ph.D. in Decision Science from ESSEC Business School, a master's in international tourism strategy from University of Paris 1 Pantheon-Sorbonne, and an M.B.A. from Cornell University. He says he joined LAU because of its excellent reputation and commitment to research. He currently teaches research and quantitative methods for business, as well as tourism subjects. Outside LAU, he serves as a consultant with Salina Hotel Consultant.



NADA EL-KHOURY ASSOUD

Dr. Nada El-Khoury Assouad joined LAU's School of Architecture and Design in 2010 where she teaches environmental and sustainable design. She earned a Ph.D. from the Faculty of Environmental Design at the University of Montreal in 2008. She says she was motivated to join LAU because of its multidisciplinary approach to teaching and liberal attitude toward multiculturalism. She has maintained close ties and is currently contributing to projects with the University of Montreal.



REINE AZZI

Reine Azzi took on a full-time faculty position at the School of Arts and Sciences in 2010 where she teaches courses in English, rhetoric and moral reasoning. She had previously been teaching at LAU part-time since 2007. Originally from Lebanon, she has done graduate work in France, Italy and Scotland before moving back. She describes her interest in "fostering the spirit of community engagement" among her students, and has previously taken them on field trips to orphanages, health care centers, and the Lebanese Red Cross.



MARIA BAHOUS

Maria Bahous has been teaching graphic design courses at LAU since 2007, but only recently became a full-time faculty member. An LAU graduate, Bahous says she believes the Graphic Design Department has set a program and philosophy that meet the interests of the students while continuously striving to improve. She earned her M.A. in Typography and Information Design at the London College of Communication in 2006, the same year she established a design studio in Beirut.



YASMINE DABBOUS

Dr. Yasmine Dabbous recently joined LAU as an assistant professor of journalism and media studies. She is the director of The Institute for Media Training and Research at LAU. She holds a B.A. in Journalism from LAU, an M.S. in Communication Studies from Boston University, and a Ph.D. in Mass Communication and Public Affairs from Louisiana State University. Dabbous is also part of a three-member research team conducting a survey of media in Lebanon for the Open Society Foundation in Europe.



DEEMA DAKAKNI

Deema Dakakni recently took on a full-time teaching position at LAU, where she teaches English courses at variable levels, starting with Intensive III, all the way up to Remedial, English I, English II and Oral Communication Skills. She says her motivations to join LAU are based on its "eternal striving for excellence in education and lifelong learning." Dakakni earned an M.A. from LAU in 2009. She says she looks forward to being involved in conferences and academic projects at LAU.



MARINA DODIGOVIC

Dr. Marina Dodigovic joined LAU's School of Arts and Sciences in October 2010 where she teaches English courses. An Australian national, Dodigovic has spent the past several years teaching in the Middle East. Prior to joining LAU, Dodigovic taught at Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar from 2007–2010, at the American University of Sharjah in the UAE from 2004–2007, and Zayed University in Dubai from 2002–2004. Her research interests include the use of computers in second-language acquisition and teaching. She holds a Ph.D. in Linguistics from the University of Bremen in Germany.



RAED EL-KHALIL

Dr. Raed El-Khalil is a visiting professor at LAU's School of Engineering, where he teaches project scheduling and lean manufacturing. El-Khalil received a Ph.D. in Manufacturing Engineering from Lawrence Technological University in 2008. In addition to his work at LAU, he works for Chrysler LLC in Michigan as a consultant in advanced manufacturing engineering. His current projects at Chrysler include improving body shop manufacturing and assembly processing at the Warren Truck assembly plant, and work on robot design and efficiency improvement at the Sterling Heights assembly plant.



BEHNAME FARAHPOUR

Behnam Farahpour has been a visiting associate professor of Design Foundation at LAU's School of Architecture and Design since February 2010. Farahpour earned a Master of Architecture in 2009 from the University of California, Berkeley, and a Bachelor of Fine Art from Carnegie Mellon University. He says he decided to join LAU since it offered the opportunity to teach design studio concurrent with his design research. He also wanted to gain exposure to Lebanese culture. Outside LAU, Farahpour is working on several design projects with his partner at their design firm, RefinedGrit, while he prepares a few abstracts for conferences in the United States and Europe.



ELIE HARFOUCHE

Elie Harfouche recently began teaching full-time at LAU's School of Architecture and Design. He had previously been a part-time instructor there since 2007. Harfouche received an M.Sc. in Architectural History and Theory from University College London in 2006 and a Diploma in Higher Studies in Architecture from the University of Balamand in 2000. Harfouche is currently organizing exhibitions and talks about the LAU architecture and design program's unique International Studio program. Outside LAU, Harfouche is involved in small interior design and architecture projects on a very selective basis while serving as the editor-in-chief of an upcoming online venture called Archileb: The Lebanese Architecture Portal.





ADONI MAALOUF

Adoni Maalouf recently took on a full-time position at LAU's Department of Communication Arts, where he teaches radio production, introduction to the art of theater and to acting, and play production. An LAU graduate, Maalouf says he decided to leave his part-time teaching positions at the American University of Beirut and Notre Dame University in order "to give back" to his alma mater. He holds an M.A. in Advanced Theater Practice from the Central School of Speech and Drama in the United Kingdom. Aside from theater, acting and film, Maalouf's interests include adventurous sports like rock climbing, mountaineering, scuba diving, and paragliding.



BASSEM MAAMARI

Dr. Bassem Maamari had been teaching part-time at LAU's School of Business since 1998 until taking on a full-time position in October 2010. He received a bachelor's in business accounting in 1988, and a master's in business management in 1992, both from LAU. He recently finished a doctorate in Grenoble, France. Maamari held several managerial positions over the past 18 years before deciding to commit to LAU full-time since it "presents a dynamic educational experience in an ever-evolving environment".



WASSILIA MAKAREM

Wassilia Makarem recently became a full-time faculty member at LAU having served part-time in the Department of Humanities since 2008 where she teaches English courses. She received her master's, bachelor's and teaching diploma all from the American University of Beirut (AUB). Prior to joining LAU, Makarem taught English at AUB. She says she joined LAU for its "educational profile, its friendly ambiance, its meritocracy and its relaxing atmosphere." Her interests include literature, music and photography.



NADIM MOHSEN

Nadim Mohsen recently became a full-time faculty member at the School of Arts and Sciences, where he teaches courses in cultural studies, and introduction to philosophy and to political science. He had previously been teaching part-time at LAU since 2003. He says LAU has allowed him to make a career out of what he loves and describes the university as "an ideal environment to optimize growth and research for personal and professional development, while feeling useful to an entire generation of young people, and hopefully, the community at large." He holds a D.E.A. in Political Sociology and a Master in Social Development from the Lebanese University, and a B.S. in Economics from the University of Michigan. He is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Political Sociology from the Lebanese University.



ELSY RAMIA

Dr. Elsy Ramia joined LAU's School of Pharmacy over the summer of 2010 after having earned her Pharm.D. degree from the university in 2009. In summer 2009, she started working as a clinical pharmacist at Centre Hospitalier du Nord (CHN) – Zgharta, where she participated in establishing and implementing drug utilization protocols. She also participated in preparing several continuing education programs for nurses and pharmacy technicians, and in implementing JCAHO requirements in the hospital pharmacy.



HANIBAL SROUJI

Hanibal Srouji recently joined LAU as an assistant professor at the School of Architecture and Design, where he teaches courses in foundation. He had previously been a lecturer in design at Sorbonne University in Paris from 2006–2009. He received both a Bachelor and Master of Fine Arts in Painting from Concordia University in Montreal. He left Lebanon at a very young age in 1976, and says teaching at LAU allowed him to fulfil his dream – held dear throughout his years in Canada and France – of returning to his native country to share his knowledge and experiences.

Aline Saad

Bringing compassion to the field of pharmacy

By Emily Morris



Dr. Aline Saad is a clinical assistant professor and chair of LAU's Department of Pharmacy Practice. She joined the university in 2007, after returning to Lebanon from the United States, where she completed both her Pharm.D. degree and her residency in Michigan.

In addition to teaching courses and pursuing research, Saad has been working hard to give more weight to the service-learning component of the curriculum. Service-learning is built on the idea that pharmacists and other health practitioners must be as socially compassionate as they are clinically competent, and that interaction with the community is vital in fostering communication skills and a philosophy of social responsibility. Saad serves as the president of the No Apathy Pharmacy Awareness Student Society (NAPHASS), which aims to cultivate leadership in pharmacy students and reach out to the community through health awareness campaigns.

"We are trying to show our students that pharmacy is more than just filling prescriptions," Saad said. "We must understand the socioeconomic context our patients inhabit, in order best to serve them."

LAU Magazine recently caught up with Saad to talk about the pharmacy profession and how it is evolving.

Q&A

What made you decide to become a pharmacist? I chose pharmacy because it is a dynamic field where discoveries of new medicines are happening every day, with the possibility of cures for diseases.

What are some of the challenges facing pharmacists in Lebanon? There are three main challenges here. The first is to implement clinical pharmacy, a more holistic approach. It is standard practice in the U.S., and the Order of Pharmacy in Lebanon is trying to make it a requirement for hospitals to have clinical pharmacists. Secondly, we have counterfeit drugs, a problem we as pharmacists can't fix alone. The third problem is patient access to medication, since health equity is not anywhere close to 100 percent in any part of the world.

What can a pharmacy student expect these days upon graduation? It's a growing, very promising career. There are many tracks that a student can choose as far as career development. A student can go on for postgraduate education, and many of our students do get accepted into Ph.D. programs, fellowships or residency programs. Those who decide to work right away have many opportunities as well, whether in Lebanon, elsewhere in the Middle East, or in the U.S., since we're accredited by the ACPE (Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education). Our students are probably the most sought-after, and once they apply, they usually get accepted before students from other universities. Why? Because we train them very well and they have an excellent reputation.

What accomplishment, either personal or professional, means the most to you? My most significant personal accomplishment is motherhood. I am a proud mother of three boys: Habib, 9, and 4-year-old twin boys — Omar and Kamal. I pray to be able to help them achieve their potential as individuals, to care for their physical and emotional needs and to love them beyond imagination.



Aline Saad during a NAPHASS visit to the SOS Children's Village in Kfarhay, North Lebanon

THE LEGACY & THE PROMISE CAMPAIGN



LAU on Capitol Hill

By Greg Houle

Regular visits to the center of America's political establishment are invaluable in making the case for supporting LAU's mission and goals for the future. Washington's value to the university — indeed its value to the cause of American higher education worldwide — is incalculable.

Vice President for University Advancement Richard Rumsey and LAU Government Relations consultant Graeme Bannerman lead the university's efforts in the U.S. capital. Rumsey travels to Washington on a bimonthly basis, and Bannerman is based there and in regular contact with government officials on the university's behalf. They are joined at least twice a year by LAU President Joseph G. Jabbara, when the team spends a hectic few days in Capitol Hill racing through the cavernous Rayburn and Longworth buildings, which house the offices of U.S. congressmen. Typically they meet with members of Congress and their staff, sometimes to thank representatives and senators for supporting funding initiatives, or signing letters of support (such as the one sent to U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in 2009, which advocated for the funding of vital scholarship programs at American educational institutions in the Middle East), sometimes to meet newly elected officials and others not yet familiar with the role of institutions like LAU in providing the region with quality higher education on the American model.

"If you want to project American values, you do it through education," said former Congressman William D. Delahunt in a meeting with LAU officials during the summer of 2009, when

he was representative for the state of Massachusetts. Though a familiar refrain from Washington's political establishment, this isn't something that LAU or any other American university abroad can take for granted. They must work to keep elected officials and others informed of the value LAU provides, not only by educating the people of Lebanon and the Middle East but by improving the regional image of the United States.

LAU's D.C. delegation also works to build and maintain valuable relationships with individuals from various agencies, lobbies, and advocacy groups based in the capital. These relationships provide LAU with visibility, and help pave the way for grant and scholarship opportunities. Three years ago, at a Board of Trustees meeting in Washington, then-U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings praised LAU for demonstrating the "transformative role that higher-education institutions can play in bringing students of diverse cultures together in the common cause of seeking truth and knowledge." Thanks in large part to the LAU team's work, support for the university and its mission is strong in Washington, a fact resoundingly confirmed this last autumn by the USAID grant of more than \$6.9 million.

Our work in Washington is never finished. On March 24–25 the university will hold its Board of Trustees meeting in the city, and in mid-April Dr. Jabbara and other LAU officials will head once again to Capitol Hill for more high-level meetings.

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Up in Smoke

The high cost
of a national vice

By Emily Morris

The Lebanese see themselves, not without reason, as the tastemakers of the Middle East. Trends in fashion, literature, cuisine, medicine, exercise and technology are often cultivated in Lebanon before spreading throughout the region.

There is one international and regional trend, however, that has left the Lebanese lagging noticeably behind: anti-tobacco legislation. Given the country's alarmingly high tobacco consumption and the scientific evidence stacked up against smoking, experts say this is a fad the country cannot afford to ignore.

"What we have in Lebanon is insulting and deplorable when it comes to tobacco use," says Dr. Ghazi Zaatari, chair of the WHO Study Group on Tobacco Product Regulation and chair of the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at the American University of Beirut (AUB).

Unlike many other countries in the Middle East, Lebanon has no viable national tobacco control policy. It falls behind Syria, Bahrain, Qatar, Jordan, UAE, Egypt and Iran in implementing measures proven to reduce a population's tobacco consumption.

Knowledge of risk is no match for the force of addiction, says Dr. Rima Nakkash, assistant research professor at the Faculty of Public Health, AUB. The key factor to high tobacco consumption, she explains, is the "enabling environment" around an individual, and this is where the law comes into play.

"The international consensus based on scientific evidence is that to reduce consumption what you need is a strong framework of policies working together in different ways," Nakkash says.

Periodic efforts — from the civil war years up through the present — to pass tobacco-control legislation have failed for a number of reasons.

Lebanon took a step when it ratified the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) in 2005, joining 170 other countries in a worldwide effort to reduce smoking and rates of tobacco-related diseases and deaths. But since then, the government has done little to fulfill its obligation to the treaty.

"Countries with weak governance will sign such conventions to convey the impression that they are 'developed,'" Nakkash says. Failure to follow through elicits little more than a slap on the wrist from the international community.

"What we have in Lebanon is insulting and deplorable when it comes to tobacco use."

—Ghazi Zaatari, chair, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, AUB

Since April 2009, a draft law in the Lebanese Parliament has been tabled for discussion and faces continual delays. The draft has three main points: banning smoking in public places, banning tobacco advertising, sponsorship and promotion, and including pictorial warnings on cigarette packs.

"Lebanon has to honor its national obligations," says Zaatari. "There has to be acceptance of the notion that the freedom of the smoker stops when it infringes on the well-being of the people around them and their right for clean air."



Tobacco's social and economic toll

One needn't be in Lebanon long to notice the ubiquity of tobacco use. Wreaths of pungent smoke waft through cafés, bars, offices and taxis, and in social life an offer of a cigarette is almost always on the table. With no restrictive laws on advertising in public areas, marketing campaigns often focus their efforts around schools, colleges and universities.

The numbers are indeed staggering.

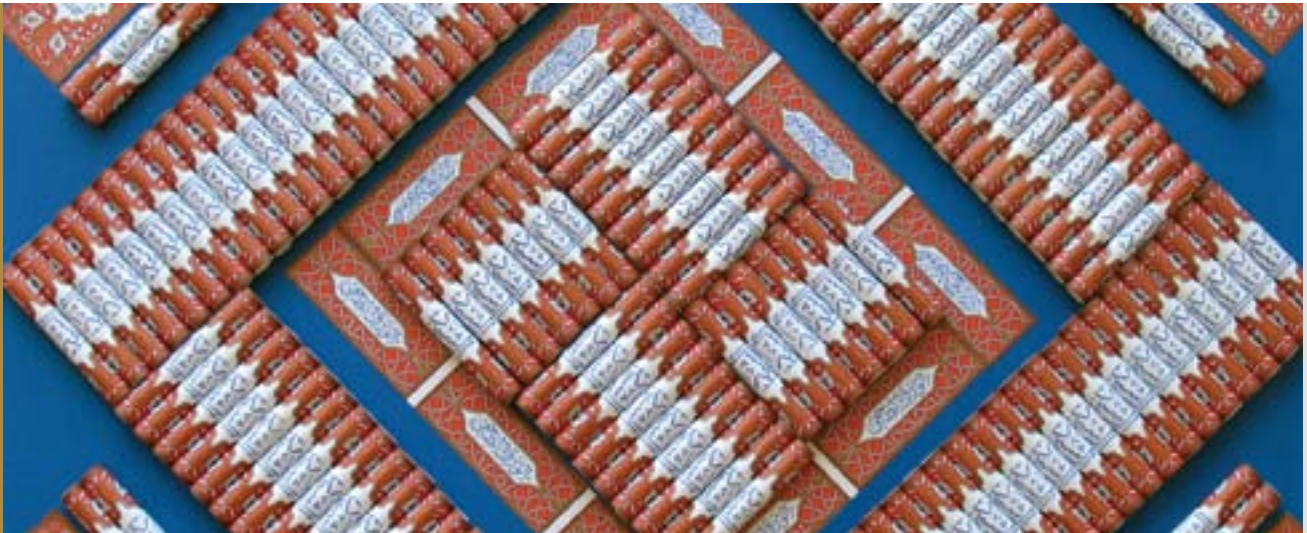
Forty-three percent of Lebanese adult males are cigarette smokers, one of the highest rates in the Middle East, according to the latest figures of the National Tobacco Control Program (NTCP). Thirty-two percent of females age 24 and above currently use tobacco products, which include cigarettes and the water pipe. Jordan is a distant second in the region at 7 percent.

According to Zaatari, the percentage of women diagnosed with lung cancer at AUB Medical Center has increased from 3 percent to 25 percent over the past two decades. He attributes this to aggressive campaigns by the tobacco and advertising industries to make smoking seem glamorous, sexy and feminine.

Lebanese youths are acutely affected. Twelve percent of 13-15 year-olds smoke cigarettes. Sixty percent of teenagers have tried or regularly use the water pipe, in contrast to 6 percent in the United Kingdom. And an estimated 75 percent of children are regularly exposed to second-hand smoke.

Lebanese smokers are also among the heaviest in the world: adults consume an estimated 7.8 billion cigarettes per year — 12 times as many cigarette packs per month as Singapore, and three times as many as Syria.

Lebanon keeps no official figures on tobacco-related illnesses and deaths, Dr. Georges Saade, NTCP coordinator in the Ministry



Tobacco paper turned into art by artist Lianne Mathes Rabbat

of Public Health, told LAU Magazine, but based on country-specific equations derived from international epidemiology statisticians, 3,500 people die of smoking-related causes a year.

And smoking is not only costing Lebanon lives, it's costing the state money, according to a recent research report by the AUB Tobacco Control Research Group (TCRG), a multidisciplinary group of faculty established in 1999 to study smoking-related issues. (Dr. Nakkash is currently its coordinator.)

Titled "The Economics of Tobacco in Lebanon: An Estimation of the Social Costs of Tobacco Consumption," the TCRG paper estimates that the state actually loses about \$55 million per year due to cigarette smoking. After taking into account "various costs related to tobacco smoking," including health care costs, inefficiency costs, costs from lost production, environmental costs, and costs to non-smokers, the group estimates a \$326.7 million overall cost to the economy, as opposed to an estimated net revenue from tobacco of \$271 million.

Roadblocks from big tobacco

Despite the preponderance of evidence of the cumulative social and economic costs of tobacco in Lebanon, anti-smoking advocates have a long fight ahead.

According to Saade, the draft law was scheduled to be passed before May 2010, but was delayed for various and shifting reasons, from political instability to interference from tobacco companies and the advertising and hospitality industries.

"I think it definitely will be passed, but I can no longer speculate on when," says Saade. "I'm tired of saying 'this month,' then 'this month.' I feel like I've been lying for six months to the donors who are giving me money to move tobacco control activities forward in this country."

Nakkash stresses that it isn't enough just to get a law — any law — passed. The devil is in the details, she says, and an ineffectual law is not so much a good start as a missed opportunity. She notes that the draft law, for instance, initially allowed for smoking and non-smoking sections, the very premise of which has been scientifically discredited.

"Smoke dissipates from one space to another very effectively. The purpose of having a smoke-free law is to protect from

exposure to second-hand smoke."

There is another group paying close attention to the draft law's details — the tobacco industry. Agents from multinational tobacco companies are big players in Lebanon's financial markets and hold sway in the political arena. And they stand to lose the most from robust regulation.

"The tobacco industry is powerful and the Lebanese government is a partner in tobacco manufacturing through the state-run regulatory agency, the Régie," Zaatari explains.

"This is not rocket science," says Nakkash. The tobacco advertising and hospitality industries can "infiltrate and water down policies that are initially strong. The important thing is to have policy makers on your side who are convinced it's not OK to have a watered-down policy."

Like Saade, Nakkash is certain the draft law will pass but hesitant to say when or in what form.

"We finally have serious and supportive policy makers on our side. I'm optimistic," she says.

The campus scene: smoke-free vs. smokers' freedoms

A student sitting on the stairs near the Upper Gate of LAU's Beirut campus lights up a cigarette and inhales. "Smoking relaxes me," says 20-year-old Omar, who asked that his surname not be printed. "Lebanon has so many other problems, I don't really see how me smoking is anyone's business."

In 2008, the administration at AUB made smoking their business. The campus is now smoke-free even outdoors, except for small designated areas. According to Nakkash and students LAU Magazine spoke to, the community is abiding by the rule, and some smokers even like it.

Saade hopes LAU will follow suit without waiting for passage of a national law. "It should be a policy of the university; it's unacceptable that an international university is not smoke-free," he says.

Freshman Najla Abouelias, 18, a smoker, thinks a campus ban would be a terrible idea. "It would create a lot of traffic at the gates. I'd say 80 percent of students here smoke and the campus is kind of small to have smoking areas," she says.



Photo courtesy of AUB

Sophomore Mohamad Khansa, an 18-year-old interior architecture major and non-smoker, is strongly in favor of a smoke-free LAU campus. "I have a right to breathe clean air. Come on, we're educated. We should be setting an example," he says.

In reality, where is a smoke-free campus initiative on LAU's priority list?

"A few months ago I would have said low," says Dr. Elise Salem, vice president of Student Development and Enrollment Management at LAU. "But there has been a resurgence of interest on this subject from our students," she says, citing the mobilization of student groups in Byblos, and an open Student-Staff-Faculty Forum dedicated to the topic on the Beirut campus in February, organized by the Dean of Students' office.

Salem adds: "We have regular and ongoing anti-smoking awareness campaigns at LAU, but we won't institute a ban just because AUB did it, or because we're an American university. With other problems to confront — environmentally, politically and socially — getting people not only at LAU but around Lebanon to agree on the importance of non-smoking policies will be challenging."

Salem goes on to underscore the difficulty of introducing "nanny state" regulations in Lebanon, where there's a libertarian streak, "a certain defiance."

Even Zaatari knows it would be naive to think implementation of a smoking ban will be easy and immediate. "But there has to be a starting point," he says.

Dr. Raed Mohsen, the Dean of Students on LAU's Beirut campus, believes for his part that regulation is a matter of time. "We cannot not ban smoking at LAU," he says, citing a highly successful student petition circulated last year for a "smoke free campus."

Mohsen concedes the likelihood of divisions among faculty, students and staff over the issue, as well as the difficulty of designating smoking areas on a small campus. "Like all controversial issues, such proposal has to go through specific procedures."

For now, Omar and other smokers can continue puffing away without worry. Whether it's the state or the university to move first in making public places smoke-free, they will have some thorny hoops to jump through. ☐



Hooked on Hookah

Experts have recently warned of the less-understood dangers of the water pipe. Commonly known as *shisha*, *nargileh*, *argileh*, hookah and hubble bubble, it is wildly popular among men and women of all ages. The decorative body and bowl, the colorful hose, the slow pulse of the glowing coals and the pipe's liquid murmurings give it a glamour all its own, and the mild sweetness of the water-cooled smoke — so unlike the acrid heat of cigarette smoke — seems deceptively benign. In fact, a single session of nargileh smoke delivers as much tar as an entire pack of cigarettes and contains toxic compounds such as carbon monoxide, formaldehyde, nitric oxide, arsenic and other cancer-causing chemicals, according to reports by the AUB Tobacco Control Research Group (TCRG).

Nargileh tobacco smoking is widely viewed as a social activity in Lebanon and throughout the region. It's not uncommon to see groups of elderly Lebanese men sitting outside their shops, leisurely puffing shisha; or a young couple playing cards for hours at a local café with individual nargilehs. It's also popular among tourists looking for an "authentic" Middle Eastern experience.

But the water pipe falls under tobacco control laws just like cigarettes, which proves a double challenge in countries where the predilection for both is high. Particularly challenging is the complete lack of health warnings on the boxes of *ma'assel*, or nargileh tobacco.

"You'll find misleading labels that say it has 0 percent nicotine, 0 percent tar. Some have pictures of healthy and beautiful looking women. With no control policies in place you can write anything you want," says Dr. Rima Nakkash, coordinator of the AUB TCRG.

Changing perceptions about nargileh will not be easy, as it is more fashionable than ever. "A while ago you wouldn't find these coffee shops catering to nargileh. They've multiplied enormously and have gotten many more people addicted along the way," Nakkash says.



Dean Nancy Hoffart during Nursing Day



LAU Expansion Spawns New Program Offerings

By Marc Abi Zeid

LAU's course catalog has thickened noticeably this year, the result of an unprecedented expansion of program offerings across disciplines to now include 50 undergraduate and graduate degrees and 16 minors.

In addition to the B.S. in Nutrition introduced last spring, LAU began offering a B.S. in Mathematics and a B.S. in Nursing in the fall semester. Three new minors have been launched this semester: legal studies, psychology and English.

All the new programs aside from nursing are in the School of Arts and Sciences. Beginning in spring 2011, a Minor in Environmental Science will be offered jointly through the School of Arts and Sciences and the School of Engineering.

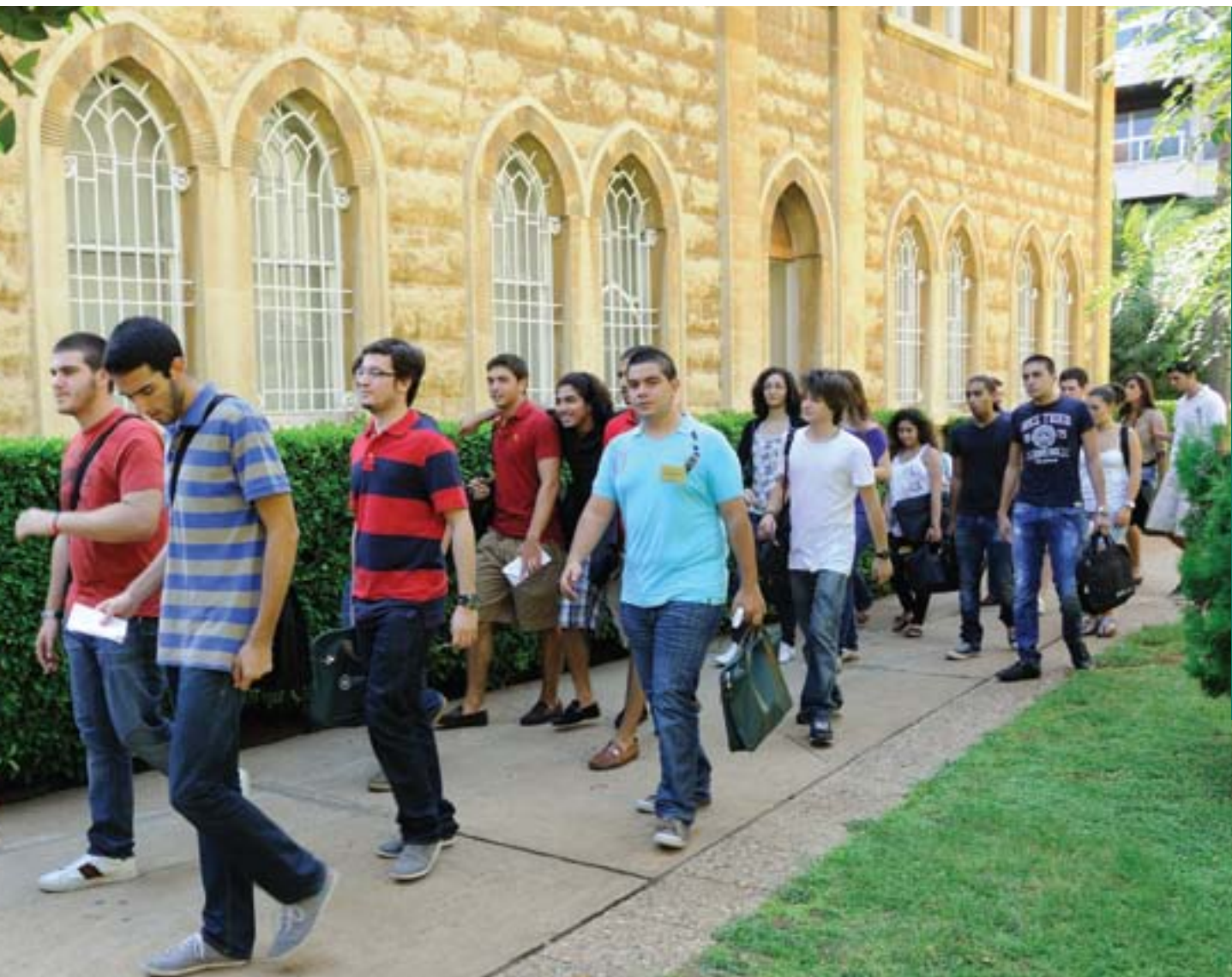
"This stronger push toward expanding the School of Arts and Sciences program offerings came as a consequence of the university's strategic plan (2005–10), which induced the development of an academic plan for the School of Arts and Sciences for the period 2008–2013," says Dr. Fuad Hashwa, dean of the School of Arts and Sciences in Byblos.

According to Hashwa, the School of Arts and Sciences is currently developing programs in bioinformatics, nanotechnology, Middle Eastern studies, foreign languages such as Chinese and Italian, teaching of Arabic as a foreign language, teaching of English as a foreign language, and translation. The programs may be available as soon as spring 2011 or the next academic year.

"The array of program options is going to make it really hard to decide on a major," says Reem Afifi, a freshman studying at the Beirut campus. "But then again, that's why I chose to study at LAU in the first place, not because I was interested in a particular program, but because I knew I would have options."

"This stronger push toward expanding the School of Arts and Sciences program offerings came as a consequence of the university's strategic plan."

—Fuad Hashwa, dean, School of Arts and Sciences, LAU Byblos



New LAU students during an orientation tour on the Beirut campus

The establishment of the new Alice Ramez Chagoury School of Nursing and its four-year B.S. program may represent the single most significant of LAU's new offerings because of the opportunities it creates. In addition to admitting students pursuing a profession in high demand globally, the nursing program complements the other medically oriented programs at LAU.

"I decided to follow a career path in nursing because it requires individuals who are caring and attentive to patients at their most vulnerable moments," says Yvonne Jleilat, a new nursing student at the Byblos campus. She added that she chose LAU over other universities with nursing programs because of the encouragement of the staff and faculty of the school, as well as its affiliation with University Medical Center – Rizk Hospital.

The legal studies and environmental sciences minor programs are the first of their kind at LAU. They were made possible through the support of philanthropist Dr. Hanibal Tayeh, the president and CEO of Spectrum Analytical, a key laboratory in Massachusetts.

Some students are taking advantage of the English minor to

explore an interest or enhance a practical skill, since it is a second or third language for many of them.

"For me, it's not about a passion for the language," says Leia Haidar, a sophomore psychology major. "It's more of a strategic move. A strong level of English is essential to compete in today's globalized world."





Patient-doctor scenario simulation training



LAU Medical School Features Simulation Training Unique in Lebanon

By Marc Abi Zeid

Building on the success of the Standardized Patient Instructor Program (SPI) introduced last year, LAU's medical school (LAUMS) is training its second batch of volunteer actors to accommodate the increased number of medical students and their higher level of competency.

Seven new standardized patients are undergoing training led by Dr. Nadia Asmar, an LAUMS faculty member, and Dr. Lina Abyad, assistant professor of theater at LAU's School of Arts and Sciences, in addition to the original 10 that have been with the program since last year. The program allows medical students to examine, interview and diagnose the standardized patients as they act out symptoms associated with a particular condition.

"We have gained experience and now we're improving things," Asmar says. "We started with the basics last year, and now the cases are becoming more detailed."

In August 2009, Asmar and Abyad themselves received training from experts at the University of Massachusetts in Boston to prepare for the program.

LAUMS became the first of its kind in Lebanon last year to introduce the doctor-patient simulation program. Commonly practiced in American medical schools, the program was recommended to LAU by Partners Harvard Medical International, (PHMI) an organization helping with the development of LAUMS.

"We wanted to bring the program here because it has become one of the standards for examining physicians," says Dr. Lynn Eckhart, LAUMS interim dean and a member of PHMI.

"The standardized patients learn how to respond to the medical students, but they also learn how to give feedback, which is really important," Eckhart added.

The standardized patients are used during the medical students'

Objective Structured Clinical Examinations, better known as the OSCE. An OSCE is given after each module to test student competency.

First-year students are given six OSCEs, and second-year students must complete five. Simulations for second-year students will be more advanced than what they experienced last year and will include physical diagnoses. The students so far welcome the new challenges and remain enthusiastic about the program.

"An intact patient-doctor relationship is crucial, and a key element in the process of delivering high-quality health care," says Jad Al Dana, a second-year medical student. "The LAU-SPI program is putting us on track until we reach our clinical years and beyond."

While Asmar deals mainly with the medical aspects of the standardized patients' training, Abyad's role is to develop their acting skills so that the simulations are as realistic as possible. Both components are critical to the program's success.

Underscoring the importance of standardization for the program's success, Abyad said the main challenge is to train the actors to become, in essence, clones of one another. For example, Abyad explains, when they show pain, they must use the same words and actions and bellow in the same manner.

"We have one excellent actor who always wants to do a little bit more. She wants to improvise and be creative, but this is not at all about being creative," Abyad says. "It's about being standardized."

"It's not just about the wording but about how much to reveal, because a part of their job is to get the student to ask the right questions," Abyad adds. "I think a good doctor is someone who investigates very well, who is a very good detective, so they must ask the right questions."



Group photo of ACPC participants

Regional Programming Contest Draws Record-Breaking Turnout at LAU

By Marc Abi Zeid

Nearly 200 undergraduate and graduate students from universities throughout the Middle East visited Beirut November 25–27 for the 13th Arab Collegiate Programming Contest (ACPC) at LAU.

The event witnessed record-breaking participation this year, with 57 three-member teams from 32 universities in 13 Arab countries racing the clock — and each other — to solve as many of the nine programming problems correctly as possible. Past participation had never exceeded 43 teams.

“What we had here were the most brilliant student programmers, all under one roof, who came from some of the top technical universities,” said Dr. Samer Habre, chair of LAU Beirut’s Computer Science and Mathematics Department, which organized the event.

“We were able to promote excellence in programming, excellence in computer science, and excellence in education,” Habre added.

The teams, each accompanied by a faculty adviser, were barred from leaving their computer stations, which were neatly assembled on the first and second floors of LAU’s Learning Resource Center. The participants were also restricted from using any electronic devices for the duration of the five-hour contest.

The contest marks the first time ACPC comes to Lebanon since its establishment in 1998. LAU is also scheduled to host the contest next year.

“I think the charm of Beirut is an element,” said Dr. Ziad Najem, ACPC director and assistant professor in the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science at Kuwait University.

Describing the contest, Najem added: “As universities become more experienced, we work to make the problem sets more advanced. The students drive us to become more challenging.”

Several countries, including Saudi Arabia, Tunisia and Bahrain, were represented for the first time in this year’s contest.

The first-, second- and third-place teams came from Egypt, representing the German University in Cairo, the Faculty of Computers and Information at Cairo University, and the Faculty of Engineering at Alexandria University, respectively. The top two teams solved 7 out of 9 problems correctly, while the third-place winners solved 6 out of 9.

ACPC participants during the contest



Alumni Profiles

Faiza Fawaz Estrup '51



Dr. Faiza Fawaz Estrup graduated from LAU (then BCW) with an Associate of Arts degree in 1951. After receiving a B.A. in Physics from Boston University in 1953, Estrup went on to Yale University to pursue her M.S. and Ph.D. in molecular biophysics and biochemistry. There she met her future husband, fellow Higgins Scholar Peder Estrup, a Fulbright Fellow from Denmark. The couple was married in Copenhagen in 1960.

Estrup fondly recalls her time at LAU, and says her professors inspired her to pursue her studies in the natural sciences at a time when it was rare for women to do so. "LAU taught me to be an independent thinker, and it strengthened my determination to succeed, to become a leader in whatever field I eventually decided on."

In 1975, Estrup obtained her M.D. degree from Brown University School of Medicine. After a two-year fellowship in rheumatology, Estrup opened a private practice, and served as medical director of the Arthritis Center and as Chief of Rheumatology at Memorial Hospital in Rhode Island.

Estrup was voted the Rhode Island Woman Physician of the Year in 2002, won Brown University Medical School's Excellence in Teaching Award the same year, and was chosen as one of America's Top Physicians for the years 2003–2007 by the Consumers Research Council of America.

She and her husband retired from Brown in 2004 and moved permanently to Santa Barbara, California. They travel extensively, and last visited Lebanon in 2008. Dr. Estrup's brother, Dr. Adnan Fawaz, recently retired as professor of political science & international relations and law from LAU.

Rony Zeenny, Pharm.D., Clinical Assistant Professor '04



Dr. Rony Zeenny graduated from LAU with a bachelor's degree in pharmacy and completed LAU's Doctor of Pharmacy degree in 2004. He then completed his pharmacy practice residency in the United States at the University of Tennessee Medical Center in Knoxville, Tennessee.

After returning to Lebanon, Zeenny worked with the World Health Organization at the Lebanese Ministry of Public Health's Drug Dispensing Center before joining the LAU faculty in 2006. He has served as director of Experiential Education at the School of Pharmacy since October 2010.

Zeenny credits LAU's "rich and harmonized pharmacy curriculum," and his exposure as an undergraduate to brilliant faculty members, for having instilled his sense of passion and ambition. "LAU not only provided me with pharmacy education, but also triggered my professional curiosity and inspired me to go above and beyond the Doctor of Pharmacy degree," Zeenny told LAU Magazine.

Zeenny is an active member of many committees and professional societies, including the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) and the Lebanese Order of Pharmacists. He currently serves as president of the Middle East Chapter of the American Clinical College of Pharmacy (ACCP).

His research interests include dialysis and antibiotics resistance in clinical practice.

Alumni Events



LAU energizes North American alumni with Yalla! 2010 events

By Greg Houle



Eight different hotel rooms, nine flights, several car trips, and nearly 16,000 kilometers across two countries in 16 days. That was Yalla! 2010.

This long journey took LAU Vice President for University Advancement Richard Rumsey and Director of Alumni and Special Projects in North America Edward Shiner to LAU alumni-sponsored events in 10 cities across the United States and Canada in just over a two-week period last November.

They were joined by LAU President Dr. Joseph G. Jabbra and Alumni Relations Director Abdallah Al Khal for some of the events along the way.

Beginning with a cruise in Tampa Bay, Florida, on November 6, and ending with a Lebanese Independence Day celebration in San Francisco, California, on November 22, Yalla! 2010 connected hundreds of alumni and friends at various dinners and receptions in Boston, Detroit, Los Angeles, Montreal, New York, Toronto, Washington, D.C., and even a bowling alley in Ottawa, Canada.

The goal was to invigorate the alumni and underline their importance as vital members of the university family, create awareness of LAU in North America, and help kick off a fundraising campaign to rally support around student scholarships.

"We had a genuine opportunity to connect with hundreds of alumni and friends of LAU from all over North America, and truly understand and respect what a global institution we are," Rumsey said. "That really was our main goal for Yalla! 2010, and by every measure it turned out to be an overwhelming success."

Conceived by members of LAU's New York office, in conjunction with the university's alumni chapters throughout North America, Yalla! 2010 was promoted with photos, alumni profiles, articles and announcements using the university's various social media outlets, including Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Flickr.

During the two weeks, thousands of people also visited Yalla! 2010's dedicated blog (www.yalla2010.com), to view photos and watch videos of the events as they happened as well as read blog posts about the journey.

Yalla! 2010 was such a galvanizing event that it inspired New York-based LAU alum Khalil Kanaan to provide a generous \$10,000 gift — he calls it a "challenge grant" — to encourage other alumni of the university to support scholarship programs.

"We're looking forward to the energy of Yalla! carrying over into the fundraising campaign for the rest of the year," Rumsey said. "Khalil Kanaan's generous gift has helped us make Yalla! 2010 into something more than simply a collection of events, which is exactly what we were hoping for when we conceived this idea."

Kanaan said he was impressed with the Yalla! campaign and wants to continue its momentum while investing in education. He added, "It is something that I truly believe in and I hope others will join me."

Yalla! will not be a one-time event. Plans are already under way for Yalla! 2011, which LAU officials expect will cover even more ground, organize more people and raise more awareness and support for the university around the world.



Hundreds of alumni return to LAU for reunion and homecoming

By Marc Abi Zeid



Hundreds of nostalgic alumni from all years and disciplines came together over the summer to reconnect with former classmates during a series of activities organized as part of the 2010 Alumni Reunion and Homecoming event held July 14–17.

The activities kicked off on July 14 with a dinner at Le Particulier restaurant in Sodeco. Special guests Dr. Selim El Sayegh ('83), Lebanese Minister of Social Affairs, and Emily Abi Rashed Nasrallah ('56), the novelist and activist, received alumni awards for their achievements.

Graduates from Louaize, Amchit and Byblos reunited on July 15 on the Byblos campus, while Beirut and Sidon graduates assembled on July 16 in Beirut. The classes of '05, '00, '95, '90, '85, '80, '75, '70, '65, and '60 were presented with jubilee pins to recognize their graduation anniversaries.

The four-day event was generously supported by the Bank of Beirut, which since 2006 has partnered with the university to offer a special "affinity" credit card to all LAU faculty, staff and alumni. A portion of every affinity card transaction is transferred from the bank to the university as a cardholder contribution.

LAU President Dr. Joseph G. Jabbra addressed the alumni, highlighting recent LAU achievements such as the new medical and nursing schools and accreditation from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges.

"What is really important about this institution is its spirit — its commitment to academic excellence and excellence in everything we do," Jabbra said.

"It doesn't really matter who you are, where you come from, what your religion is, what your political stripe is, what socioeconomic status you happen to have," Jabbra added. "As long as you are qualified and willing to work very hard to earn an education, we welcome you with open arms."

Abdallah Al Khal, director of the Alumni Relations Office, which organized the homecoming, presented remarks during the Beirut reunion on July 16. He spoke of the activities of the Alumni Association Board — and of the more than 30 alumni chapters scattered across the globe — in building a highly dynamic network.

"The Alumni Relations Office has also worked to provide alumni with continuous educational opportunities," Al Khal told the crowd. "Several lectures were organized throughout the year on topics as diverse as marketing for non-marketers, emotional intelligence, body language and so on."

The four-day event was a first for many. Dr. Hana Itani ('99), a molecular biologist now living in the United States, attended the homecoming and described the excitement of getting back in touch with LAU classmates and mentors.

"LAU has been a home to me. It provided me with opportunities and ambition," said Itani, who went on to earn her Ph.D. from the University of Iowa in 2008. "My undergraduate mentors were the ones who encouraged me to be what I am today."

As the event drew to a close on the morning of the 17th, Dr. Jabbra hosted the annual President's Forum Brunch on the Beirut campus and welcomed all alumni and their families.



June

Toronto Alumni Chapter picnic

More than 60 alumni brought their families and friends to a picnic held on June 5 at Etobicoke Centennial Park in Toronto, where they enjoyed a host of activities including face-painting and raffles.



July

50th anniversary graduation

On July 27, the LAU Alumni Association Board honored 50th anniversary graduates at LAU President Joseph G. Jabbara's residence, where they were presented with medals.

Florida Alumni Chapter SeaWorld visit

The Florida Alumni Chapter organized a trip to SeaWorld in Orlando in July.



August

Toronto Alumni Chapter breakfast

The Toronto Alumni Chapter organized its second annual breakfast at Adam's Park in Scarborough on August 8.

LAU and AUB alumni joint Suhour in Damascus

More than 200 alumni from LAU and the American University of Beirut came together for a joint Suhour on August 27 at the Gemini Club in Damascus.



September

School of Pharmacy Alumni Chapter Iftar

The School of Pharmacy Alumni Chapter organized an Iftar dinner on September 6 at Babel Restaurant in Dbayeh. In addition to the friends and family of LAU pharmacists, Dr. Ziad Nassour, head of the Order of Pharmacists in Lebanon, also attended the event.

Bahrain Alumni Chapter Ghabga night

LAU's Bahrain Alumni Chapter organized its annual Ghabga on September 7 at the Gulf Hotel, drawing local alumni and their friends and families.





Alumni Relations Office student outreach

The Alumni Relations Office participated for the second year in the New Students Orientation Program on September 16 and 17, when it presented the fresh recruits with souvenirs and brochures containing information about the Alumni Association and its benefits after graduation.

Aleppo Alumni Chapter Suhour

The Aleppo Alumni Chapter organized its Suhour on September 16 at the Solo Cafe. More than 40 alumni and friends attended the event.



October

Alumni Association Board election

On October 25, the chapter also held Alumni Association Board Elections for vice president, which resulted in the reelection of Doha El Zein Halawi (class of '81) for a three-year term.



Abu Dhabi Alumni Chapter's busy October

The Abu Dhabi Alumni Chapter presented a check in the amount of \$80,000 in October to LAU's Scholarship Fund. The amount was collected through fundraising events organized by the chapter during the 2009–10 academic year.

Finally, on October 29, the chapter organized a Halloween party at the Yacht Club of the InterContinental Hotel in Abu Dhabi, with more than 300 alumni and friends in attendance.



Detroit Alumni Chapter LCN mixer

The Detroit Alumni Chapter partnered with the Lebanese American Heritage Club and Arab Detroit for a mixer on October 7, hosted by the Lebanese Collegiate Network. More than 100 professionals attended the mixer to meet old friends and make new contacts.



Alumni News

Azadouhi Kalaidjian (B.A. '60) was recently awarded the St. Mesrob Mashdots Medal by Armenian Archbishop Kegham Khatcherian for her services to the Armenian community throughout the years.



Taline Voskeritchian (B.A. '68) lives in Boston with her cat, Splendid, and teaches writing at Boston University. She lost her husband, Ohannes Salibian, three years ago. Her daughter, Tamar, lives in Los Angeles and is pursuing a Ph.D. in Media Studies.



Daisy Sarkis Warren (B.A. '73) married David Warren in 1986 and has one daughter, Jeanette. She lived in San Diego, California, from 1979 to 1996, where she received an M.A. in Education, an M.A. in Special Education, and an Ed.D. in Counseling. She is currently a full-time assistant professor at Haigazian University.

Lina Ghazi (B.S. '80) took over her mother's travel agency, Ghazi Travel, after she died in 2003. She has expanded the company, which has grown to become one of Lebanon's leading travel agencies.

Samia AbouZeid Khoury (B.A. '84) married Elie B. Khoury in 1991 and had four children, Natalie, Dominique, Peter and Gabrielle. She has been practicing martial arts over the past four years and hopes to earn a black belt in February 2011. She lives in the United States with her family and works as a financial sales consultant at PNC Bank in Princeton, New Jersey.

Rima Adnan Rifai (B.A. '84) currently works as a graphic designer and teaches at the Université Saint-Esprit De Kaslik.



Abdallah Moussa Shafie (M.B.A. '84) currently lives in Boston where he and his wife, Varsenig Yapoudjian (B.S. '74), operate a successful dry cleaning and tailoring business. The couple has been married for 34 years and raised two daughters, Natalie and Nancy.

Nada Lutfi (B.S. '90) went on to earn a Teaching Diploma of Science from the American University of Beirut. She taught science courses at several schools, most recently at Al Hoda High School where she taught chemistry, biology and physics from 2000 till 2009. She got married to a UK citizen in 2009, and since then she has settled in the UK.

Abdul Majeed Zantout (B.S. '90) is married to **Nour Shebaro (B.S. '91)** with two children. Zantout works as the country manager for a company called International Turnkey Systems, while Shebaro is the HR director of MTC Touch.



Mona Tabbara Usher (B.A. '90) recently celebrated her 20th wedding anniversary.

Farid Abboud (B.S. '91) launched an online consulting company, www.okdoable.com, in June 2010. He had previously been working in the United States for the past five years as a consultant for web design and development.



Nada Yamout (B.S. '91, M.B.A. '96) is currently the head of Group Operational Risk Management at Byblos Bank. She is also a part-time instructor at the Lebanese University. In May 2010, she was elected as a member of the Beirut Municipality Council.

Martha Noujaim Zarazir (B.S. '91) married Frederic Zarazir in 2006, and they have a lovely daughter, Sophie. Martha is currently the marketing manager of Dunkin' Donuts for Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt.



Samir Gharzeddine (B.S. '93) moved to Jeddah after graduation where he has been working as an IT manager for a car company. He is a member of the International Who's Who for professional contributions to the business community. He married Rana in 2002 and they have two girls, Celine and Cybelle.

Rania Hammoud (B.S. '93 and M.S. '97) moved back to Beirut a few months ago, after living in Montreal for almost 10 years. She found a job as an IT project manager in a software company. In her free time, she works as a life coach to help people reach objectives and remove obstacles in their professional and personal lives.



Maher Kaddoura (B.S. '95) works as an administration manager at Gulf Fluor, Abu Dhabi. He completed an M.B.A. in 2010 at Abu Dhabi University.



Hilda Abla (B.A. '96) currently works at Pin-Pay sal, the first mobile payment and mobile banking company in Lebanon. Abla, an amateur actress, has participated in several plays since 2004, most recently in Ekher Beit Bel Gemmayzeh, directed by Betty Taoutel and performed at Theatre Monnot and Beryte in May-June/Oct 2010.

Mirna Laycy Stouhi (B.S. '96, M.B.A. '00) married film director Salim Turk. The couple has two children, Ibrahim and Myriam.



Nadine Moubayed (B.S. '97, M.S. '02) married after graduation, and then traveled to Italy, where she gave birth to her first daughter seven years ago. She later moved to Saudi Arabia where she had her second daughter. She currently teaches at King Saud University for girls, Medicine and Science Department.

Abeer Haidar (B.A. '98) works at the Abu Dhabi International School in Abu Dhabi.

Nazih Faraj (B.S. '98, M.S. '02) currently works in a governmental institute in Dubai.

Nadine Maktabi (B.S. '98, M.B.A. '01) moved back to Lebanon from Riyadh in 2006 where she was working as a media manager for JWT advertising agency. She got married in 2001 and has three children, Karen, Abdallah and Celina. Nadine and her husband, Hassan Maktabi, just opened a Persian rug boutique in Ashrafieh, called Cyrus Maktabi.

Nahla Jeha Saleh (B.A. '98) worked for some time at the Abu Dhabi International School as a kindergarten coordinator and supervisor. She was elected secretary of the LAU Abu Dhabi Alumni Chapter for one year. In 2005, she married Bassel Saleh and had her first child, Bana, the following year. They welcomed a son, Omar, into the world two years later.

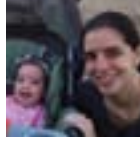


Maïa Maatalani Fayad (B.A. '00) began working as a client account handler at DDB Levant/Strategies advertising agency after graduating. She later supervised the PR and Marketing Department of Aishti Group. For the last three years, she has headed the Marketing and Communications Department at Byblos Bank Group.



Lara Nasr (B.Arch. '00, M.B.A. '03) has pursued a career in art. She has exhibited her works at the Agora Gallery in New York, and the Shahine Gallery and Eclectic Art Shop in Beirut.

Nourhan N. Beyrouti (B.S. '01, M.B.A. '04) married **Dania M. Mneimneh (B.S. '05, M.B.A. '08)**. They became parents on June 7, 2010 when Leya was born, first granddaughter of Dr. Nouri M. Beyrouti, professor at LAU's School of Business.



Raef Hachache (A.A.S. '01) and **Nadine Marashli (B.S. '04)** became parents over the summer of 2010 when Salim was born.

Sylvana Bitar Karam (B.A. '02) welcomed her second girl, Sienna, into the world on June 11, 2010.



Merva Faddoul (B.A. '01) recently won a grant from the National Geographic Society to direct a film in Lebanon called Teta. The movie, which is also written by Faddoul, is set in Byblos and tells the story of a teenager and her grandmother when the latter discovers a miracle in her backyard.



Nina Rahal-Lott (B.Arch. '01) was granted a scholarship in 2004 to pursue a Master of Philosophy at the Glasgow School of Arts in Scotland that she completed in 2006. She worked for two architecture companies in the United Kingdom until June 2010. Recently, she moved to France with her husband and is working on establishing an independent practice.

Tarek Renno (B.S. '01) headed to the United States after graduating from LAU to pursue a master's degree in Nebraska. He worked for JP Morgan Chase-NY in investment banking for five years after completing his master's. While on a short visit to Beirut, he met his wife-to-be and decided to move back for good. He now manages Beesline.



Elissar Saddy (B.S. '01) works as an acting offshore production manager at Hodema Consulting Services.

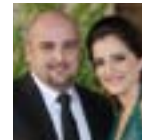


Carl Ayat (B.S. '02) currently works at Fortune Promoseven, an ad agency.



Assaad Matar (B.E. '02) recently celebrated the birth of his daughter, Nour.

Maya Harb Njeim (B.E. '02) is the procurement manager and HR head at Phoenix Machinery - Indevco Group. She has a newborn baby boy, Anthony.



Shadi F. Braish (M.B.A. '03) got engaged in July 2010 to Hala K. Abu Asi. He works at Universal Media Dubai (UM-HQ) and was recently promoted to associate media director.

Darine Chaaya (B.A. '03, M.A. '06) married Charbel Chaaya in July 2009 and welcomed a son, Elvin, into the world on August 9, 2010.



George Daher (B.E. '03) recently launched GSE, an electric supplies company with an on-call, 24/7 maintenance team.

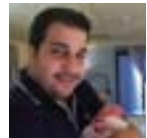
Bilal Ezzo (B.S. '03, M.B.A. '06) moved to Europe and worked for a Dutch company, after having worked for seven years at LAU's library. During a business trip in Sweden, he met his old classmate. They got married in 2010, and recently celebrated the birth of their baby girl. Currently, Bilal works as MENA QA/QC manager for an American company based in the UAE/KSA.



Dany Nachabé (B.S. '03, M.S. '06, M.B.A. '09) recently celebrated the birth of his daughter, Tala.



Amir Sabra (B.S. '03) opened an outdoor media company called SABRA GROUP after graduating. Sabra tied the knot in June 2009.



Basma Zeidan (B.A. '03) founded an education consulting firm named EduConsult, LLC in May 2010 to improve education in the MENA region. Prior to establishing the firm, she worked as a program manager for the Executive M.B.A. program at the London Business School in Dubai and London, served as a consultant at the University of the Middle East Project in Boston, and was a second grade teacher at Eastwood College in Lebanon.

Youssef Abdul Latif Tabsh (B.S. '04, M.B.A. '07) works as a motor claims assessor with Arope Insurance. He married Basma Ibrahim in July 2010.



Fadi Hammoud (M.B.A. '04) works as the operations manager in Bahrain for Azadea Group. He and his wife, Farah, had a boy, Marcel, on October 21, 2010.

Rita Sayah Nehmeh (B.A. '04) married Henry Nehmeh in August 2008 and gave birth to their daughter, Selina, in May 2010.



M. Raafat Ouwayda (B.S. '04, M.B.A. '06) worked at Ernst & Young Consulting in Saudi Arabia for two years, before getting married in 2008. Currently, he works as a freelance management consultant.

Karen Irani Riachi (B.S. '04) worked for some time with IMPACT BBDO as senior art director. She married music producer Jean-Marie Riachi two years ago and recently had her first boy, Eddy.

Nader Cheaib (B.S. '05) is currently a postdoctoral research fellow at the Systems Design Engineering Department of the University of Waterloo in Canada.

Lima Farran (B.S. '05) moved to Dubai with her family after graduation, where they opened a spa. She took a media and communication course, and worked as a presenter for Al Deera TV and Fawasel TV. She now lives between Dubai and Lebanon, where she recently opened a cafe/restaurant, R&R, near LAU's lower gate.



Hala Manuel Hazim (B.A. '05) is the personal assistant for the Board of Chairmen, CEO, CFO and COO of Inkript Holding sal.

Aram Kazandjian (B.E. '05) is currently expanding his father's water heating systems company, named Sunny Solar Systems.

Haitham Ghaddaf (B.S. '06, M.B.A. '09) currently works at the Bir Hassan Branch of BLF Bank. He recently got engaged to Loyal El Zoghbi.



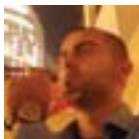
Kevork Hagopian (B.S. '06) returned to Aleppo, Syria, after graduating from LAU and worked with his family's company Al Watania that manufactures PVC products and other raw materials. He earned an online M.B.A. from the University of Phoenix in 2009.



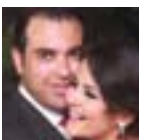
Ghassan F. Hammoud (B.S. '06) currently works in Abu Dhabi as a business development expert. He and his wife, Rima Kassem, had a boy, Farid, in May 2010.

Mohamad Mouheb (B.S. '06) lives in Dubai where he has been working for BlackBerry for almost two years as sales manager handling the SMB Team for the UAE and carrier manager handling MTC Touch Lebanon.

Mohamed Abboud (B.S. '07) works as the Central Eastern Europe, Middle East and Africa supplier relationship manager for Growth Market Supplier.

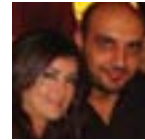


Tahani Khaled (B.S. '07) got married in December 2009. She has one child and is currently working in the IT field at CSC Bank.



Farah Makarem (B.S. '07, M.B.A. '09) recently got engaged to **Samer Bou Dargham (B.S. '06)**. They are planning to marry in the summer of 2012.

Diana Saleh (B.S. '07) was married during the summer of 2010 and now lives in Dubai.



Khaled Abdel Ghani (B.S. '08) is now working in Saudi Arabia at the Al Hassan Ghazi Ibrahim Shaker Co. He recently got engaged to Gihan Chemali, with a wedding date set for July 7, 2011.

Lamar Adnan Choucair (B.A. '08, M.A. '11) recently got engaged to Wassim Choucair, with a wedding planned for spring 2012.



Ramzy Dib (B.E. '08) recently launched a corporate event management company, CODE Productions sarl, with fellow LAU classmates **Jules Khoury (B.E. '01)** and **Nadine Njeim**, a business student who expects to graduate in 2011. Dib also joined forces with LAU graduates **Georges Maljian (B.S. '05)** and **Paola Ghanimeh (B.S. '07)** to start a popular sushi bar in Gemmayzeh, KIO.

Bechir Hasbani (B.E. '08) currently works at Somiral Energy, SARL.

Said Mourad (B.S. '08) is a senior product specialist at Gulf Medical Company in Riyadh.



Dr. Cynthia Georges El-Hajal (Pharm.D. '09) works as a promotional product specialist in oncology at Eli Lilly Pharmaceutical Company.

Ziad Ghandour (B.S. '09) works as a senior data analyst at Unitech, a construction material company. He began a master's in financial economics in fall 2010 at the American University of Beirut.

Anthony Ghosh (B.E. '09) is working at INDEVCO Group – UTM as a mechanical engineer in the maintenance department.

Nader Kawash (B.E. '09) is a cost control engineer and junior project engineer in Abu Dhabi at CCC, Sicon Branch.

Adnan Ragheb (B.S. '09) just completed a Master in Finance at Lancaster University Management School in the United Kingdom and is now working at Audi Capital in between Lebanon and Saudi Arabia as an assistant portfolio manager.

Rabea Kamal Ragheb (B.S. '09) recently received a Master of Logistics and Supply Chain Management from the University of Lancaster in the United Kingdom.



Mazen Gharzeddine (B.S. '10) currently lives in Saudi Arabia, where he works as a sales section manager handling 11 stores in the country's eastern and central regions.

WHY I GIVE BACK

Khalil Kanaan '93



What year did you graduate from LAU?

I attended LAU from 1991 until 1993. LAU helped me transfer to Georgia Tech to complete my B.S. in Engineering and I received a B.S. degree from LAU in 1995.

What degree did you receive?

B.S. General Science.

Which campus did you attend?

Amchit.

Where do you live now?

New York.

What is your occupation?

Portfolio Manager.

Why do you give to LAU?

I believe in investing in human capital. Unfortunately, for many young Lebanese adults, college tuition is an impossible proposition. For that reason, it is the duty of every alumni to contribute to the cause of education because it is the absolute best mean to leverage the richness of our multicultural background.



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& THE PROMISE
LAU CAMPAIGN FOR EXCELLENCE

The sky is the limit for Ghassan Aridi, one of the most recognized figures in the world of tourism consulting.

His innovations span continents, and he has advised tourism ministries in Lebanon, Morocco, Qatar, Kuwait, Spain, Brazil and South Africa.



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The founder and manager of the Dubai-based Alpha Tours is a generous friend of LAU.

For more information, please contact:

Beirut Development Office
Tel. (961) 1 786456 Ext: 1323
Fax (961) 1 803658
P.O. Box 13-5053
Chouran Beirut 1102 2801, Lebanon
Email: development@lau.edu.lb

New York Development Office
Tel. (212) 870 2592
Fax (212) 870 2762
475 Riverside Drive, Suite 1846
New York, NY 10115-0065, USA
Email: nydevelopment@lau.edu



BEIRUT CAMPUS

P.O. Box 13-5053
Chouran Beirut, 1102 2801
Lebanon
Tel. +961 1 786456 / 64
Fax +961 1 867098

BYBLOS CAMPUS

P.O. Box 36, Byblos, Lebanon
Tel. +961 9 547254 / 63
Fax +961 9 944851

NEW YORK OFFICE

475 Riverside Drive, Suite 1846
New York, NY 10115 0065
USA
Tel. +1 212 870 2592
Fax +1 212 870 2762

www.lau.edu.lb