

LAU magazine

VOLUME 13 | issue n° 2 | Summer 2011

& ALUMNI BULLETIN

Lebanon's Lost Generation

Art and emigration

Foreign Labor, Domestic Violence

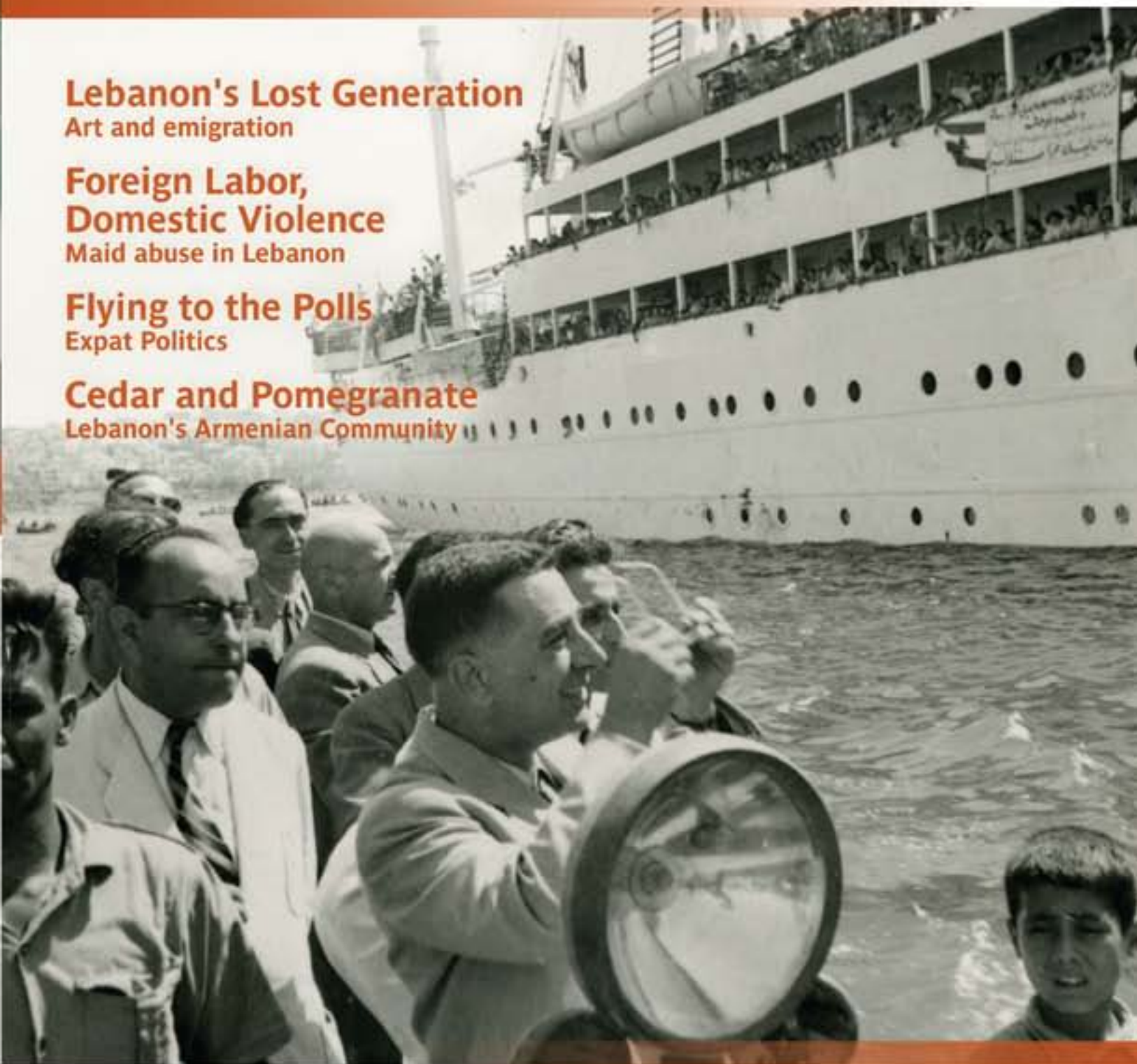
Maid abuse in Lebanon

Flying to the Polls

Expat Politics

Cedar and Pomegranate

Lebanon's Armenian Community



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In 2010, LAU's dedication to world-class institutional standards was recognized by the New England Association of Schools & Colleges accreditation body. This milestone, along with the launching of three new schools — Architecture & Design, Nursing, and Medicine — and the introduction of new programs, departments, and facilities on both campuses, are some of the accomplishments testifying to the university's unprecedented rate of growth over the past decade. For LAU, progress is not a one-time effort, but a continuous strive to maintain a dynamic learning environment and ensure a first-rate education.

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FEATURES

4



Rights and Wrongs

Lebanon's migrant labor scandal

Lacking legal rights and protection, migrant workers in the country face widespread discrimination and abuse. Marc Abizeid reports.

10

Yerevan on the Mediterranean

Beirut, capital of the Armenian Diaspora

Emily Morris explores the long-standing relationship between Lebanese society and one of its most vibrant components – the Armenian community.



18



Art Movements

The Trade Routes of Lebanon's Creative Class

In a time when Lebanese artists are looking abroad for audiences and inspiration, Emily Holman looks into what it may take to reclaim Lebanon's domestic art scene.

42

Electoral Migration

The civic evolution of the Lebanese Diaspora

Lebanon witnesses floods of expatriates returning to cast their ballots during election periods. What does this mean for local policy? Curtis Brown clues us in.



CONTENTS

- 8 Faculty Profile: Ray Jureidini
- 9 Harmony of Differences
- 14 On and Off the Track: The demanding double lives of two business school athletes
- 16 Migration Studies Finds a Home at LAU
- 22 Student profile: Liane Rabbath
- 23 Donor Spotlights: Nicolas Ghattas and Salim Hachache
- 24 Campus Notes
- 30 SINARC introduces spring module
- 31 Cooking for Credit: LAU students learn culinary arts in popular elective
- 32 New Appointments
- 34 Faculty on the Move
- 36 LAU's Feline Frenzy
- 37 Faculty Profile: Irma-Kaarina Ghosn
- 38 The Legacy and the Promise Campaign
- 41 Alumni Profile: Rand Ghayad
- 46 Family Affair: Parents as classmates
- 48 Cultural Mnemonics: Living History at LAU's Center for Lebanese Heritage
- 49 Ameen Rihani centennial
- 50 Serving the Sentence: LAU writing center fosters the craft of composition
- 51 Regional Upheaval and the Academy
- 52 Charles Achi Reaches Power 500's Top 10
- 53 Alumni Profiles: Dany Doughan and Azadouhi Kalaidjian
- 54 Alumni Events
- 56 Alumni News
- 60 Why I Give Back



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Tell us what you think about the LAU Magazine and Alumni Bulletin by participating in this survey: www.lau.edu.lb/magsurvey/

We value your feedback, and it will only take minutes of your time.

Your contribution will be of great value towards developing and improving this major LAU publication.

Thank you,

LAU editorial team

LAU Magazine survey

Letters to the Editor

"We were pleased to receive the spring 2011 issue of your valuable journal. It is of great value to our researchers and students, and we look forward to further issues."

—Mohamed T. Darwish, Hashemite University Library, Zarqa, Jordan

"Thank you for featuring my profile in the spring 2011 issue of your magazine. I'm back in touch with classmates I haven't seen or heard from for years —because they read your magazine!"

—Dr. Faiza Fawaz Estrup, Associate Dean and Clinical Professor Emerita of Medicine, Brown University

Corrections for LAU Magazine, Volume 13, Issue 1, Spring 2011

The program length for the new B.S. in Nursing (highlighted in "LAU Expansion Spawns New Program Offerings" on page 45) is three years including two summer terms, not four years.

Faiza Fawaz Estrup was the Higgins Scholar at Yale, while her future husband Peder Estrup was the Fulbright Fellow. Estrup was also the first woman to become Clinical Professor in Medicine at Brown University.

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From the President's Desk

Dear Friends,

From its seafaring roots in ancient times through its mid twentieth-century cosmopolitan heyday, and right up to its multicultural present, Lebanon has always been a gateway between civilizations. If its pluralism has been a factor in the most painful episodes of its recent history, it is also, looking forward, the nation's single greatest asset. Our present century promises to be one of accelerated talent mobility, transnationalism, and globalization, and the multilingual, multi-confessional Lebanese, accustomed to crossing borders, are ready to assume a central position within it.

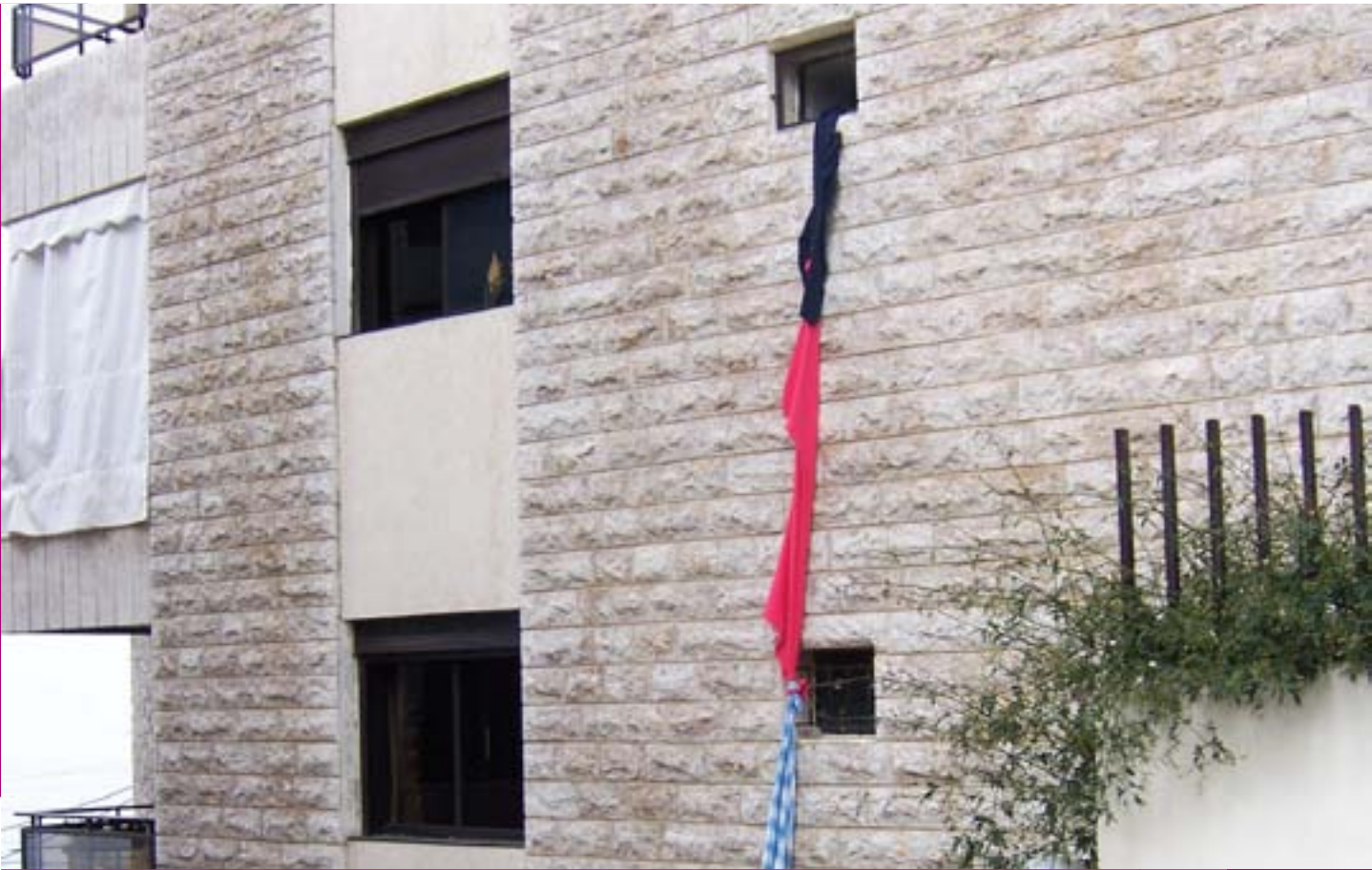
We are uniquely placed to understand and assess over a century of migration, forced or voluntary, economic or political. Lebanon has absorbed two of the largest refugee migrations in modern history: the Armenians after World War I, and the Palestinians after 1948. Both have contributed significantly to the social fabric, cultural identity, and political realities of modern Lebanon. In more recent decades, Lebanon has become home to a significant number of migrant laborers who in some cases are treated with dignity, in others not. Furthermore, the Lebanese are one of the great world's diasporas, with large and thriving communities on every continent, but the emigration of large numbers of Lebanese graduates to the West and to the Gulf, in pursuit of opportunities, has increased the brain-drain challenge. Fortunately, many of these émigrés maintain close ties with Lebanon and ultimately return to live here. This migration pattern has significantly enriched the arts, culture, national character, and political and economic life of Lebanon.

LAU — polyglot, diverse, and non-sectarian, with an international faculty and student body, and close ties to centers of research worldwide — is an excellent institutional example of Lebanese cultural hybridity, serving Lebanon and the entire MENA region. We are proud to be home to the Institute for Migration Studies, and to some of the world's top scholars researching the ethical, economic, political, cultural, environmental, and health dimensions of large-scale patterns of human migration. These resources and our Lebanese resourcefulness will serve us well as we move deeper into the most globalized century of human history.



Joseph G. Jabbara
President





Rights and Wrongs

Lebanon's simmering migrant labor scandal

By Marc Abizeid



A maid is severely injured after she falls on a car while attempting to escape from the bathroom window

At least 33 migrant domestic workers were killed or committed suicide in Lebanon last year.

That figure, based on reports by the Lebanese National News Agency and private newspapers, may well represent only a fraction of the total number of foreign maids in Lebanon who have jumped off balconies, ingested detergent, hung themselves, or been beaten or strangled to death at the hands of their employers.

Tens of thousands more are subjected to excessive working hours, unsafe conditions, wage withholding and even physical and sexual abuse.

"The structural conditions for migrant domestic workers are deeply problematic," says Dr. Ray Jureidini, associate professor of sociology at LAU and a widely published scholar on regional migrant labor issues. Jureidini notes that domestic workers are excluded from Lebanese labor law, which sets basic protection-of-workers rights in the form of minimum wage, benefits, maximum working hours, paid leave, and the right to join or form labor unions.

"There is almost no prosecution of criminal acts committed against them," he adds, explaining that in most cases a domestic pressing charges against an abusive employer must remain in Lebanon for more than a year while waiting for the case to be brought to court. "Complaints and charges get conciliated more often than not, because she is desperate to get out and go home."

"There is almost no prosecution of criminal acts committed against them. Complaints and charges get conciliated, because they are desperate to get out and go home."

—Dr. Ray Jureidini, associate professor of sociology, LAU

"What kind of justice is that?" Jureidini asks.

Lebanon has gained international notoriety for human rights abuses relating to the estimated 200,000 migrant domestic workers in the country.

Several countries — including Madagascar, Ethiopia, Sri Lanka and the Philippines — have either imposed or experimented with bans prohibiting their citizens from working in Lebanon.

Most of the workers find their way to Lebanon through agencies in their home countries that coordinate with local counterparts. Others — many of them underage — maneuver around travel bans or are otherwise illegally trafficked into the country.

The women work in Lebanon under the so-called kafala system, in which employers act as sponsors, forcing the workers to remain with the same employer for the duration of their contracts unless permission is granted to leave.

The system, widely used in the Gulf, has drawn heavy criticism from human rights groups and labor organizations for violating principles of free labor and freedom of movement.

"The kafala system criminalizes the act of leaving the employer, which is a breach of international labor standards," Jureidini says.

To make matters worse, workers are often confined to the homes of their employers and denied the right to step outside for a break or to enjoy a single day off, as granted by most contracts. A significant number of injuries and deaths occur when workers attempt to escape their employers' homes by tying together bed sheets and climbing down the sides of buildings.

Women who flee their employers and are caught by authorities are arrested and kept in detention centers and women's prisons, where they sometimes remain for months or years. They are often without passports or other proper documents, since employers commonly keep that paperwork hidden to curtail their employees' movements.

"There needs to be more monitoring on the part of the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Ministry of Labor," says Dr. Omar Nashabe, parttime instructor of sociology at LAU and the editor of Al Akhbar's Justice section, which closely monitors human rights issues in Lebanon.

"I hope the new government's ministerial declaration will include a serious plan to address serious issues such as freedom of movement," Nashabe says.

Safe Houses

Some domestic workers are lucky enough to find refuge at the Caritas Migrant Center, set up in 1994 to provide support for abused migrant workers and their families. The center has two shelters and a safe house where more than 120 migrants are currently seeking protection.

Thirty-four-year-old Aline is one of the 30 or so women living in the Caritas safe house, reserved for women in extreme situations. She left her job at an undergarment factory in the Philippines to work in Lebanon, arriving in Beirut on January 19, 2010. She describes the timeline of events in excruciatingly vivid detail.

Aline's first employer sent her back to the agency after just two weeks, without compensation. Her second employer manhandled her, regularly forcing her head to the bathroom toilet she had just scrubbed, and shouting, "Does this look clean?"

"I told her I don't want to be treated this way," Aline says. "I'm here to work. I'm here to earn money."

After enduring several months of mistreatment, Aline finally returned to the agency on August 30 and begged to return to the Philippines. The agent refused and instead sent Aline to work for his relatives. There, Aline says, the employer and her daughter would sporadically beat her, forcing her by the neck and smacking her across the face.

"They would bring me to the room and hit my head against the wall. The mother beat me every day," she says, recalling an instance when the mother repeatedly struck her over the head with a heavy, framed portrait of Jesus hung on the wall.

Mirana, a 27-year-old Malagasy also living in the Caritas safe house, arrived in Lebanon in August 2009. Her employers had forced her to clean not only their home but also the homes of their relatives, and allowed her only scraps of food and water.

"I worked like a machine," says Mirana, unable to understand why the family refused to feed her. 🍲



Flora works inside the kitchen of Kainang Pinoy, a Filipino store and restaurant in Beirut

Overworked and underfed as she was, Mirana was reluctant to ask for a new employer after three of her cousins, also working in Lebanon, shared their horror stories.

"Their employers beat them," she says. "I decided to stay because I was afraid of how a new family would treat me."

She finally switched employers after seven months, but her health at that point had deteriorated. She says she suffers from dizziness, severe migraines and insomnia. Stress, fatigue and malnourishment have visibly taken their toll, even on her skin.

When the new employer took Mirana to the agency to recommend that she see a doctor, the agent accused her of faking her symptoms, then beat her.

Aline and Mirana both express a desire to return to their countries, but they have become criminals in the eyes of the law for fleeing, and must wait as lawyers from Caritas resolve their cases and retrieve their passports.

Jureidini explains the growing prevalence of Asian and African migrant domestic workers as a relatively recent phenomenon in Lebanon, beginning 20-25 years ago. The middle-class demand for this type of labor has spread across the world, not only in Lebanon.

Current Statistics

Migrant domestic workers account for the majority of all foreign workers in Lebanon. According to the latest figures collected by the Lebanese Ministry of Labor and released in January, of the 159,764 registered foreigners working in Lebanon in 2010, migrant domestic workers employed in households accounted for 123,576, or 77.34 percent.

The real figure is thought to be much higher, as tens of thousands of women are believed to be working illegally, either in households or as freelance cleaners.

Ethiopians represent the single largest nationality employed as migrant domestic workers in Lebanon, at 33,033 in 2010, according to the Ministry, followed by women from the Philippines (30,340), Bangladesh (25,463), Sri Lanka (13,118) and Nepal (12,406).

According to research conducted by LAU's Institute for Women's Studies in the Arab World, there were 189 foreign domestic workers behind bars in 2010. The figure represents a large increase since the institute's last study in 1999, when it recorded 39 such cases.

"I saw many domestic workers in the prisons and listened to their stories. Most of them were there due to paperwork issues," Anita Nassar, assistant director of IWSAW, says. "They could sit there for an indefinite amount of time and no one would know about them."

IWSAW sent a letter last year to Ziad Baroud, Lebanese Minister of the Interior, which Nassar says led to the immediate release of 60 domestic workers.

The institute also began publishing and distributing awareness guides this year, clarifying the rights of migrant workers and the rights of their employers. The pamphlets are published in the four languages understood by most Filipinas, Sri Lankans, Ethiopians and Nepalese.

Reform on the Horizon?

At the grassroots level, NGOs and individual activists have stepped up the campaign to support the rights of migrant workers. Many are pinning their hopes on a draft law before Parliament, which may lead to a significant improvement in the workers' circumstances.

The 46-article law is the product of months of deliberation by a ministerial committee comprising activists, representatives

Carol Mansour's *Maid in Lebanon*

In 2005, Lebanese filmmaker Carol Mansour shocked audiences with the release of *Maid in Lebanon*, a 30-minute documentary narrated by a Sri Lankan woman who leaves her home and family to work as a domestic servant in Lebanon.

The film features a series of painful interviews with foreign domestic workers, who describe being raped, beaten, and effectively imprisoned by the families that employ them. Many attempt to run away, while others in their desperation turn to suicide.

"The first reactions I got were 'Yi, haram!,' as if people didn't know this was happening," Mansour says, manifestly skeptical that a problem so widespread in the country could possibly remain unknown.

Mansour succeeded in bringing an issue that had been largely overlooked — whether in ignorance or denial — into collective consciousness and public discussion. Lebanese schools even began screening the film for students.

"This is a significant development because the young generation needs to see what's happening," she says. "It has definitely had an impact."

Shortly after the film's release, the International Labour Organization — which had co-financed it along with Caritas — approached Mansour with the idea of creating a sequel.

Maid in Lebanon II, released in 2008, is told from the perspective of the employer, revealing the complicated emotional dynamics that develop between many families and their domestics. Like its predecessor, the second film featured piercing testimonies from maids.

One woman interviewed in the sequel woke up in the hospital after falling down several stories from a window or balcony. She was paralyzed from the waist down, and had absolutely no recollection of anything prior to the accident, not even of her childhood or family.

"I think any filmmaker with a budget should work on this subject," Mansour says. "The issue is so unfair — we need to make more films. We need to raise awareness and talk more about it."



A scene from *Maid in Lebanon*



Awareness brochures produced by IWSAW

from Lebanese General Security, and lawyers from NGOs and labor organizations such as the International Labor Organization and Caritas.

It leaves no ambiguity surrounding many aspects of the employees' working conditions, wages and benefits, setting a 60-hour maximum work week, a continuous daily rest of nine hours, and one day off per week, which may be spent outside the employer's home.

"There are several reasons for this new law," explains Ali Fayad, administrative director at the Department of Labor, who concedes that domestic workers in Lebanon face serious problems. Fayad says that Lebanon's image abroad has been tarnished as a result of this issue, and that pressure from international organizations and human rights groups, as well as from countries that send domestic workers to Lebanon, have all played a role in drafting the law.

But even with new laws on the books, legal enforcement and the compliance of employers may prove to be critical challenges.

"It's not enough to have a law," says Nashabe. "We need a culture of human rights and justice. There needs to be conviction on the part of the people with regard to these issues."

"The mentality will take time to change," says Noha Roukoss, who is responsible for the awareness campaigns organized by the Caritas Migrant Center.

Among its efforts to help change public attitudes, Roukoss says Caritas has made an investment in the country's youth, visiting schools to discuss the issue within the framework of justice.

"Whenever we have an opportunity to talk about the issue, we do it," Roukoss says. "We're not asking for workers to be the boss of the house, but we want them to be treated as human beings, as equals in dignity." ☐

Migrant Scholar

Ray Jureidini returns to Beirut by way of Australia and Egypt

By Curtis Brown



Dr. Ray Jureidini, an authority on the issue of migrant domestic workers in Lebanon, recently joined LAU's Department of Social Sciences under the School of Arts and Sciences.

Jureidini, an Australian national born to a Lebanese father and Palestinian mother, previously served as director of the Center for Migration and Refugee Studies at the American University in Cairo (AUC). He had held a series of academic and administrative posts at AUC, from 2005 till 2010.

From 1999 to 2005, Jureidini taught at the American University of Beirut in the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences, and served as department chair between 2001 and 2003. He was instrumental in developing a master's program in migration and refugee studies at AUB.

Jureidini has published extensively over the years on human trafficking, migrant labor and migrant rights, among other aspects of migration. He considers it a personal goal to help change the conditions and legal status of the estimated 200,000 women working as domestic helpers in Lebanon.

Jureidini had been hoping to return to Lebanon for some time when Dr. Paul Tabar, director of LAU's Institute for Migration Studies and a friend of Jureidini's, convinced him to join LAU and help establish a major in sociology as well as a master's program in migration and refugee studies.

Jureidini received his PhD in sociology in 1987 from Flinders University of South Australia, where he had also completed his BA in sociology and psychology.

Q&A

What were some of your accomplishments as the director of AUC's Center for Migration and Refugee Studies, and what will be the nature of your involvement with LAU's Institute for Migration Studies?

At AUC I was part of the transition from the Forced Migration and Refugee Studies program — which offered only a one-year graduate diploma — to the Center for Migration and Refugee Studies, which has an additional Masters program and another graduate diploma in Psychosocial Issues for Forced Migrant and Refugees. When I began, the program had 23 graduate students. When I left, the Center had 72 graduate students.

At LAU I will be assisting in developing a Master's in Migration Studies degree program at the Institute for Migration Studies.

Can you tell readers a little about your personal or academic goals?

My current academic goal is to complete a book on migrant domestic workers that brings together my work and thinking on the issue over the past 8 years or so. I am also interested in assisting various advocacy groups and institutions in Lebanon to bring about human-rights reforms pertaining to migrant domestic workers.

Why did you decide to leave Australia for an academic career in the Middle East?

I was asked to apply for a position at AUB in 1999 and was offered a position. I thought it was a good opportunity to return to the place of my birth though I had never lived here before. I was so pleased that I gave up a tenured position in Australia to remain in the region, which I have not regretted.



Harmony of Differences Within Lebanon

By Zana-Maria Cawog

“United We Celebrate, Divided We Fall” was the theme of the Hyphen Islam-Christianity event, a traveling project emphasizing reconciliation and coexistence that was hosted on LAU’s Beirut campus on March 17.

Hyphen Islam-Christianity’s team has traveled to more than 19 cities across the globe. The project includes a documentary by Nada Raphaël who is the project founder and head, as well as a 700-page collector’s book (winner of a Special Mention at the 2011 France-Lebanon Contest organized by the Association des Écrivains de Langue Française), and a photography exhibition — all depicting the thoughts and images of inhabitants of over 1,200 villages across Lebanon.

The interactive event opened in the Irwin Hall Auditorium with the Tripoli-based Fayha Choir singing the Lebanese National Anthem, followed by a short introductory speech by Dr. Elise Salem, vice president for Student Development and Enrollment Management at LAU.

“This should be a celebration of our differences, of our potential, and of our Lebanon,” said Salem.

Raphaël’s documentary stressed the need for Lebanese to look past their religious differences to find their similarities as citizens. “Hyphen Islam-Christianity is not about politics; it’s about how to live together,” Raphaël explained.

One interviewee in the documentary recalled a Christian man entering a mosque for the first time and asking, “What’s the difference? This is still the House of God.” Another mentioned evangelical schools in Tripoli, Lebanon, with a Muslim-Christian student ratio of roughly 3 to 1, where students are instructed by nuns.

After the film screening, Raphaël took questions from the audience.

The award-winning Fayha Choir, comprising 50 young women and men from various religious and cultural backgrounds, followed with a live performance conducted by maestro Barkev Taslakian.

The choir has received many awards, including two by the Warsaw International Choir Festival.

The choir’s diversity was also reflected by eclectic musical selections ranging from Palestinian to Armenian and Egyptian. “Al Kassam,” dedicated to the late Gebran Tueni, perhaps most poignantly captured the unity and pluralism of Lebanon.

The event closed with a cocktail reception where the crowd mingled next to an enormous bowl of tabbouleh, a picture of which was also depicted on the cover of the event’s program booklet.

“One of the purposes of this very moving event was to get away from petty Lebanese politics and materialism, to get back to more profound issues, to the importance of what makes us Lebanese,” Salem reflected near the end of the evening.

The event was organized by the Safadi Foundation, LAU, and the Faculty of Religious Sciences – Institute of Islamic-Christian Studies of the Université Saint-Joseph, within the Islamo-Christian Dialogue Week in Lebanon. The following two days, it was also hosted at the Safadi Cultural Center in Tripoli and at USJ.





Միջերկրականի Երեսանր

(Yerevan on the Mediterranean)

By Emily Morris

Beirut, capital of the
Armenian diaspora

Bourj Hammoud skyline



Armenian restaurant in Beirut, co-owned by an LAU graduate

It's Friday night and Mayrig, an Armenian restaurant in Beirut's trendy Gemmayzeh quarter, is packed with tourists and locals alike looking for authentic eats such as *basterma* (Armenian smoked beef), *sou beureg* (layered three-cheese pastry) and *soujok* (spicy Armenian sausage). In among these classics on the menu are popular Lebanese dishes — *kibbeh*, *hummus*, *kebab*—often with an Armenian twist.

What diners will find in this charming old stone house is a cuisine that celebrates two traditions with a shared past, a kind of metaphor for Lebanon's Armenian community, which over the decades has been woven into the fabric of Lebanese society while retaining a distinct cultural identity.

"We are Lebanese Armenians. If one can define what a Lebanese is, then whatever that is, the Armenians are that, but in addition they have a very strong determination to keep their ethnic identity," says Dr. Arda Ekmekji, dean of Arts and Sciences at Haigazian University.

Armenians began migrating to Lebanon in large numbers from modern-day Turkey in the early 1920s under the French Mandate (the negotiated settlement after the First World War that partitioned the Ottoman Empire). Most were survivors of the 1915 Armenian genocide, in which an estimated 1.5 million Armenians were deliberately persecuted and killed under Ottoman rule.

The first immigrants were a kind of hardship group, according to Ekmekji, arriving with a significant number of orphans and mostly assisted by traveling missionaries. Many settled in refugee camps in the Bourj Hammoud area and in Anjar, a town in the Bekaa, but they immediately worked to improve their situation, finding jobs as artisans, photographers, cobblers and so on. They organized themselves by building schools, churches, community centers, cultural associations and sports clubs. By the 1950s, shanty towns had given way to flourishing cities.

When Lebanon gained independence in 1943, the new government created a multi-confessional system, giving Armenians a quota with a certain number of deputies in parliament. Essentially, according to Ekmekji, the day the Armenians became Lebanese is the same day non-Armenian Lebanese officially became Lebanese.

Azadouhi Kalaidjian, an LAU alumna and former longtime LAU professor, agrees. "No other community in the Armenian diaspora enjoyed the same rights and privileges as the one in Lebanon," she says. "The Lebanese Armenian community became the leader of the communities scattered around the world. It was regarded in a sense as the mother community."

Because the Lebanese did not discriminate against Armenians as refugees but treated them as equals, Kalaidjian adds, Armenians in Lebanon were able to uphold their traditions, advance their culture, establish their own newspapers and develop their language better than other Armenians in the diaspora.

"This I say with great gratitude to the Lebanese community," she notes. "What happened as a result was that Armenians became true Lebanese attached to Lebanon, their homeland, as loyal citizens."

Civil war demographic shifts

By 1975, Lebanese Armenians had become an inseparable part of Lebanese society. They were a major presence in universities, colleges and hospitals. Ekmekji recalls that at one point in the early 1970s, Armenians made up about 90 percent of the nursing school in American University Hospital. Beirut's Ras Beirut area was alive at the time with intellectual activity between American University of Beirut, Lebanese American University (then BCW) and Haigazian University. Established



Armenian Catholic Church in Geitawi

in 1955, Haigazian opened its doors to Armenians and non-Armenians, with instruction in English. It was, and still is, the only Armenian university outside of Armenia. It has a major Armenian library and a research center with Armenian journals unavailable anywhere else in the Middle East.

The Armenian community felt the impact of the civil war acutely. Today there are approximately 150,000 Armenians in Lebanon, or around four percent of the population, but that number was far higher before 1975.

"There was a major demographic shift as a result of the civil war," Ekmekji says. Armenians had had a strong presence in Ras Beirut, but many now moved either to East Beirut or north of the city to Antelias and Rabieh — or out of Lebanon entirely. Caught in the crossfire of warring factions, Haigazian had to move its campus to Achrafieh for 10 years.

"At Christmas of 1975 there were 56 of us, but by Christmas of 1982 only five in my family remained — my husband, daughter and in-laws," Ekmekji says. Her story is a familiar one not only to Lebanese Armenians, but to the majority of Lebanese.

"What we Lebanese Armenians really lost was a strong middle class, because the first to leave were the doctors, businessmen and so on, those with degrees who could find work elsewhere," she adds. "And we lost the children of the middle class who would have been the community's central asset, had they stayed."

Keeping Armenian culture alive

Sami Garabedian, director of athletics at LAU Beirut and an instructor of physical education in the Department of Natural Sciences, has been the advisor of the student-led Armenian Cultural Club for about five years now. The club's major annual event is the commemoration of the Armenian genocide on April 24.

Garabedian is proud of his Armenian heritage and has visited Armenia with his wife, Lena, who, he says, is more "into the history" and speaks the language better than he.

When the time came to decide on an educational system for their 6-year-old son and 3-year-old daughter, they chose a French school. Though his son, Alain Haig, is learning Arabic and French in class, and will eventually learn English, Garabedian sends him to an Armenian school every Saturday to learn his ancestral language. "My son speaks a different language with different sets of grandparents— French with my parents and Armenian with Lena's," Garabedian says. "It is important to us that they understand their heritage and its values."

Like Garabedian, many Lebanese Armenians from the second and third generations are a testament to the intricate relationship between the two cultures, and prove that one doesn't have to compromise the other.

Chant Koroukian, 21, a senior at LAU Beirut's School of Business, is the president of the Armenian Cultural Club. He believes parents can play a major role in keeping the Armenian



LAU's Armenian Cultural Club



Traditional Armenian dish, Mante

heritage alive in Lebanon by speaking only Armenian in the home. “The elder generations had grandparents who witnessed the genocide, which gave them a stronger sense of belonging,” he says.

Armenian restaurants contribute to keeping the culture alive. LAU alumna ('98) Serge Maacaron co-owns Mayrig with his cousin Aline Kamakian. After cooking a big Armenian dinner for friends one night using their grandmother's recipes, the pair had an epiphany of sorts and decided to open a restaurant. The name in Armenian means “little mother.”

“Inspired by our grandmother, we wanted to expose locals and tourists to our culinary culture,” says Maacaron. “Mayrig has been so popular among visitors from the Gulf that we've opened a branch in Jeddah. It's full of Saudis who now know what Armenian food is.”

According to Kalaidjian, who has been actively involved in Lebanon's Armenian community for decades, in Western countries like France and the United States where Armenian communities exist in large numbers, Armenians try their best to keep their language and culture but the new generation is gradually losing its own identity. This is not the case with Lebanon, where young Lebanese Armenians usually learn Armenian and Arabic fluently, in addition to other languages. “Lebanon is our last stronghold to keep our identity as a community. It cannot be compared to any other country in the world,” she says.

Ekmekji can't see herself anywhere else: “Our children are Lebanese with an Armenian cultural background. They've mastered the local language; they think like Lebanese and are engaged in Lebanese issues. They love this country and they care for it.”

It is safe to say that Lebanon would not be quite the same without the contributions of this resilient community. 🍷

Spotlight on: Maestro Harout Fazlian

Maestro Harout Fazlian has conducted orchestras all around the world, but Lebanon is — and always will be — the place he calls home. “This is where I learned how to ride a bicycle, where I fell and scraped my knee for the first time, the first place I fell in love with a girl in my class when I was 10 years old. All these memories still have a very big influence on me,” he tells LAU Magazine.

Fazlian lived abroad for a number of years as a result of the civil war, and his decision to return in 1996 was a critical one for him. “I wanted to contribute to the rebuilding of my country, and I feel like here I can say what I want to say musically.”

Lebanon is where he feels most inspired, but he says that living for more than 20 years in Canada made him a free thinker, and that he owes his technique as a conductor to his education in Armenia during the 1980s. He studied classical music in Yerevan for seven years, receiving his bachelor's and master's degrees in symphony and opera conduction, both with Honors. Fazlian later chose to pursue a Ph.D. in music education in Armenia, receiving his doctorate in 2008.

He still maintains musical ties with Armenia, traveling there occasionally for concerts, and inviting Armenian orchestras and musicians to play in Beirut or to tour with Lebanese artists.

Born into a family of famous artists, Fazlian has always felt that music is his calling, but he firmly believes innate talent is not enough; one must learn technique and work hard at his craft. “Art demands discipline — it can't be a free-for-all,” he says, and it's a lesson he and his wife, Noura, a painter, are passing on to their daughter Tia, 11, and son Berj, 7, who have already demonstrated natural artistic ability.

Fifteen years down the line, Fazlian hopes to be doing exactly what he's doing now — conducting — only with more understanding and maturity. “The greatest conductors flower in the later stages of life — and it's not by accident. You carry with you all the years of your life, and that comes out in your music.”





Noel Jammal celebrates a second place win



On and Off the Track

The demanding double lives of two business school athletes

By Marc Abizeid

It's around 4:00 a.m. on a Monday morning. Noel Jammal's flight from Rome has just touched down in Beirut.

Exhausted, the 21-year-old LAU student collects his bags and heads home to enjoy whatever rest he can squeeze in before his 9:00 a.m. class. Come Thursday, Jammal will return to the airport and fly back to Europe for the weekend.

Not an ideal routine, but for a champion Formula 3 racecar driver juggling a full-time university schedule with weekend competitions in Europe, it'll have to do.

From April to November, Jammal, who was born in Madrid to a Spanish mother and a Lebanese father, represents Lebanon in the European Formula 3 Open Championship, racing regularly in France, Belgium, England, Portugal, Italy and Spain.

"It's very tiring," says Jammal, who beat 13 other racers last year to win the Class C championship. "Weekend races start on Friday, so my team puts me in a room on Thursday to rest beforehand. Then I leave right after the Sunday races to make it to class Monday morning."

He somehow manages to pull it off. Well, sort of.

Last year, LAU dropped him for a semester for excessive absences. Despite the persistent scheduling conflict between

"work" (for want of a better word) and school, Jammal is now committed to the latter, vowing to finish his degree in business marketing — even if it means missing 17 out of 19 training days, like he did last year.

"I would never quit university," Jammal says with a measure of conviction. "It's my dream to make it to Formula 1, and I have a lot of support and sponsors after winning the championship last year. But if it doesn't work out with racing, I'll need to have a degree behind me."

Jammal's situation is both hectic and glamorous, and it's not the only one of its kind at LAU.

Nineteen-year-old Jasmine Busson, a professional horseback rider, is also struggling to balance her studies at LAU with the competitive passion that has her on the road most weekends.

Unlike Jammal, Busson has no off-season. From October to March, she competes in the Arab Tour. Then from April till October, she travels to Europe for competitions that begin Friday and continue through the weekend.

"I'm trying to combine university with horseback riding, but it's not easy," says the French-Lebanese Busson, who spends her summers in Europe.



Jammal races his #33 car



Jasmine Busson carries her horse over an obstacle

Busson has been riding since the age of seven. At the age of 12, she won a spot to compete in the Children's International Jumping Competition in Los Angeles. Then in 2008, she competed in Chile at the FEI World Jumping Challenge Final, where she placed fourth.

She talks about the sport as if it were an addiction. "When you start horseback riding, you can't stop," she says. "I'll never stop. I love the adrenaline rush."

She describes a sort of sacred intimacy between her and the animal that non-riders would find difficult to understand.

"Horseback riding is not like other sports where you have all the control. You have to understand the horse; you have to have communication," she says. "It's not all about you — it's about the relationship."

As for class attendance, Busson seems more cautious than the Spanish speed racer. She never misses class when she is sick, preferring to save her off days "for something important."

Busson and Jammal mirror each other almost uncannily. Both are half European and half Lebanese. Both represent Lebanon at their international competitions, even though they hold dual citizenship. They both study business marketing. Both

have fathers who enthusiastically support their competitive endeavors, and mothers who express serious concerns for their safety. And oddly enough, they both carry the same two phones — an iPhone 4 and a BlackBerry.

But the strongest resemblance is in their unshakable loyalty to the track, and their cold-eyed realism about the personal compromises such dedication entails.

"When you love something that much," Busson says, "you make sacrifices."



Migration Studies Finds a Home at LAU

By Curtis Brown



Collected essays from IMS's inaugural conference

"Lebanon is by definition a country of migration, and of immigration," says Dr. Paul Tabar, the founder and chair of LAU's Institute for Migration Studies (IMS). "It was obvious that it needed an institute or research center to study this vital and important topic."

Launched in 2007, IMS is the first institute of its kind in Lebanon. In the region more generally, only the Center for Migration and Refugee Studies at the American University of Cairo has a similar profile. While AUC's program focuses heavily on forced migration and refugee studies, however, IMS's research has a more comprehensive scope, including emigration from and immigration to Lebanon and the Middle East, interregional migration, return migration, diasporic communities, and citizenship and migrant communities.

"The institute was founded with the aim of becoming a major regional and international research center, and offering policy advice on issues of migration in the Arab world," says Dr. Jennifer Skulte-Ouaiss, assistant professor of political science and international affairs and a faculty member of IMS.

"Our mandate stems from the fact that Lebanese migration is such a longstanding historical phenomenon, and there's this huge diaspora that's incredibly active across the board — economically and politically," she explains. "That puts Lebanon in a fairly unique position."

IMS's intellectual orientation is thoroughly interdisciplinary. LAU's minor in sociology offers a course in the sociology of migration, which makes use of the institute's findings. The existing M.A. in international relations will soon include a course called "Politics and Migration," and will cross-list courses in research methodology. A master's degree in migration studies is in the planning stages, and will include cross-listed courses in

everything from international relations and international law to gender studies and the literature of exile.

Tabar and Skulte-Ouaiss both express gratitude for the level of administrative backing the institute has received from LAU.

"We've had fantastic support from the university, and have been receiving seed money ever since," Tabar says. The seed money in turn has helped the institute obtain research grants.

With \$350,000 from Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC), IMS is currently carrying out a three-year study of the relationship between Lebanon and its expatriate communities in three countries: Australia, Canada and the United States. Of particular interest is the shaping influence of these relationships on the transnational Lebanese "public sphere," a concept encompassing everything from politics to the activities of charities, religious organizations and other branches of civil society.

"Prior to our research, everything we could find on the topic was almost anecdotal in nature," Skulte-Ouaiss stresses. "We want to understand how the Lebanese diaspora impacts both conflict-perpetuation and peace-building, and to understand that in a systematic way."

To that end, IMS's research team is conducting extensive in-depth interviews — 150 in Lebanon, and 75 each in Canada, the U.S. and Australia. When the project is finished, they hope to have produced a huge database, which in turn will be a major resource for future scholarship.

"So far, we're getting fascinating data on how active expatriates are developmentally — building wells, roads and hospitals in villages, for example. And of course, they play a major role in elections," Skulte-Ouaiss says.



> IMS book launch in April, 2011

According to Tabar, there is a longstanding lack both of a coherent state policy toward Lebanese expatriates and of empirical, scholarly knowledge about the history of transnational relations between Lebanon and its global diaspora.

The practical goal of the study is therefore to synthesize and translate its findings into policy recommendations. To that end, the institute is organizing a major international conference, which will take place at the end of 2011 and will host representatives of NGOs, the World Bank, the International Labor Organization, and various embassies and emigration ministries, as well as scholars doing parallel kinds of research.

“Lebanese migration is a longstanding phenomenon, and there’s this huge diaspora that’s incredibly active across the board – that puts Lebanon in a fairly unique position.”

—Dr. Jennifer Skulte-Ouaiss, assistant professor, LAU

Conference proceedings as well as the institute’s final report will be published in both Arabic and English, and distributed to Lebanese politicians and relevant state ministries.

The study’s academic and theoretical goal, on the other hand, is to enrich scholarly debates about transnationalism and diasporic relations in general. The existing literature on the topic, according to Tabar, is mostly focused on Latin America and its relationship to the United States.

“Not much has even been done on Europe and its diaspora communities, let alone Lebanon,” says Tabar.

In addition to the IDRC study, IMS is conducting several

smaller-scale research projects. One of these is gathering data on so-called “circular migration” in the Arab world — Lebanese who work in the Gulf, for example, and come home on the weekends. Another, funded by the Qatar foundation, focuses on patterns of intermarriage between a specific village in the north and a diaspora community in Australia. Yet another, supported by a €20,000 grant from SEDR [ed. note — I need to verify & correct this organization’s full name], focuses on professional migration to France and Australia.

In its brief tenure so far, the institute has hosted two major conferences, one of which led to a Cambridge Scholars volume of essays, edited by Tabar and Skulte-Ouaiss. IMS has published individual research papers on topics ranging from Lebanon’s Jewish community to the conditions of Syrian and Palestinian migrant workers in Lebanon.

In addition to Tabar and Skulte-Ouaiss, IMS’s members include researchers Rima Rassi and Nathalie Nahas, both of whom come to LAU with master’s degrees from AUB. Dr. Ray Jureidini, a widely published scholar on regional migrant-worker communities, was recently recruited by LAU’s social sciences department and will be affiliated with IMS.

Tabar says the institute’s goal is to build a program that will be fertilized by existing M.A. programs, while having its own character.

“There is a regional need to address migration-related issues,” says Tabar, “and until recently, so few have had the scholarly and professional training to do it.”



Art Movements

Lebanon's Art Diaspora

By Emily Holman



The "Konafa" maker," by Muhamad Youssef, Cairo, Egypt, 1960. Collection: AIF/Gihane Ahmad. Copyright © Arab Image Foundation

An all-too-common verbal misdemeanour regarding the art world of Beirut today is to call it “up-and-coming.” A handy journalistic cliché, it neatly obliterates a vital history. Lebanon has been an art hub since at least the 1960s, and there exists a heritage that even 15 years of civil war could not erase.

The sense of a renaissance derives partly from the impression of increased accessibility. Formal art institutions have popped up all around Beirut in recent years. The Beirut Art Center (BAC), Art Lounge, 98weeks: Each has as its *raison d’être* the desire to promote art. Indeed BAC’s Lamia Joreige describes the center’s mission precisely as “making art more accessible.”

The goal is laudable in theory but debatable in its achievement. According to Dr. Kirsten Scheid, a professor of anthropology at AUB and a historian of the Lebanese art scene, “Art is not more accessible. Gallery attendance has in fact gone down, particularly since the late 1990s.”

In fact, despite the widespread notion that the civil war decimated the art industry, it was not until years afterward — due largely to economic shifts — that local galleries began to close. During and immediately after the war, galleries — mostly ones that “catered to conventional people,” according to Scheid — were in abundance. The end of the war brought with it numerous returnees keen to invest in art, a trend that collapsed as soon as the economy did.

What is truer of Beirut’s artistic scene is that it is increasingly not limited to Beirut, nor even to Lebanon. The relationship between Beirut and other art capitals continues to strengthen, one phenomenon that is chiefly a result of Beirut’s present-day art institutions.

The Arab Image Foundation (FAI), for instance, “follows the diaspora” of Arab artists; where they go, the FAI captures and archives. FAI’s Sana Chkeibane explains that the aim of the foundation is “preservation and accessibility.” Its collection comes from across the Middle East, as well as from areas where there is a strong Arab presence, such as Mexico and Senegal. Exhibitions using FAI’s material indeed tend more often to take place internationally.

Western interest in Lebanese and Arab art, however welcome, is occasionally tinged with romanticism, colored by a view of the Arab world as both threatening and exotic. (The title of a recent book talk in London — “Voices from the Lands of Anger: Dissent in the Arab World” — is a good example.) Lebanese artists often engage this logic — sometimes ironically, sometimes critically and sometimes opportunistically.

Ideally, Lebanese artists orient themselves to an international audience for the oldest and most venerable reason: Influence has no nationality, inspiration no passport. On a more prosaic level, however, the domestic market for art may well be diminishing. The humanities in general have “fallen out of credibility,” Scheid says, and in the grip of a precarious economy, the majority of Lebanese parents “aren’t keen on paying university tuition for aspiring artists.” It is symptomatic that AUB’s art history major currently has just one student enrolled.

When artists anywhere encounter indifference at home, they naturally look abroad, both for an audience and for inspiration. Yasmine Taan, an assistant professor of graphic design at LAU and an artist herself, is blunt about the necessity of teaching Eurocentric traditions: “There’s not enough material in the



Sawсан Bou Khaled’s *Vessels* debutS at Beirut Monnot Theater

Orient.” Taan, who teaches courses on Oriental theory and design and culture, also underscores the complexity of the relationship between design and the Orient: Contemporary design is interwoven with modernity, a concept that itself is “Western.” Modernity in the Middle East, she adds, “must be measured in terms of the temporal context of the culture — and native perceptions of it.”

The aloof artist is of course a universally familiar stereotype, but these cultural, historical and economic factors may make for an unusually vexed relationship between Lebanese artists and their society. Paradoxically, the cosmopolitanism so central to Lebanon’s national character and narrative shifts the locus of Lebanese art out of the national locale. Most of the educated population is trilingual, and the fact of a huge existing diaspora spurs on the transnational tendencies of Lebanese graduates, most of whom further their studies in Europe, the U.S., Canada or the Gulf. It is hardly surprising that the art community should also look for its prospects abroad.

Lebanese visitors to art institutions and galleries — not to mention international tourists — are likely to understand or even prefer English or French. Exhibition catalogues and artist biographies are overwhelmingly in these languages. Professor Taan remarked that even her Lebanese clients ask for “the European flavor” in designs. The very word for “artist” in Arabic (*faanan*) has negative connotations, and many Lebanese artists prefer the French word *artiste*. In Lebanon as elsewhere, cosmopolitanism is a source of credibility and survival; as Scheid neatly puts it, ease with other languages “gives you extra avenues — especially in Lebanon.”

Does awareness of an international audience also influence the way Lebanese artists present their work? Lara Nasr, a painter and LAU alumna who has exhibited in both Beirut and New York, set her sights on the latter out of a desire to “make it to the capital of the art world,” where “lovers of art from all over” could see her work. She says the obliqueness of her themes and the degree of abstraction in her work has helped her to avoid being typecast as a “daughter of Lebanon.” 🍷



“I feel compelled to share stories reflecting the multiculturalism and diversity of the region. For a Lebanese audience that rarely sees itself on the screen, there’s a sensitivity, a hyper-awareness as to how they are portrayed.”

—Merva Faddoul, Filmmaker and LAU alumna

The Arab Image Foundation “follows the diaspora” of Arab culture, as well as collecting and preserving its photographic heritage.
Above: Pipe construction for the Darbandi Khan water pipeline project, Latif el Ani, Iraq, 1961

Others, however, ironically note the inexorable pull of “typically Lebanese” themes. In her celebrated 2008 memoir *Beirut, I Love You*, Zena el Khalil promised not to write about the civil war and not to write about coffee. The thematic fixation on the civil war has long been acknowledged, even mocked — yet it endures. It gives international audiences a “handle” on the work, and can act as a catalyst to fame.

Western interest in Lebanese and Arab art is tinged with romanticism, colored by a view of the Arab world as both threatening and exotic.

Rawi Hage, who gained literary acclaim with his first novel *De Niro’s Game*, attributes the pervasiveness of the theme to “the absence of an initiative by the Lebanese government to preserve a memory of the war.”

“It was artists and writers who took it upon themselves to create and recreate these events, through the fictitious or the real,” Hage told an interviewer in 2007.

Interestingly enough, Hage left Lebanon in 1984 at the age of 18, and has since lived in Montreal, and when he published *De Niro’s Game* had last visited Beirut in 1998. His portrayal of civil-war-era Lebanon is largely the result of artistic imagination.

Though the book jacket introduces Hage as a “Lebanese refugee living in Montreal,” he is in fact a Canadian citizen. The civil war is many things at once for Lebanese artists — a historical trauma, an artistic theme and a promotional blurb.

For Merva Faddoul, a filmmaker and LAU alumna who now resides in the United States but sets her films in her native Lebanon, it is difficult to separate her artistic vision from a sense of her cultural identity vis-à-vis her Western audience.

“In America especially, for various sociopolitical reasons, there’s a sense of curiosity about the Middle East as well as a tendency to stereotype,” says Faddoul. “I feel compelled to share stories reflecting the multiculturalism and diversity of the region. For a Lebanese audience that rarely sees itself on the screen, there’s a sensitivity, a hyper-awareness as to how they are portrayed.”

Other Lebanese artists pointedly eschew stock Lebanese themes. Sawsan Bou Khaled is a Lebanese playwright and actress whose play *Vessels* debuted in February at Monnot Theater. Written in the tradition of theater of the absurd, it trades explicitly on its Western influences; indeed the script comprises extracts from Western plays, and was largely a product of Bou Khaled’s theatrical training trip to Sweden. Yet she insisted on staging it in Lebanon. Bou Khaled is representative of a counter-trend in Lebanese art: innovation that deliberately resists regional traditions.

Robert Myers, a playwright and professor of English at AUB, sees two main strains of theater in Lebanon. The first is “neo-Brechtian,” where the theatrical nature of the performance — its



View of the venue 'Objects of Study' at The Photographer's Gallery in London, October 2004

constructedness — is fully exposed, and political and economical as opposed to psychological issues are foregrounded. The second — exemplified by Bou Khaled — comes straight from Beckett and the absurd.

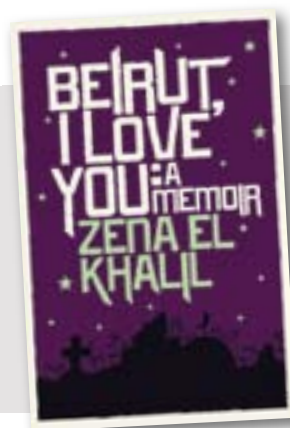
Funding and patronage are also relevant to the international orientation of the Lebanese art world. Debates about patronage and artistic autonomy have heated up since 2000. Funding from the Ford Foundation, for example, used to be stigmatized in some circles by association with an American political agenda.

More often, however, critiques of foreign patronage focus on the subtle distortions, compromises and alleged pandering of artists who refract regional issues through a self-consciously "avant-garde" lens. The civil war thus becomes "always absurdist," in Scheid's terms, "never taken seriously." Another stereotypically "Arab" issue is women's oppression, a theme that flatters the West's sense of its own egalitarianism. Yet another is the Palestinian right of return, which is typically neutralized into "an aesthetic longing."

Above all, foreign institutional funding is said by critics to be contingent on "going abroad as Arabs or Lebanese," as national representatives. Bernard Khoury, possibly Lebanon's most renowned contemporary architect, is always described as having been inspired by the civil war in his gothic construction of Beirut nightclub BO18. He has said privately that he was inspired by his love of jazz. The civil-war legend continues to circulate, and Khoury does not vigorously dispute it.

With many artists looking abroad for both inspiration and professional prospects, is anything being done to hang

on to Beirut's best? The BAC has an annual emerging artist exhibition, *Exposure*, which aims to encourage local talent—but the proviso is being Lebanese, not being based in Lebanon. As Scheid points out, "it is natural for artists to feel that they are discredited as well as credited by this qualification of 'who' they are." No artist wishes to trade on his or her birthplace alone. Until "Arab art" ceases to be a sort of commercial brand abroad, however, the temptation to do so will remain. ■



Zena El Khalil's 2008 memoir *Beirut, I Love You* was published in Beirut and London

Liane Rabbath

From the Professional Art World to LAU's Fine Arts Program

By Emily Morris

Liane Mathes Rabbath is a woman of many trades—mother, full-time professional artist, and now a full-time student at LAU. Although she holds a Masters degree in Finance and has made her name as an artist nationally and internationally, Rabbath decided to return to university in the Fall of 2010 to pursue a B.A. in Fine Arts.

"After courses at LAU are through for the day, I try to keep two or three hours free to work in my studio in downtown Beirut," she says. "My schedule can be hectic, of course, but I love what I do, and I am interested in learning from what the LAU program has to offer."

The intricate patterns of Rabbath's art, as well as her unique style, quirky vision and meticulous attention to detail, have earned her international acclaim along with an original niche in the Lebanese art scene. Her paintings make use of a single material — cigarette papers (also known as Damascus papers), which she rolls and folds to create geometrical forms bursting with color.

Rabbath's work featured in the 'Université Pour Tous' collective exhibition in Beirut in 2002, and regularly at the Espace SD until 2006. She showed at the Salon d'Automne in Beirut's Sursock Museum in 2003, 2005 and 2010, and at the Lee Gallery in Paris in April of this year. In August of 2012, she will show for the first time at the prestigious House of Latin America in Monaco.

Born in Luxembourg, Rabbath met her Lebanese husband, entrepreneur Habib Rabbath, while they were at university together in Switzerland. They have three children who, she says, are "completely Lebanese"—Charlotte, 19, Laura, 17, and Georges, 12.

LAU Magazine recently caught up with Rabbath to find out more about her double life as artist and student.



Q&A

What made you return to university to study fine arts? And why LAU?

I have spent almost 20 years in Lebanon and have taken lots of independent art courses. After all the time and effort I put into this I realized I didn't have a piece of paper—a degree—to show for it. After extensive research, I realized that LAU has an excellent reputation in Fine Arts. Because I already have a Masters degree in Finance, I only need to take the required courses in Fine Arts, which is what I am really interested in.

Have you always considered yourself an artist?

I wasn't an artist when I came here but Lebanon gave me the chance. I decided to go for something new. I began painting at the atelier of the famous Armenian Lebanese painter, Paul Guiragossian, in 1996; his sons taught painting courses there. From there I went to a number of art workshops over the years and developed my craft.

Where does your passion for art come from?

I think maybe it's something that has always been inside me, but I didn't have the chance to express it while studying, traveling, raising a family, and so on. But I believe that — even with art — it's 98 percent work and 2 percent inspiration. At the beginning, I used to tell my instructors "I can't even draw one correct line!" and they'd tell me art is always a work in progress. Today I'm

more convinced than ever that if you enjoy something a great deal, you will do well at it.

When did you start experimenting with the tobacco papers, and why?

I was working with Lebanese artist Tania Bakalian Safieddine at the time, and I have her to thank for introducing me to the world of collage. I really liked the intricacy of it. Why the cigarette papers? I had access to them through my husband's company (cigarette paper manufacturing company). I fell in love with the designs on them. It's very oriental yet very modern. Until that day I found oriental designs heavy, but I have liked them ever since. It was almost like an acceptance of my life over here in the Middle East.



Donor Profiles

In Memory of Maggie Kutteh Ghattas, Courageous Humanitarian

Nicolas Ghattas, widower of Beirut College for Women class of 1967 alumna Maggie Kutteh Ghattas, has chosen to commemorate his beloved wife by naming an endowment scholarship fund after her. Now and for years to come, needy students will benefit from his generosity.

Ghattas, a University of Massachusetts and Harvard graduate residing in the United States and president of American Properties, Inc., is delighted that the endowed scholarship will provide financial support to deserving students wishing to pursue their studies at LAU, while honoring his wife's love for her alma mater.

Maggie Kutteh Ghattas was a caring and compassionate woman, always engaged in good deeds, such as tutoring young children with disabilities. Throughout her life, she did all she could to assist others who were less fortunate.

Maggie will also be remembered for her great courage. She wore a brave face through her long struggle with cancer, smiling and brimming with optimism, always deflecting attention from herself to support others battling with sickness. She never gave up.

Maggie had a great passion for poetry. She wrote beautiful Arabic poems to express her feelings for the brother she lost in a bomb explosion in Beirut, and for her motherland torn by civil war. Her words reflected her love of life and for her family. She expressed the hope that some of her poetry would be published one day.

Maggie remained involved with LAU after her university years, serving as president for the LAU Alumni Chapter in New York during the early 1990s.



In Loving Memory of Salim Hachache, Longtime Friend of LAU

"It is an honor for our family to carry the name of such a great father, husband, teacher, and friend", says Ramzi Hachache, eldest son of late Salim Hachache, long-time contributor to LAU.

His name lives on at LAU through the history of his generous donations since 1985, which have mainly supported the Salim Hachache Annual Scholarship Grant.

His youngest son Raef is an LAU alumnus, and his grandchildren Leen Hachache and Hani Idriss are currently enrolled at the university. Loyalty to LAU truly runs in the Hachache family.

Salim Hachache strongly believed in the importance of education, and always wanted to provide educational opportunities to talented students of modest means. His family, friends, colleagues, and employees knew him as patient, generous, and humble.

His children and grandchildren were fortunate to grow up close to him. A few months before he passed away, Salim Hachach Junior was born to his son Raef and his wife Nadine Marshli, an LAU alumna as well. Although "Grandpa Salim" was very grateful and always proud of all his grandchildren, the birth of "baby Salim" brought special joy to him and the entire family.

His sudden death on February 23, 2011 was a huge shock to all who knew and loved him.

Hachache was dedicated to his work, and dedication was the secret to his success. He started his career in Jeddah, Saudia Arabia with General Electric Company (GE). Though he was far from home during those years and encountered many challenges, he managed to establish his own company, which became one of the largest distributors of GE in Saudia Arabia, indeed becoming the first to introduce central air conditioning to the kingdom. His wife Atifa, dearest to his heart, was throughout his career one of the biggest supporters of the "giant businessman" he had become.

LAU will always cherish his memory and praise his commitment to the noble cause of education.



CampusNotes

Edited by Nanor Karageozian

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

Community Outreach and Civic Engagement

Youth Leadership Program

As part of the Youth Leadership Program, a peer training initiative organized by LAU's Outreach and Civic Engagement unit, around 20 LAU students recently traveled to South and North Lebanon to empower local school children to become active citizens and unleash their leadership potential. The program was launched in November 2010 in Tripoli and Sidon, in collaboration with the Safadi Foundation and with the participation of around 250 students from 54 public and private schools. In February 2011, the program reached Hasroun, in North Lebanon, where 220 students from 10 schools in Bsharri and the surrounding areas took part in the training, organized in collaboration with the Bishop Philippe Shebaya Foundation. The program will be expanded in the coming months to cover more areas throughout Lebanon, including the Shouf and the Bekaa.



Capacity-building for non-profits

LAU's Continuing Education Program, in partnership with the Lebanese Development Network, launched a new academic program for NGO professionals, with a press conference held on January 20 at LAU Beirut. Titled "Capacity-building Program for Non-profits," the module targets NGO managers, program developers, fundraisers and team members, as well as corporate leaders involved in social responsibility, volunteers and community activists. Its objectives include addressing real-life problems in an interactive learning environment for the enhancement of the management of NGOs. Participants can opt for a diploma or a non-diploma structure, and choose a fundraising, management or personal dynamics track. Courses began on March 7.



New season for LAU Model UN program

LAU celebrated the inauguration of the sixth annual High School AL WALID Global Classrooms – LAU Model United Nations (MUN) program, and the first annual Middle School MUN, with a ceremony held at LAU Beirut on December 4. Under the motto "Youth Will Change the World," the program includes a series of training sessions that prepare participants for a two-day final conference in spring 2011. Around 320 people attended the opening ceremony, including university officers, representatives from the Alwaleed Bin Talal Humanitarian Foundation (the program's main sponsor), school representatives, students, and ambassadors. After the ceremony, LAU MUN trainers informed school representatives and students about the details of the program.

Inspiring grassroots efforts in Oman

LAU students Batoul Haidar and Ali Sibai, the president and vice president of LAU's UNESCO Club respectively, were tapped by the Lebanese National Commission for UNESCO to extend their civic efforts past the boundaries of the country, during the second Muscat Youth Summit, in Oman, in early November. They spent three days there, along with about a dozen other activists from the Middle East and Europe, inspiring local youth to get involved in community projects. About 170 Omani youth participated in the summit, which targeted three main areas: entrepreneurship, urban development, and digital media.



Media Training and Research



Weeklong LAU workshop for Iraqi journalists

LAU hosted 13 veteran Iraqi journalists for a weeklong training workshop (November 22–26) designed to introduce them to Lebanese media practices and to foster intercultural exchange. The journalists attended seminars on LAU's Beirut campus, met with famous Lebanese media personalities, visited the country's major newsrooms, and took in the sights of Beirut. The program also included a roundtable discussion between the Iraqis and a group of influential Lebanese journalists, where they discussed similarities and differences between each country's media and culture. The event was organized by The Institute for Media Training and Research at LAU.

Octavia Nasr's presentation on social media

LAU alumna and veteran Middle East correspondent Octavia Nasr gave a presentation about social media at LAU Beirut on November 9. Organized by The Institute for Media Training and Research at LAU, Nasr's lecture drew around 150 people, in addition to hundreds of web viewers. LAU Social, a digital media class, was responsible for setting up a live broadcasting platform that streamed video, pictures and tweets to members of a wider online community.



Arts, Culture and Language

Shakespeare's Globe Theater Workshops

British theater actor Adam Coleman was back at LAU Beirut for a fourth time, where he led 10 workshops for around 350 students from 13 high schools throughout Lebanon and 13 students from LAU, the American University of Beirut (AUB), and Beirut Arab University. During the workshops that were held between February 23 and 26, Coleman, a senior practitioner at Shakespeare's Globe Education, drew from Shakespeare to help the participants become more effective communicators. The workshops were organized by the English Speaking Union in Lebanon, in cooperation with LAU's Department of Communication Arts and the British Council.



Acting workshop for LAU and AUB students

On December 1, renowned American stage actress Kathleen Chalfant conducted an acting workshop for around 70 LAU communication arts students and AUB students taking drama and English literature courses. The workshop by the award-winning actress was held at LAU Beirut, and was organized by the Department of Communication Arts and the office of Student Development and Enrollment Management at LAU, in collaboration with The Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Bin Abdulaziz Alsaud Center for American Studies and Research at AUB.



LAU plays draw crowds in Cairo

Two LAU play productions were performed during the 22nd Cairo International Festival for Experimental Theatre, held from October 10–20 in Egypt. The first was *Kafka, His Father, the Boss, the Wolf, and the Pigs*, LAU's spring 2010 major production directed by Dr. Lina Abyad, LAU assistant professor of theater. And the second was *Guantanamo, The Meaning of Waiting*, an LAU student production directed by Farah Shaer, a third-year communication arts major.

Architecture, Design and Photography

Graphic design “intervention” projects

Twelve third-year graphic design students from LAU Byblos tried to bring attention to some pressing, and sometimes forgotten or ignored, issues in Lebanon through the “intervention” projects they prepared as part of the fall 2010 visual perception course. Topics included the environment, the issue of Lebanese war prisoners, Lebanon’s ongoing political tensions, and the need to unite and work together. Most projects were presented in Byblos, but some students also took theirs off campus. They also used social media to expose their projects to as wide an audience as possible.



Community-based projects by architecture and design students

As part of their course titled Landscape Workshop: Challenging the Privatization of Public Spaces, 64 fourth-year students from LAU’s School of Architecture and Design were given a challenging midterm group assignment: use urban- and landscape-planning tools to envision ways to integrate, preserve and create public spaces in communities around Lebanon. The student groups presented their community-based projects at both campuses during November.

LAU participants’ top prizes at UN photo competition

Two LAU graduates and one student were among the 10 prizewinners of a UN photo competition, titled “A Snapshot for Development,” which aimed to highlight Lebanon’s work toward achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). During an award ceremony held at UNESCO palace on October 22, LAU alumna Abir Ghattas received the top prize for her photo called “The Girl with the Green Eyes,” under the MDG 1 category, to “Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger.” Sahar Khatib, another LAU alumna, took home the top prize in the seventh MDG category, to “Ensure Environmental Sustainability,” for her photo titled “Tree of Life.” LAU graphic design student Nadine Khoury received the award for the best photo under the MDG 3 category, to “Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women,” for her photo titled “Home Scary Home.” Bassam Lahoud, who has been teaching photography at LAU for 23 years, helped coordinate the competition on behalf of the United Nations Development Programme – Lebanon.



Science, Technology and Engineering

LAU student wins gold in organic chemistry competition

Jad Abdul Samad, a second-year pre-pharmacy student at LAU Byblos, tied for first place at Lebanon’s first-ever Organic Chemistry Competition held at the American University of Beirut (AUB) on February 7. Even though his partner had to cancel at the last minute due to an emergency, Abdul Samad was allowed to compete solo and shared the gold with a team from AUB. The competition brought together 42 teams from six Lebanese universities. The competition was organized in celebration of the International Year of Chemistry 2011 declared by UNESCO in cooperation with the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry.



“100 Years of Technology” exhibition

A rare collection of antiques revealing the progression of technology from the earliest days of the 20th century were displayed at LAU Beirut’s Riyadh Nassar Library in January and February. The collection featured at the exhibition, which was titled “100 Years of Technology,” belongs to Dr. Ale Hejase, an engineer who has been teaching part time at LAU’s School of Business over the past 23 years. The items included personal computers, computer accessories, calculators, tape recorders, CD writers, phonographs, and vacuum tubes, among others.



LAU: CUDA Teaching Center

In December, graphics card designer NVIDIA approved LAU's proposal, prepared by Dr. Haidar Harmanani, chair of the LAU Byblos Department of Computer Science and Mathematics, to designate the university as a CUDA Teaching Center. This will give the opportunity to computer science students in Byblos to be familiarized with the parallel computing systems engine for NVIDIA cards, known as CUDA. NVIDIA donated teaching and training equipment and software worth thousands of dollars to establish the LAU center. NVIDIA has 25 CUDA Teaching Centers around the globe.

Business News

Events for family business community

On December 8, a panel discussion, titled "Succession Planning in Family Businesses," was organized by the Institute of Family and Entrepreneurial Business (IFEB) at LAU's School of Business, for members of Lebanon's family business community. Held at LAU Beirut, the event featured three family business leaders who shared their experiences. It also launched the Family Business Leaders Network under the auspices of IFEB. The network — the first of its kind in the Middle East — aims to gather young family business leaders to share best practices and solutions.



Sports

Taekwondo team wins big at national championships

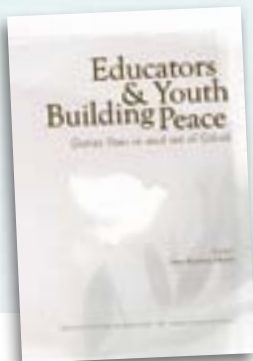
The LAU men's taekwondo team won four medals and first place overall in the blue belt category at the Lebanese National Men's Taekwondo Championships, held at Emile Lahoud Stadium on October 31. More than 23 official clubs and around 150 players participated in the event. Coached by Mark Rjeily, a part-time faculty member at LAU's School of Arts and Sciences, LAU students Ahmad Khatib (below 73 kg), Yazan Abdel Al (below 87 kg), and Al Sharif Mohammad Safieddine (below 68 kg) each took home gold medals, and Ayman Safa (below 80 kg) won a bronze medal.



Women's Studies and Peace Education

Photography exhibition on veils

A mixture of historical and modern images of veiled women from across the globe was displayed in the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church in the heart of midtown Manhattan, New York City, from January 23 till March 13. *Veil(s): A Photographic Overview* featured about 30 striking photographs highlighting differing depictions (and perceptions) of veiled women with various religious and social backgrounds from the 19th century to the present. The photo exhibit was conceived by LAU's Institute for Women's Studies in the Arab World (IWSAW) and first assembled in May 2005 under the direction of IWSAW's former Director Mona Khalaf. Ron Cruikshank, a former trustee at LAU and a current member of the IWSAW advisory board, played an integral role in putting together the New York exhibit.



New book on peace education

In an effort to promote peace education, LAU's Institute for Peace and Justice Education (IPJE) launched a book titled *Educators & Youth Building Peace: Stories from in and out of School*, in December. It was edited by Dr. Irma-Kaarina Ghosn, IPJE director. Its 16 chapters contain reflections and inspirational talks, and describe a number of actual peace-education projects that educators have carried out in different contexts around the world. The publication was made possible by generous grants provided to LAU by the Mennonite Central Committee to support IPJE's peace-building work.

Women's Studies and Peace Education

Ending violence against women

On December 8, LAU's Institute for Women's Studies in the Arab World, the Outreach and Civic Engagement (OCE) unit, and LAU Beirut's Dean of Students Office launched a series of events on the Beirut campus, as part of the White Ribbon Campaign, a global campaign that strives to compel men to take more responsibility for reducing the level of violence against women, and that came to the Middle East for the first time this year. Using the slogan "Be a Man: Men and Women Against Violence," the campaign aimed to encourage positive masculinity and promote a petition to the Lebanese Parliament in support of a law protecting women against domestic violence and other forms of abuse. It was held in partnership with three NGOs: KAFA (enough) Violence & Exploitation, Oxfam GB, and International Medical Corps.

In a related event, LAU's OCE unit partnered with the United Nations Information Center in Beirut to raise youth's voice to end violence against women, with a series of events held from December 10–11, under the "UNiTE to End Violence Against Women" campaign launched in 2008 by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.



Regional Conferences



Farewell to Young Women Leaders program

LAU's Young Women Leaders program, supported by a \$500,000 grant from the U.S. government's Middle East Partnership Initiative, wrapped up its activities with the First Regional Conference on Advancing Young Women Leaders in the Arab Gulf States, held from November 28–30. The program had been launched in the summer of 2009, when 20 participants from Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Yemen and Oman underwent two weeks of rigorous leadership training at LAU, and returned to their countries to put their new skills into action. Although the program has officially ended, its legacy will continue through the newly formed Young Women Leaders Network, which will lobby for women across the Gulf and help them achieve leadership positions.

Second regional conference on program and learning assessment

The second regional conference on "Program and Learning Assessment in Higher Education" gathered around 40 educators from institutions throughout Lebanon and four other Arab countries (Jordan, Morocco, Saudi Arabia and Qatar) at LAU Beirut from October 29–30 to share their expertise in the field. Over 20 presentations were given by the different participants on a wide range of topics that included general assessment tips as well as issues relevant to specific disciplines. The conference was organized by LAU's Center for Program and Learning Assessment.



Health care

Workshop on medical clerkships

With a commitment to deliver a top-notch clerkship program for medical students, LAU's School of Medicine, in collaboration with Partners Harvard Medical International, organized a two-day workshop for physicians from the University Medical Center – Rizk Hospital (UMC–RH), on February 11 and 12. The event was held in anticipation of the first clerkships of the medical school's founding class expected to begin in early summer. Also known as clinical rotations, clerkships will allow LAU students to perform the duties of physicians in different departments and specializations at the hospital, under the supervision of UMC–RH doctors.



Career Guidance



Recruitment presentations and more...

From November till March, the Dean of Students offices (Career and Placement Services) on both campuses organized a number of recruitment presentations by representatives of well-known companies from different industries. Presentations were also given on other career-guidance topics, such as "Internships: The Career Kick-offs" (December 9 and 13, Beirut) and "CV and Cover Letter Writing Techniques" (December 10, Byblos). Also, the Byblos office launched a lecture series on professional development on February 24.

"More than an internship"

Fifth-year LAU computer engineering student Christian Jr. Oussi shared his experiences of a two-month internship program in Paris, France, working with industrial gas and services provider Air Liquide, during a presentation at LAU Byblos on November 19. Oussi succeeded in modifying a tool to optimize the delivery system of Air Liquide products. The new tool was adopted by the company's dispatchers around the world. Oussi had heard about the internship opportunity through the LAU Byblos Dean of Students Office (Career and Placement Services), and had been accepted into the program after a competitive selection process.



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More than a Summer Sensation

SINARC introduces spring module

By Marc Abizeid

LAU's Summer Institute for Intensive Arabic Language and Culture (SINARC) manages to outdo itself every year, setting new enrollment records and attracting increasing numbers of international applicants hoping to enhance their Arabic skills.

But with 164 participants last summer — an increase of more than 50 from the previous year — SINARC Director Dr. Mimi Jeha says campus dorms that house the students have nearly reached capacity.

This summer, Jeha says, "We expect to have about the same number of students as last year," despite the likelihood that the number of applicants will significantly increase over previous years.

As it approaches its summer capacity, the program continues to find ways to expand. SINARC years ago marked its departure from a purely summer program when it began offering modules in the fall.

Keeping up with demand, the program introduced a spring module this year, allowing year-round study for the first time in its 12-year history.

New modules also mean new opportunities and a wider variety of options.

The Australian Embassy in Lebanon, which has traditionally sent its diplomats to Oman for a year of Arabic language training, is now enrolling them in one-on-one tutoring sessions with SINARC instructors. Two of the embassy's diplomats are currently enrolled and two others will soon join them.

"I did my research and discovered that SINARC was the one," says one of the diplomats, who convinced Australian officials to change state policy. "It's very organized. It markets itself."

Jeha maintains close touch with Arabic departments at universities across the world, which often contact her requesting

special programs tailored to their students' circumstances.

In January, SINARC hosted a group of students from Oberlin, a liberal arts college in Ohio, for three weeks. In addition to rigorous Arabic training, the program also offered them a course in political science, Lebanese writing and dialect, and a cooking class administered by LAU's hospitality department.

Exchange students studying at LAU as part of a recent agreement between the university and Sciences Po in France constitute about half of the spring module students.

One of them, Vanessa Listl from Germany, chose to spend her third year abroad at LAU because of her interest in Middle East affairs. She says she is more than satisfied with SINARC.

"I absolutely wanted to go to Beirut," Listl says. "The classes are good and I'm happy to be learning not only Fus'ha, but Lebanese dialect too," she says. "We have so much fun speaking outside — Lebanese people are so supportive and excited when we practice our Arabic with them."

"I'm definitely getting better — I can speak with a certain amount of confidence now," says Omar Shah, a 26-year-old graduate in Middle East studies from the United States who hopes that improving his Arabic will better his chances of getting into graduate school. Shah has been studying at SINARC since August, and plans to continue all the way through till next August, making him one of the program's first students to study for a continuous year.

SINARC limited enrollment this spring to a manageable 15 students, as a sort of test run to ensure the module's success. Having met all expectations, SINARC is beginning to advertise for next spring, when Jeha expects to see a much higher enrollment.



Students train at LAU's state-of-the-art hospitality lab



Cooking for Credit

LAU students learn culinary arts in popular elective

By Emily Morris

Preparing pastries, pasta, sorbets and seafood are all in a semester's work for students who get a coveted slot in one of the cooking courses offered by LAU's Hospitality and Tourism Management Program.

"When we first added this cooking component to the hospitality program, we offered one section of Food I and one section of Food II," says Dr. Said Ladki, chair of the Hospitality Management and Accounting Department. "Today we run about nine sections of each, along with several other courses. Enrollment is full every semester."

The 15th floor of LAU Beirut's School of Business houses state-of-the-art kitchen facilities where the students don standard cooks' uniforms and follow a curriculum mirroring that of leading U.S. universities.

The courses currently available are Food I; Food II; Baking, Chocolate and Pastry; and Quantity Food Production/Catering. A new course called Food Arts is also being developed. Each is a three-credit-hour elective open to all LAU students, but space is very limited.

"We are restricted to around 15 students per class, to ensure each student has his or her own work station," Ladki explains.

From starters and entrees to chopping and sautéing, to learning food-storage safety rules and health-related dietary restrictions, students get an A-Z of the food industry from a team of top chefs, led by head instructor Afif Hachem.

"Many students are taking this as an elective and aren't hospitality-management oriented, so when it comes to selecting the types of dishes they'll prepare, I try to make them applicable to the real world and easy to learn," says Hachem, who has been teaching with the program for five years.

According to fourth-year business marketing student Afkar

Barakeh, who took Food I in the fall 2010 semester, the class environment is very professional but also a lot of fun.

"Class rules were strict: No nail polish, accessories or flip flops. We had to have our hair tied and wear chef gowns, and the guys had to shave their beards. Otherwise we were not allowed to attend," she recalls. "But other than that, the class was so much fun. We always worked in groups and it was such a pleasure eating the meals we cooked."

Hospitality lab supervisor Georges Tamer believes that "teamwork and cooking are a natural pair."

"These courses enhance the arsenal of skills our students will need in their future careers and in life," says Tamer.

Developed in 1996, the Hospitality and Tourism Management Program also provides a host of other non-food-related courses, including a business etiquette class and the wildly popular "Wine, Spirits and Cigars."

"There was a lot of commotion on campus when we developed Wine, Spirits and Cigars," says Ladki. "Louisiana State University now uses the course we developed, and we are excited about that. And reviewers from other universities in the U.S. have written to express interest in it and request the syllabus."

Barakeh says that she would repeat Food I all over again if she could.

"I learned so many things — such a variety of meals, starters, dips, soups, salads, etc. The group was awesome and eventually the entire class became friends," she explains. "And the chef had such a way with everything. I wish I had more electives left to take the next one!"

New Appointments



Curtis Michael Brown

Associate Director, Managing Editor
Marketing and Communications Department

Curtis Brown was recently appointed Managing Editor at LAU's Marketing and Communications Department.

Brown completed his bachelor's degree in English literature at the University of California, Berkeley, and his non-terminal master's at Harvard University. He is currently completing his doctoral dissertation. His wife Diana Allan is a Harvard filmmaker and anthropologist whose field work focuses on Lebanon.

Brown has also taught literature courses at Harvard University, Stonehill College, and Haigazian University. He says that despite differences of intellectual emphasis, the work of an editor is not so different from that of a professor. "In both settings," he says, "your job is to recognize talent and to nurture it."

He comes to LAU with journalistic experience writing for The Daily Star, Bidoun Magazine, and the Journal of Palestine Studies, and academic experience as a university instructor in English and American literature. In parallel with his duties at MarCom, he currently teaches one section of LAU's Literature 2, a survey course.

Brown says his goals at LAU include improving the quality of university communications, cultivating the talent of staff and student writers, and bringing LAU Magazine to the next level of journalistic professionalism.

"The trend in the best university magazines now is to bridge the format of a traditional alumni newsletter with that of a general-interest magazine, linking the intellectual life and history of the university with larger social issues," Brown explains.

"The magazine had grown enormously thanks to the energy and vision of the existing staff — long before I arrived. My challenge is to harness and maximize that, and see how far we can go with it."



Salim Chehab

Executive Director of Business Services

Salim Chehab was recently appointed Executive Director of Business Services, overseeing LAU's offices of Purchasing, Supply, Hospitality Management and Auxiliary Services.

In his new position, Chehab says his goals will be to re-engineer, implement and automate LAU business processes with a particular focus on the procurement area, and to facilitate coordination with upper management as well as the business services team.

Before coming to LAU, Chehab had worked at the United Nations since 1998. The first of his several high-ranking positions was IT coordinator at the UN Office of the Humanitarian Coordinator for Iraq, a division of the oil-for-food program. Chehab led a multinational team of professionals and implemented the purchasing, tracking, monitoring and observation of humanitarian supplies.

Chehab joined the United Nations Secretariat headquarters in New York in 2001, where he led the review, reengineering, implementation and automation of processes to optimize the procurement life cycle, promote transparency and eliminate collusion.

From 2003 to 2008 Chehab worked as a program officer at the UN's Department of Management, then moved to the Office of Central Support, which oversees the offices of procurement, property management and inventory control, special events, travel and transportation, information and reception, and garage administration for diplomats and staff.

Chehab says his extensive experience at the UN in leading and managing the reengineering and automation of business processes will help him "excel in optimizing processes to improve services to end-users" At LAU.

Chehab holds a BE in Computer and Communications from the American University of Beirut.



Nassib Nasr

Assistant Vice President for Development Middle East and Europe

Nassib Nasr was recently appointed Assistant Vice President for Development at LAU.

He previously held a post as International Director of the Children's Cancer Center of Lebanon (CCCL) at the American University of Beirut's Medical Center. As international director of CCCL, Nasr succeeded in increasing donations to the center by millions of dollars over a period of five years, allowing it to increase the number of children treated from 65 to 100.

"I've been proud to wake up each morning knowing I'm saving children's lives," he says.

He also formed one of the largest donor networks in the region, including country heads and business leaders in Kuwait, Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Qatar and Saudi Arabia.

Nasr comes to LAU with ambitious plans and innovative ideas to help the university grow. He says he wants to finalize LAU's Campaign for Excellence: The Legacy & The Promise, which is nearing its goal of raising \$65 million for the university, and initiate an even larger campaign.

Among other projects, he also wants to expand the Development Office and increase its support for scholarships, professorships, educational program development, and facilities renovation.

With his experience raising funds for the children's medical center, Nasr may be the key to helping the University Medical Center-Rizk Hospital reach new heights in health care delivery.

"We need to identify the principle needs of UMC-RH, in order to seek from international donors the support necessary to position the hospital as one of the premier teaching and treatment facilities in the region," he says.

Nasr holds a Master in Public Health – Hospital Administration and Health Management from AUB. He also holds a B.S. in Biology, and completed two years of medical school at AUB.



Roula Matta Hage

Director of IT Applications and Solutions

Ms. Roula Matta Hage was appointed Director of IT Applications and Solutions at LAU in March 2011, adding to her 13-year reputation at the university as an innovative IT professional.

Hage says that her main goal in her new role is to contribute to the continuous growth of LAU by providing high-quality services and state-of-art solutions to the community through IT applications.

"I feel grateful and proud of the way LAU has shaped my career path. LAU proved to me that one should not seek rewards; when you're committed, diligent and ethical, appreciation and success will find you," Hage tells LAU Magazine.

In her previous role as project manager in the IT Applications and Solutions Department, which she took on in 2006, Hage managed a range of initiatives to streamline the university's web services and enrich the experience of students, faculty and staff, introducing online fee statements, for example, and electronically accessible transcripts and certificates. She also lead the acquisition and launch of the Alumni portal solution, designed to keep alumni connected and closer to LAU.

Hage joined LAU in 1998 as the Management Information System assistant in what was then the Information Systems office (now IT), where she led the technical implementation of Banner Student Information System at LAU. Since then Hage has been instrumental in maintaining and updating Banner, as well as interfacing it with other systems.

Before joining LAU, Hage worked as an analyst and developer for BML Isticharat, a software solutions provider. Hage holds a B.E. in Electrical Engineering with an emphasis in Computer Engineering from St. Joseph University (E.S.I.B).

Faculty on the Move



DR. MYRNA DOUMIT

Dr. Myrna Doumit has been recruited as Assistant Dean and Associated Professor at LAU 's School of Nursing. She previously served as an assistant professor at the American University of Beirut's School of Nursing. She says her aim at LAU is to "achieve excellence in teaching and research, and to promote the image of nursing as a scientific profession and the nurse as a caregiver, counselor, teacher, researcher, leader, manager and patient advocate." She is a member of the Lebanese Cancer Society and a member of the National Committee for Breast Cancer Awareness. She holds a B.S. in Nursing and a Master of Public Health from AUB , and received her Ph.D. in Nursing from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She has published extensively on matters related to cancer, psychological distress, and palliative care. Doumit has also participated in conferences across the world. Aside from Lebanon, Doumit has given presentations in the United States, Canada and Singapore. Her research interests include oncology and palliative care in Lebanon.



DR. RECHDI AHDAB

Dr. Rechdi M. Ahdab recently joined LAU's School of Medicine. He has previous experience teaching neurophysiology and cell membrane physiology at Université Paris XII, Faculté de Médecine from 2007-2010. Ahdab recieved an M.D. in 2000 from Lebanese University. He completed his residency in 2005, also at Lebanese University, before undergoing specialized training in neurology in Paris. Ahdab received a post-graduate diploma in clinicial neurophysiology from the Université de Lille II in 2009, then completed his fellowship in the same field at Henri Mondor Hospital in Creteil, France the following year. Finally, in 2010, Ahdab received a PhD in neuroscience from Université Paris Est in Creteil. "I decided to join the LAU because I found in this institution a breeding ground for my teaching and research ambitions," he says.



ZEINA AL HAKIM NASSRAWI

Zeina Al Hakim Nassrawi began teaching part-time at LAU's School of Business in Ocober, 2009 before taking on a full-time position this year. She teaches management and marketing courses. Her teaching experience also includes three years at the Hariri Canadian University. Prior to teaching, she served as a senior HR officer at Credit Card Services Company S.A.R.L. for two years, and before that, was Marketing Coordinator at Khatib & Alami for four years. She holds an M.B.A. from the American University of Beirut, and is currently pursuing a D.B.A. from Grenoble Ecole De Management in France, where she has completed her course work and earned her doctorate. She hopes to establish a long-term career of teaching and research at LAU.



DR. JULIE TANIOS EL-FERZLI

Dr. Julie Tanios El-Ferzli is a new recruit to LAU's School of Medicine. She is an attending physician in the Radiology Department as University Medical Center-Rizk Hospital, where she is specialized in adult and pediatric radiology. She works part-time as a radiologist at St. Joseph Medical Center and at the CEDIM Medical Center. Upon graduating from Lebanese University in 2003, Tanios El-Ferzli traveled first to France and then Belgium to complete fellowships, from 2003 to 2006. She loves to travel, and is studying Italian as well as learning to dance. "This is an excellent opportunity for me to be part of LAU," she says. "Working with medical students is a good way for me to continue learning and evolving, and perhaps become a professor down the road."



DR. JOE EL-KHOURY

Dr. Joe El-Khoury recently joined LAU's School of Medicine. His teaching experience dates back to 1992 when he was a lecturer at St. Joseph University's School of Pharmacy and, the Lebanese Institute for Educators. In 1994 he moved to France for interventional radiology training, then moved back to Lebanon and joined University Medical Center-Rizk Hospital as an interventional radiologist in 1997. That same year he became a lecturer in radiology for Med I and Med II at Lebanese University. In 2004, he was appointed head of the Radiology division at UMC-RH, and then chairman of the Medical Imaging Department.



DR. LEILA A. HALAWI

Dr. Leila A. Halawi recently joined LAU's School of Business as an assistant professor of Management Information Systems. Prior to joining LAU, Halawi was an assistant professor of CIS at Quinnipiac University, Bethune-Cookman University, University of Tampa and the American University in Dubai. She was the operations manager for Avis in Brandon, Florida for five years. She is the author of several journal articles and a contributor to the textbook Decision Support and Business Intelligence Systems. Halawi holds a B.S. and M.S. in Business Management from LAU, and a D.B.A. in Information Technology Management from Nova Southeastern University in Florida. Her current research interests include knowledge management, data mining, information systems success and strategy, and the ethical impacts of information technology.



DR. W. JULIAN KORAB-KARPOWICZ

Dr. W. Julian Korab-Karpowicz joins LAU as a visiting associate professor of philosophy and international relations at the School of Arts and Sciences. Born and raised in the city of Gdansk, as a student he participated in Poland's Solidarity movement, which contributed to the fall of the Iron Curtain. In 1991 he was elected Deputy Mayor of Gdansk and then became a diplomat. He has taught at departments of international relations at Bilkent University in Turkey, at Kyung Hee University in South Korea, and most recently at the Anglo-American University of Prague in the Czech Republic. He has published widely in philosophy and politics, and is the author of A History of Political Philosophy: From Thucydides to Locke (2010). He says his motivation to join LAU is his "interest in the life and politics of the Middle East." His research interests are especially related to global ethics and sustainable global governance. He holds a D.Phil. in philosophy from the University of Oxford.



DR. DANIEL ELIAS MAHFOUD

Dr. Daniel Mahfoud brings 15 years of experience in radiology to LAU's School of Medicine. Mahfoud received an MD in General Medicine from St. Joseph University in 1990 before spending the next six years at Université René Descartes in Paris, where he received an MD in Radiology in 1995. He has volunteered in several projects concerning quality management in hospital practice and internal auditing. Prior to joining LAU, Mahfoud gave didactic lectures in radiology at Lebanese University, from 2006 till 2010. He has served as vice-chairman for the Medical Imaging Department at University Medical Center-Rizk Hospital since 2004, and is a member of several UMC-RH committees. "Ultimately our department will be at the forefront of the modern technology in imaging fields," he says, "and I am very enthusiastic to be part of this journey."



DR. RITA NEMR

Dr. Rita Nemr has joined LAU as an assistant professor of Endocrinology. She has also worked at University Medical Center-Rizk Hospital and St. Joseph Hospital since 1998 and 2002, respectively. Through her new role at LAU, Nemr says she wants to foster the spirit of teaching among her colleagues. She is currently the president of the Lebanese Society of Endocrinology, where she leads monthly conferences and organizes one major congress each year. She attended medical school at St. Joseph University, did her residency at Hotel-Dieu Hospital's Department of Endocrinology, and completed a fellowship at Hospital Pitie-Salpetriere's Department of Endocrinology and Metabolism in Paris, with special training in Lipidology.

LAU's Feline Frenzy

By Marc Abizeid



LAU Beirut is more than a university for the clowder of cats that have infiltrated its stone walls and steel gates: It's a feline fairground.

And while most people belonging to this community couldn't distinguish one fur ball from the next, the handful of faculty members who contribute monthly to a fund supporting the cats know them better, in some cases, than they know their students.

"They have characters," says Reine Azzi, assistant professor of English at LAU. Her face lights up adoringly as she describes some of her favorites, like "Crazy Big Bob," who became more aggressive after a harrowing experience with attackers, or Sox, who attends only the fanciest of LAU's receptions in order to get his paws on the hors d'œuvres.

Then there is Haboula, as Azzi calls her, known by others as Vinny for her tomboyish resemblance to Vincent Van Gogh. Tawny and petite, with soulful eyes and a deep scar across her stomach, Vinny spends her days office-hopping in Nicol Hall, where she sleeps for hours next to her hosts, much to the dismay of the cleaners who complain about the fur making a mess. But with a cat so gentle, calm and endearing, many don't have the heart to show her the door.

The faculty members take turns feeding the cats each day at a set time and location, but as Azzi points out, the cats don't only show up to chow down.

"A lot of them don't come for food; they just want to play with us, to be petted. They just want love," Azzi says. "We don't just take care of them out of some sense of moral duty. It also fulfills something in us."

The effort to look after the cats took shape several years ago, when Dr. Hadia Harb, former dean of the School of Arts

and Sciences in Beirut and a passionate cat lover, began feeding them. Soon enough others got involved.

"We used to call her 'the cat lady,'" recalls Dr. Jim Finlay, assistant dean of the School of Business, who was among the first to participate in the effort.

Finlay grew up in a family of animal lovers. He says one of his daughters in the United States has five cats, while another daughter in Lebanon took home a blind cat she found hiding in some bushes a few years ago.

"I can't remember a time when we didn't have pets. They grow on you," he says, revealing a picture of his two cats in Illinois, which he set as the desktop background on his computer screen.

On top of the 50,000 LL Finlay contributes to the fund each month, he says he spends an additional 75,000 LL to feed the finicky eaters like Sox, who "don't like cheap cat food."

Today, Dr. Dima Dabbous-Sensenig, director of the Institute for Women's Studies in the Arab World, heads the effort. She collects faculty contributions, buys food at discounted prices, and coordinates with local organizations whenever needed.

Feeding is only one part of the initiative to protect the cats. In 2008, Dabbous-Sensenig teamed up with Animals Lebanon to prevent LAU from spraying pesticides on campus that were shown to be harmful to the cats.

And with the help of students from the Animal Care Club, volunteers and faculty were able to collect and neuter 30 cats three years ago. Several more have been neutered in the years since.

"If you feed cats, they will multiply quickly and the population will explode," Dabbous-Sensenig explains.

Irma-Kaarina Ghosn

Crossing the cultural divide to promote tolerance

By Emily Morris



Dr. Irma-Kaarina Ghosn's passion for building a more peaceful society infuses everything she does, from teaching conflict-resolution courses at LAU to authoring children's books.

As an associate professor in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences and director of LAU's Institute for Peace and Justice Education, Ghosn has taught what she describes as a "eclectic collection of courses" since coming to LAU Byblos in 1991, including English, child psychology, teacher education and cross-cultural communication.

Ghosn says she weaves themes of peace-building and social justice into each course she teaches, regardless of the main subject. The same goes for the children's books that she writes in her spare time, including her award-winning 10-book series, "Caring Kids: Social Responsibility Through Literature."

"These books are aimed at primary school-age children and many are set in the Lebanese context and feature children solving community problems," Ghosn explains.

Her socially-conscious approach to teaching and writing may be partly a result of her diverse, multicultural background. Born and raised in Finland, she and her Lebanese husband and two children have lived in Greece, the United States and Lebanon. She holds a Ph.D. in Applied Linguistics from the University of Leicester School of Education, U.K. and a M.Ed. in Psychology and Social Foundations of Education from the University of Virginia Curry School of Education in the U.S.

LAU Magazine recently caught up with Ghosn to find out more about both her beginnings as a peace educator and her sideline in children's books.

Q&A

How did you get involved in peace education?

I had a scholarship to attend a two-week TESOL (Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages) Summer Institute on Peace Education at St. Michael's College in Vermont. I met several inspiring English-language professionals who were all involved in infusing peace education into their classes and materials. The whole thing made great sense to me, and I was immediately hooked. I then joined the International Peace Research Association (IPRA), and was lucky enough to meet Betty Reardon of the Teachers College at Columbia University, who is one of the world's foremost peace educators. That led me to become a member in the international advisory board of the Global Campaign for Peace Education, an initiative of the Hague Appeal for Peace. Since then I have attended a number of inspiring conferences and workshops on the subject.

Can you tell us more about writing children's books as a hobby? In 1998 I received The Mary Finocchiaro Award for Excellence in the Development of Pedagogical Materials from TESOL for a draft of my "Caring Kids" series, which Dar El-Ilm Lilmalayin published in 1999. "Abul, the True Hero" is the true story of a little Bangladeshi boy, which has been translated into Arabic. In 2009, I collaborated with my translator husband to re-write the classic "Wolf, Wolf" story in Arabic with a new surprise ending. The book, also published by Dar El-Ilm Lilmalayin, was illustrated by LAU graphic design student Emma Boutros.

What can we expect from you next?

"Phoenician Friends", a historical fiction story set in Byblos, is coming out soon. I am also currently developing English language textbooks for grades 1, 2 and 3 for UNRWA schools in Lebanon.



Top: At the United Nations in New York, meeting of the International advisory Board of the Global Campaign for Peace Education

Bottom: at the British Council Seminar Making real the promise-citizenship and human rights education in the Commonwealth and beyond, Birmingham

THE LEGACY & THE PROMISE CAMPAIGN



Gala committee members Wadih "Bill" Jordan, Eva Kotite Farha, and Paul Boulos (left to right) join honoree Suad Juffali and President Jabbara

LAU Heads Midtown for its Annual Gala

By Greg Houle

LAU held its second annual gala at the Pierre Hotel in midtown Manhattan on April 15th. Like the inaugural gala a year ago, the event provided LAU with the opportunity to connect with its broad community of supporters from around the world, as well as to celebrate recent achievements of the university. But the gala also serves another valuable purpose for LAU, something that its organizers at the university's New York office had in mind from the very beginning: introducing the university to a wider network of new people.

One way the gala does this is by recognizing members of the community for public service. This year the university honored educator and humanitarian Suad Juffali, the managing director of the Ahmed Juffali Benevolent Foundation, and business giant Ray Irani, chairman and CEO of Occidental Petroleum. Both were presented with the Sarah Award for Excellence, named after Sarah Lanman Huntington Smith, the American woman who in the 1830s founded the school that eventually became LAU.

Suad Juffali, a 1954 graduate of Beirut College for Women (as LAU was then known), has been committed for nearly sixty years to issues related to social welfare in the Middle East and beyond. In Saudi Arabia, she established and organized the Women's Welfare Society and the Al-Faisaliyah Women's Society, both dedicated to helping women and children, as well as the Help Center, an organization designed to help children with special needs.

"My alma mater was the guiding star of my life," Juffali said. "It prepared me to pursue my dreams and aspirations, and it taught me the value of education and how to invest in human beings. The university provided me with a passion to make things happen and never to give up."

Ray Irani is best known for his role at Occidental Petroleum (Oxy), having transformed the chemical production company during his tenure there, as director in the 1980s and later chairman and CEO. Under his leadership, Oxy has become the fourth-largest oil and gas company in America. Irani, who has also been active in causes ranging from strengthening ties between the US and Lebanon to waging the battle against cancer, said he was "thrilled to be honored by Lebanese American University."

"Under the remarkable leadership of Dr. Joseph Jabbara," Itani said, "LAU continues to be a beacon of educational excellence in Lebanon, providing a world-class curriculum and outstanding cultural programs for all of its students."

Richard Rumsey, LAU's Vice-President for University Advancement, said his division's goal is "to build this gala into something more than just an event."

"We want to use this gala as an opportunity to let the widest possible audience know about the good work that LAU does," Rumsey said. "LAU has become an important part of the landscape of Lebanon and the Middle East."



LAU honoree Ray Irani with President Jabbara



Honoree Suad Juffali with President Jabbara



Lebanon's ambassador to the United Nations Nawaf Salam (seated, second from left) and noted Lebanese journalist May Chidiac (seated, third from left) are joined by others

"Veil(s): A Photographic Overview,"
presented by LAU's Institute for
Women's Studies in the Arab World,
was exhibited during the gala

Photos courtesy of Wayne Valzania Photography



GOAL \$65 Million

RAISED \$57,315,193

THE LEGACY
& THE PROMISE

LAU CAMPAIGN FOR EXCELLENCE

THE LEGACY & THE PROMISE CAMPAIGN



Mutual Fund

Fadi Rajeh and LAU invest in each other

Fadi Rajeh has ambition in spades, and for as long as he can remember has nurtured the same dream: to become a businessman, an investor, and a success story. A graduating senior in business administration with an emphasis in international business and marketing, Rajeh has made the most of his time at LAU, recognizing both the centrality of education to his future success, and his good fortune in receiving his from LAU.

A native of Baakleen in the Shouf region of Lebanon, Rajeh attended high school at Shouf National College, then moved to Beirut after graduation.

"Passing the gates of LAU I used to dream of becoming a student here, but my financial background seemed an insurmountable obstacle," says Rajah.

Rajeh nevertheless summoned the nerve to apply, and his good grades and obvious academic aptitude won him an acceptance.

Rajeh applied for financial aid after his first semester at LAU, and to his surprise and delight received a generous package comprising a grant, a student loan, and a work-study agreement. This aid package has continued throughout Rajeh's time at LAU.

It is probably not possible to be more active and involved as a student than Rajeh has been at LAU. He chaired and directed LAU's highly regarded Model United Nations training program for high-school students, he attended the Institute for Peace and Justice Education's annual Summer School for Emerging Leaders on Conflict Prevention and Transformation, and he has led numerous leadership training courses in rural

areas of Lebanon. In March he was accepted to the Middle East Partnership Initiative's Student Leaders program, a prestigious five-week intensive leadership-training program held in the United States each summer.

And Rajeh's contributions don't end there. While a full-time student Rajeh has worked in marketing and business strategy development for Aotearoa Abroad, a New-Zealand-based company looking to break into the Lebanese market; offered private business and mathematics tutorials; and even found time to be an emergency-medical-services volunteer with the Red Cross, all while holding down a part-time job at night to shore up his spending money.

"The financial aid I have received from the university has been the cornerstone to my education," says Rajeh. "It made possible my time at LAU, which is now drawing to a close, as well as my career, which is about to begin."

"I've invested myself in LAU," he adds, already thinking like the businessman he's about to become. "And I've tried very hard to get a good return on that investment."

Beirut to Boston Rand Ghayad's rising star



Rand Ghayad graduated with distinction from LAU in 2006 with a BS in Economics. He attributes his early motivation and career successes so far to his mentors among the Business School faculty, citing in particular Dr. Abdallah Dah and Dr. Rima Ariss. Ghayad remains in close contact with both.

Ghayad came to Boston in August 2007 after receiving a full scholarship from the School of Business at Boston University (BU) to pursue graduate studies. He graduated in May 2009 with Masters of Science degrees in both financial economics and multinational commerce, and a cumulative GPA of 3.96. BU named him Student of the Year and presented him with an Excellence in Graduate Studies award.

With encouragement from his mentors at BU to continue his graduate education, Ghayad applied successfully to PhD programs at four different universities. He chose to accept a full doctoral fellowship from Northeastern, where he found a strong overlap between his own research interests and that of the faculty.

At this point in his career at Northeastern, Ghayad has received his MA in Policy Analysis and is currently a candidate for the PhD in Applied Econometrics at the Department of Economics. He also works as a non-resident research assistant to William Dickens, his advisor, on a project with the Council of Economic Advisers created under the direction of President Barack Obama. The goal of the project is to restructure the unemployment benefits system in the US.

Ghayad and a group of professors from MIT, Northeastern and the University of Pennsylvania recently founded the Center for Labor Market Development, a think tank focusing on issues related to labor markets around the world. Ghayad's own research deals with post-crisis labor market adjustment, global shocks, structural change, and policy response. Prior to launching the center, Ghayad consulted for several major economic institutions, including the United Nations Development Programme, the Beacon Hill Institute, and The Hudson Institute.

Rand Ghayad will return to LAU this summer, where he will be a visiting part-time lecturer teaching macroeconomics. He also hopes to conduct a seminar at LAU with two professors from MIT.

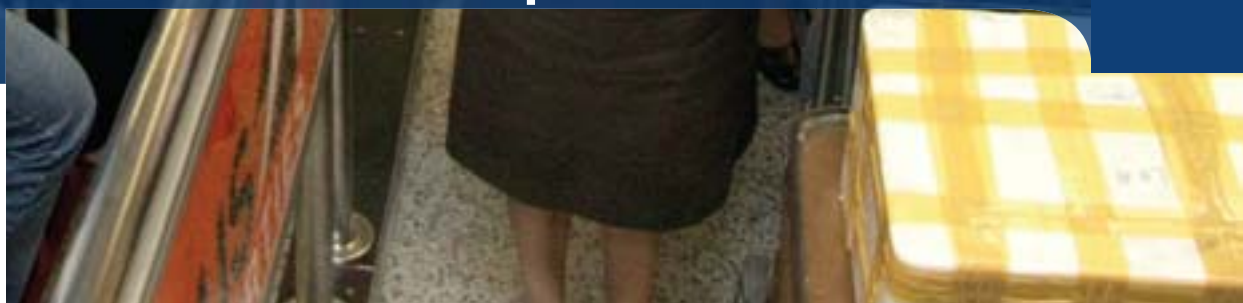
But it's not all business and study for Ghayad. This summer he will be engaged to Tala Khalifeh, a fellow LAU graduate who currently works in the Auditing office on the Beirut campus.



Electoral Migration

The Civic Evolution of the Lebanese Diaspora

By Curtis Brown



Lebanese expats return to vote during 2009 Parliamentary elections (Courtesy of Mahmoud Kheir, The Daily Star)

The enduring image of Lebanon's closely contested general election of 2009 may not be that of March 14's short-lived electoral gains but that of a stream of jumbo jets touching down in Beirut, disgorging tens of thousands of Lebanese expatriates for a whirlwind tour of the home country, complete with shopping, sightseeing, beach-going — and voting.

Democratic zeal in a tightly knit global diaspora? Perhaps. But it didn't hurt that Lebanon's political parties were footing the bill. In many countries, voting from abroad involves an official form, a notarized signature and registered mail. Only in Lebanon, it would seem, does it involve an all-expenses-paid international junket.

"All the major political parties have extensions outside the country," says Dr. Jennifer Skulte-Ouais, assistant professor of political science and international affairs at LAU and a member of LAU's Institute for Migration Studies (IMS). "In 2009, the parties chartered whole planes to ship in expats from Australia, Canada, France, West Africa and so on."

Lebanon is unique in having a huge diaspora — there are more citizens abroad than in the country — and yet no provisions for absentee voting.

"If you have a Lebanese identity card, even if you're third-generation and have never lived in the country, you can fly in and vote," says Skulte-Ouais. "But you have to be here to vote."

The obstacles to non-resident voting in Lebanon are not purely logistical. The very subject of émigré participation in Lebanese politics has been thorny since before the republic's founding.

The first wave of emigration — beginning in the 1860s — was triggered by the downturn in the Mount Lebanon silk industry and was predominantly Christian. That community's demographic strength was further diluted when France established "Greater Lebanon" in 1920.

Lebanon's only census (in 1932) counted expatriates, but when President Ayub Tabet in 1943 attempted to add to the rolls émigrés who had secured nationality in the interim, the move was rejected as a confessional power play.

Expatriate citizenship, in short, "had everything to do with the confessional and political balance in Lebanon as it moved toward and then beyond independence," says Dr. Laurie Brand, professor and director of the School of International Relations at the University of Southern California.

The diaspora was altered by the 18-year civil war, however, when 20–25 percent of the population emigrated. Entire families — representing, for the first time, all sects and social classes — were now leaving the country, Brand says, thus "transforming the politics of the numbers and composition of the communities abroad."

"It was a sectarian issue when most Lebanese emigrants were Christian," says Dr. Gebran Karam, associate professor of engineering at LAU Byblos and a prominent advocate of non-resident voting rights. "After the civil war, however, large waves of Muslims emigrated, with large numbers of Shia — and Sunni contingents as well — moving to Africa, Canada, USA and Australia."

Karam maintains that resistance to reform now has less to do with confessional balance and more to do with protecting clientelism. "The sectarian issue is now intra-sectarian, with some local and regional 'chiefs' fearing their own non-residents," he says.

"The diaspora is not just a donor base; it's people, relationships, culture, aspirations and emotions. Being Lebanese means more than singing Fairuz and sending money."

—Dr. Paul Tabar, associate professor of anthropology and sociology

This is why, Karam says, political elites willing to spend tens of millions of dollars flying voters into the country show little enthusiasm for absentee ballots. Despite the logistics and the enormous expense, inviting specific diaspora voter blocs to participate, and arranging, subsidizing and chaperoning their transatlantic trip to the polls, represents a surer way of delivering the "right" ballots.

Absentee voting "would reduce the vote-brokering effects we saw in 2009," says Karam. "It would also bring a different perspective into our political discourse, with the participation of 'civic-trained voters' with sustained exposure to secular democracies."

Others, however, suggest that political discourse in the diaspora is often more radical than in the homeland. Dr. Bassel Salloukh, associate professor of political science at LAU Beirut, describes this phenomenon as "the Brooklyn syndrome" (alluding to extremism among Brooklyn Zionists), and attributes it to the "existential" crisis of first- and second-generation emigrants.

"I lived in Canada for 14 years; I saw what it means to be an 'FOB' — fresh off the boat — child of émigrés. Your parents want you to retain your cultural identity while your peers push you towards another. The result of this tension — which is not limited to the Lebanese case — is that vocal elements of émigré communities tend to be radical."

Nevertheless, the idea that the diasporic vote might let fresh air into the backrooms of Lebanese power politics is a theme echoed by many. Dr. Chibli Mallat, a prominent human-rights attorney, LAU alumnus and current visiting professor at Harvard University Law School, drafted an ill-fated 2005 bill incorporating into Lebanese law the right to vote abroad, arguing that the possibilities sparked by the Cedar Revolution "demand an immediate enlargement of the democratic circle," one creating "a real link, at last, between Lebanese at home and abroad."

For Dr. Paul Tabar, the political links between transnational Lebanese are very real, even if they aren't formalized in electoral law. An associate professor of sociology and anthropology at LAU, Tabar is the founder and director of IMS, which is currently carrying out a three-year research project studying transnational relations in all areas of the Lebanese public sphere, including political activities, village and family associations, religious associations, charity and lobbying. 🌿



Meeting of the World Lebanese Cultural Union in the 60s (Courtesy of Nada Itani, Al-Hayat)

IMS's research begins to shed light on the apparent contradictions between diaspora cosmopolitanism and the "Brooklyn syndrome." On the one hand, Tabar confirms that Lebanon — as a so-called "weak state" — has tended to "export its divisions to the diaspora." On the other hand, he underlines a crucial distinction within diaspora communities between a vocal, politically organized and deeply sectarian minority and a dormant, disengaged but tantalizingly moderate majority: "So many are muted, silent, and prefer — understandably — to avoid the Lebanese game. They want to play a role when their role can make a difference."

IMS plans to make policy recommendations aimed at tapping this reservoir of moderate, progressive political energies in the diaspora. To do this effectively, Tabar maintains, requires more than absentee ballots.

"Émigrés have what sociologists call 'social capital'. The Lebanese state has always looked to its diaspora as a source of financial capital. But social capital — ideas, habits, values — can also be sent back to the homeland."

Partly due to controversy, and partly to its weak institutions and laissez-faire economic liberalism, the Lebanese state has never had a unified policy toward its diaspora. Implicit recognition of expatriates as part of the body politic — as with President Camille Chamoun's historic 1954 visit to Brazil, home to the world's largest Lebanese émigré community — has been sporadic at best. The World Lebanese Cultural Union, founded in 1960 with indirect government sponsorship, never had a clear mandate and over the decades fell victim to inertia and infighting.

The state has always welcomed remittances, and fostered what Brand calls the "romanticized" image of emigration "as a path to success for the entrepreneurial and adaptable Lebanese." It turns to them in times of crisis, as after the civil war when Rafiq Hariri's administration pleaded for their assistance in

reconstruction. But according to both Brand and Tabar, the state has too often seen the diaspora as a mere "milk cow," a source of funds and little more.

"There's a lack of knowledge, as well as a lack of policy," says Tabar. "The diaspora is not just a donor base. It's people, relationships, culture, aspirations and emotions. We hope to translate our data on these questions into policy recommendations."

Possible recommendations range from improving consular services to establishing quotas of parliamentary seats for diasporic "districts" (Africa, Australia, South and North America, etc.), from supporting cultural centers, Arabic-language study and newspaper-publication abroad to sponsoring trips for diaspora youth to visit Lebanon.

"These efforts would not amount to asking them to return — many will not return — but rather, in an increasingly transnational world, to be invested, in more than the monetary and emotional senses of the word," Tabar says. "Being Lebanese means more than singing Fairuz and sending money."

Fairuz, tabbouleh and remittances aside, the definition of what it is to be Lebanese is vexed and contested, and likely to remain so even if non-resident electoral reform comes to pass. There is no official current census of the diaspora, for the same reason there has been no domestic census for almost 80 years. Estimates range wildly. Further muddling the issue is the fact that Lebanese nationality can only be passed on by the father.

But the paradoxes run deeper. On the one hand, no country's national character and narrative have been as formatively shaped by the experience of migration and return as Lebanon's. On the other hand, there is an undeniably painful history of weak sovereignty and foreign meddling in the country's affairs. Lebanon is both justly proud of and understandably haunted by the porousness — literal and figurative — of its borders. The cosmopolitanism of its public culture, meanwhile, is matched only by the parochialism of its state institutions.



Commemorative Brazilian stamp of Lebanese President, Camille Chamoun
(Courtesy of Pedro Alcaraz Ruiz)

Something of the resulting ambivalence is captured by a fictional dialogue between “Abu Samir” and “Abu Michel,” posted on Qifa Nabki, one of many Lebanese expatriate blogs that have sprung up in recent years:

Abu Samir: I have soooo many relatives living outside Lebanon. If they could vote, the entire picture would change.

Abu Michel: I have so many as well. Dozens!

Abu Samir: Hundreds!

Abu Michel: Thousands!

Abu Samir: Fourteen million! That’s the number of Lebanese living in the diaspora.

Abu Michel: I heard it was more like twenty million...

Abu Samir: If we let them vote in our elections, maybe they’ll finally start taking an interest in Lebanese affairs.

Abu Michel: Good point. If there’s one thing that Lebanon needs, it’s foreigners taking an interest in Lebanese affairs.

Abu Samir: Pass the sugar.

The author — a Harvard Ph.D. student and a widely published political commentator — is representative of his generation in his mixture of passionate investment and ironic detachment vis-à-vis the home country.

Commentators trace the rise of the expat political blogosphere to the events of 2005–06. “For the first time in the modern history of Lebanon, these events were lived simultaneously by the Lebanese global village,” Karam says, “and they reverberated in the diasporic subconscious, leading emigrants to seek ways to participate.”

Dr. Ghassan Hage, an anthropologist and professor of social theory at the University of Melbourne, has studied the “political

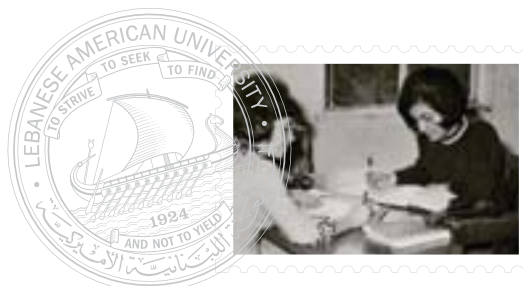
emotions” of the Lebanese diaspora at times of crisis, especially in relation to various forms of media. Reading Lebanese news — about, say, the 2006 war with Israel — in an Australian newspaper creates “unwelcome intrusion of the reality of migration to the scene of reading,” he notes. The anger, guilt and impotence the émigré reader feels is heightened by distance, and gestures like slapping the newspaper, which Hage saw repeatedly in his ethnographic field work, he came to interpret as strategies of “narrowing the physical and symbolic gap between the news event and the reader.”

The internet by contrast provides a sense of immediacy, tapping political emotions well clear of the poles of impotence and indifference. Hage says the rise of social media in particular has set the stage for a different kind of expatriate political participation: “Young Lebanese expats have been creating a new public sphere, ironic but engaged, politically savvy but more detached and non-sectarian. We’ve seen the political impact of social media in Egypt, Tunisia and elsewhere. We can expect to feel it in Lebanon next.”

And when we do, the days of junket flights to the polls — indeed, perhaps even the days when “political participation” of the diaspora meant voting rights per se — may come to seem quaint. ☐



The late 19th century witnessed the first major wave of Lebanese emigration.
Above: baggage handlers at the port of Beirut in 1905. (Courtesy of Badr El-Hage)



Family Affair

By Emily Morris

What is it like to attend the same university at the same time as your mother? LAU Magazine recently caught up with five LAU students and their moms, who also happen to be studying at LAU, to find out how they feel about sharing the university life in such close quarters. Is LAU big enough for the two of them? The responses from both generations are overwhelmingly positive.

Sawsan Khanafer and Tanya Mohamad-Khalil

This is not the first time that Sawsan Khanafer and her daughter Tanya have been at LAU Beirut together. When Sawsan was an undergraduate in political science in the mid-1990s, she would bring Tanya to LAU's nursery school to streamline her personal and academic lives. "I made sure that my courses fit with her nursery schedule, and we would come to campus together," Sawsan remembers.

Fast-forward 15 years, and the two are back on campus again, Sawsan pursuing an M.A. in international affairs and Tanya a B.A. in communication arts with an emphasis in theater. Sawsan has one course and a thesis left to complete her degree, and Tanya expects to graduate in 2013.

"It is very different now because she is an independent young lady, plus our schedules are not the same. I still make sure to call her when I'm on campus to meet for a quick chat," says Sawsan, "but I'm careful not to invade her privacy at university."

Tanya is proud of her mom, saying it "takes guts to go back" to university. "I think it's really cool that she can balance both worlds," she says.

"Oddly enough, my photography professor, Albert Saikaly, used to teach my mom the same course 20 years ago," Tanya muses. "When I told him that I'm Sawsan's daughter, he was so surprised. He knew me from baby photos my mom had used for her projects!"



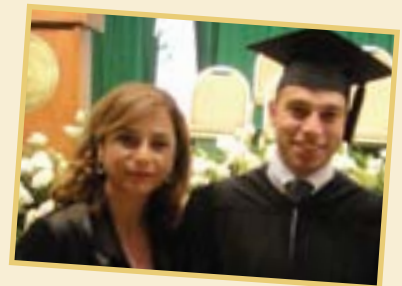
Sawsan Al Sidani and Moustapha Al Jaroudi

Sawsan Al Sidani graduated from AUB in the 1980s with a business degree and has been a teacher for a number of years. She enrolled in LAU's Teaching Diploma course after learning that the university sponsors full-time teachers who don't yet hold a teaching certificate. She completed the course in the spring of 2009 and says it has opened up new avenues in her career.

Sawsan admits it was a bit overwhelming to go back to university and sit next to classmates the age of her son, but she found that the students accepted her without hesitation, and would even ask if she needed anything. "And having my son there was great. After 25 years it's not a piece of cake to go back to school, but he helped me register for courses and told me where to go on campus," she says.

Her son, Moustapha Al Jaroudi, graduated from LAU in the fall of 2009 with a B.S. in business studies with an emphasis in accounting. He currently works as an audit assistant at Deloitte & Touche in Abu Dhabi and plans to take the Certified Public Accountant exam this summer. Moustapha says he was never embarrassed about having his mom on campus with him; on the contrary, he invited her to sit with his group of friends before her classes and asked her teachers to take special care of her.

"I am really amazed by her will to continue pursuing education, especially given the responsibilities she has as a mom, housewife, teacher and a student — all at the same time," he says.



Cendrella Habre and Rana Abdallah

Cendrella Habre recently enrolled in the Executive M.B.A. program at LAU Beirut, where she also serves as director of the Riyad Nasser Library. "I essentially have two full-time jobs," she says. "When I go home at night, from 8 to 11 p.m. I'm preparing for my classes. It's hectic!"

Cendrella believes that the M.B.A. course will enhance her role as a manager: "It will give me new insight on how to deal with staff, and help me in budgeting, thinking creatively, and so on."

"When I tell my kids I have a final the next day, they say it sounds funny coming out of my mouth. But they encourage me a great deal," Cendrella says.

Rana Abdallah is in her fifth and final year as an interior architecture student. She is "totally supportive" of her mom's dual life as a full-time professional and student. "It's her time now. My brother and I are grown up — she's raised us," she says. "I completely support her dreams."

"Rana drops by my office from time to time, especially when she needs money," Cendrella says, smiling.



Salpi and Anahid Samitian

Although they studied on different LAU campuses, Anahid Samitian says that having her mother as a fellow student helped her cope with the transition from high school to college.

"Because I used to attend some of her classes with her during high-school vacations, I already knew my way around both campuses before starting college," says Anahid, who is currently majoring in architecture at LAU Byblos.

Salpi Samitian graduated with a B.A. in communication arts with an emphasis in journalism in 2009. She is currently working on her first children's picture book, called "The Little Cedar Tree," which will be out in May.

"I belong to a generation whose lives and dreams were disrupted by war," she says. "At LAU, not only was I able to pursue my dream, but also to show my children that determination can overcome the odds."

When the registrar called her name at graduation and announced "with distinction," Salpi says it was "the ultimate surprise for the children."

"I told them I expected nothing less from them — just kidding! I just want them to do their best," she says.

Salpi had an amusing moment in her photography class when she used portraits of Anahid for a project. Anahid recalls, "A friend of mine in the same class looked through my mom's photos and said: 'This is my friend. How do you know her?' And mom replied: 'She's my daughter.' My friend was shocked because my mom looks pretty young."



Liane Mathes Rabbath and Charlotte Rabbath

Charlotte Rabbath is a first-year student at LAU Beirut, majoring in economics. She has her mom Liane to thank for encouraging her to choose the field. "I didn't know very much about economics but thought it would be interesting. My mom has always been supportive of whatever we want to pursue, and so far, I really like the program," she says.

When asked if she likes studying at the same time and on the same campus as her mother, Charlotte says with a twinkle, "I mean she's cool for a mom, but still. They're always spying."

Liane agrees. "It's not so much fun for my daughter. It's an old story, because I also used to work at the high school the children attended. And now here I am at LAU, with classmates who are friends of my daughter," she says. "So when I see her with a group of friends, I try to maintain a respectful distance."

Liane holds a master's degree in finance and over the past decade has become one of Lebanon's most talked-about artists, known for her use of rolled cigarette papers in colorful collages. In the fall of 2010, she decided to return to university to pursue a B.A. in fine arts.

"I had been taking lots of independent art courses over the years and wanted to compare them with a more structured program. I chose LAU because of its strong reputation in the arts," Liane says.



Cultural Mnemonics

Living history at LAU's Center for Lebanese Heritage

By Emily Morris



Henri Zoghaib, director of LAU's Center for Lebanese Heritage, is on a personal mission to keep the cultural memory of Lebanon alive.

The CLH was formed in January 2002 out of what he and other like-minded people saw as the mismanagement of Lebanon's heritage.

Zoghaib, a well-known Lebanese poet and novelist, had first proposed the idea of a center in 2001, in a letter to then-LAU president Dr. Riyad F. Nassar. "I wanted to partner with LAU in order to raise awareness about the work we do, and have access to the variety of resources a reputable university has to offer," he says.

Over the years the main aim of the Center has been two-fold: to locate, restore and preserve materials relating to Lebanese heritage; and to organize functions, debates and conferences about historical books, periodicals and art, as well as the work of Lebanese cultural eminences.

The CLH is funded by LAU and by private donations from various sources. Most of its collection — which includes everything from out-of-print books and periodicals to the personal effects of Lebanese writers — has been donated by individuals concerned with safeguarding the cultural legacy of their assets.

"These people give to CLH because they know it is the best place to keep and preserve their heritage documents and items," Zoghaib explains.

Most of the archives CLH has collected are housed at LAU Byblos. "We're waiting for what will hopefully be a whole floor in a new building to display them," he says.

Every first Monday of the month, Zoghaib organizes a cultural forum on a notable Lebanese cultural figure. These have included the musicians and composers Assi and Mansour Rahbani (famed for their Fairuz collaborations) and Karam Melhem Karam, a renowned Lebanese author and journalist.

Zoghaib is meticulous in his documentation of the Center's events. At the end of each academic year, he compiles the transcripts and summaries from all CLH's activities, and publishes them in bound volumes for free distribution.

"I do this job because I love my country and want to preserve its cultural memory for future generations," he says.

The Center's events are well attended by members of the media, government officials and influential literary figures, but

Zoghaib says the LAU presence, especially that of students, has been fairly light. He has ideas about how to change that.

"I am hoping, and President Jabbra has expressed his support in this, that there will soon be a course or credit on Lebanese heritage, so the young generation will know about the face of their country — its history and culture, its eminent personalities," he says.

Although Zoghaib is the main spokesperson and organizer for the CLH, the center relies on members of an advisory council to give expert advice from different disciplines.

Renowned Lebanese composer and conductor Dr. Walid Golmieh, director of the Lebanese National Higher Conservatory of Music and a member of the council since 2002, credits LAU for "giving the center a moral and financial push." Golmieh faults government institutions for being remiss in their duty to preserve cultural memory.

"I feel if I don't know my heritage, I don't know my present time and I don't know my future," says Golmieh, who is the founder of both the Lebanese National Symphony Orchestra and the Lebanese National Arabic Oriental Orchestra.

"Culture doesn't come about abruptly — it's laid down continuously, layer upon layer. Having a proper understanding of our cultural heritage makes us more critical when we read and re-read our history," he adds.

Zoghaib's favorite items in the center's collection are the old journals and newspapers. These, he says, "are the real cultural history of Lebanon."

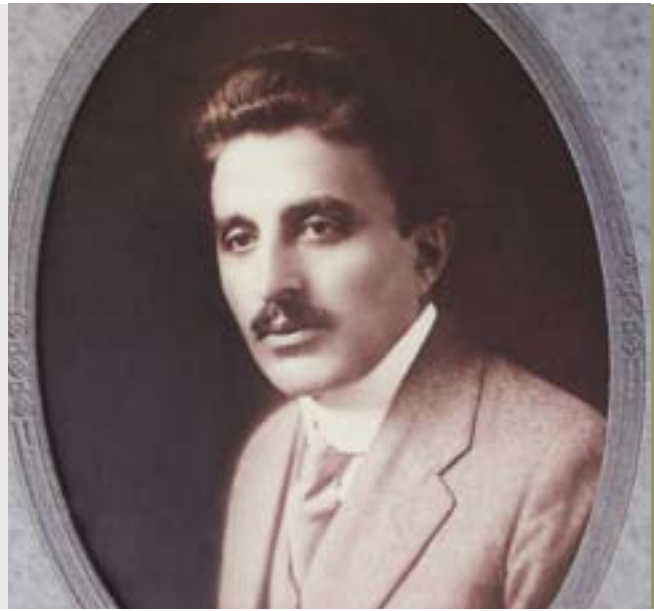


Historic poster of Karam Melhem Karam at LAU's Riyad Nassar Library

The Muse of Mount Lebanon

A bicultural classic celebrates its centennial

By Curtis Brown



Courtesy of the Ameen Rihani Museum, Freike, Lebanon.

The fictional protagonist of Ameen Rihani's novel *The Book of Khalid*, published exactly a century ago, emigrates from Baalbek to the New York City of the late 19th century. He describes the voyage to America as "the Via Dolorosa of the emigrant," whose stations of the cross include "the Port of Beirut, the verminous hostleries of Marseilles, and the Island of Ellis in New York."

Lebanese immigrants in that era had, on average, just under 32 dollars in their pockets when they arrived at what Rihani describes as the "Jahannam of Ellis Island," where "the unhappy children of the steerage are dumped into the Bureau of Emigration." His hero Khalid makes his way from there to Manhattan's Little Syria, where he rents a damp room and becomes a street peddler selling fake "Holy Land" trinkets.

Khalid's fortunes on foreign shores have increased considerably over the last century. With the centennial of its publication, his story is making its way onto school syllabi and into public consciousness, more widely read now than ever before.

"His reputation is international now," says Dr. Nuwar Diab, an assistant professor of English and linguistics at LAU who helped to organize a centennial symposium for *The Book of Khalid* at the university in January.

"Even ten years ago, I would have said not many people know about Rihani," she says. "Now we're seeing so many things — not only articles but major international events, including at Princeton University, the New York City Public Library and the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. Tufts University in Massachusetts even unveiled an Ameen Rihani bust on their campus."

The Book of Khalid may be only one novel, so to speak, but it is several classics. It is a classic of Lebanese literature, having profoundly influenced Khalil Gibran, who drew the illustrations for it, and having captured the spiritual cycles of migration and return that have proved so central to Lebanese identity.

It is an American classic as well. Drawing on Whitman, Emerson, and the transcendentalists, it not only constitutes the first major work of Arab-American literature, but also takes its place generally among the great books of the turn-of-the-20th-century American immigrant experience.

And with the revival of interest in Rihani now occasioned by the book's centennial, it is becoming a 21st-century classic of world literature, presenting as it does an encounter between East and West different from — and more fruitful than — the much-ballyhooed "clash of civilizations" bandied about so much in the last decade.

"Rihani wrote in English about the East and in Arabic about the West, introducing each culture to the sublime qualities of the other," says Diab, who quotes Rihani in *The Book of Khalid* describing himself as "a citizen of two worlds, devoted both to the material and the spiritual." The son of a silk merchant, Rihani was born in Freike, Lebanon in 1876, migrated to the U.S. at the age of 12, and moved sporadically between the two countries and Europe after that.

According to Dr. Ameen A. Rihani, vice president of Academic Affairs at Notre Dame University, who is the novelist's nephew as well as a scholar of his work, "the spirituality of the East, the art of Europe, and the science of America" are all synthesized in Rihani's vision.

"The Book of Khalid suggests building an intellectual bridge between the present and the future," Rihani said in his address to the LAU symposium.

Many of the speakers at the symposium similarly emphasized Rihani's significance in "bridging" value systems, whether literary, cultural, or political. Dr. Nijmeh Najjar, chair of Arabic and Islamic Studies at the University of Sidney, spoke of Rihani's "dialectical identity" and "tri-centric belonging," rooted as it was simultaneously in Lebanese particularism, Arab unity and Western culture.

According to Najjar, Rihani fused these loyalties not in the crucible of political rhetoric but in the ideals of humanism. "He saw education as the primary force of change in the Arab world," she told the audience, stressing that such change could not be imposed from the outside.

Rihani's work "seems uncannily made for this moment in time, which has not lost its peril or urgent need for reconciliation," according to "Project Khalid," an international centennial initiative launched by the U.S.-based Ameen Rihani Institute.

Serving the Sentence

Writing Center cultivates the craft of composition

By Marc Abizeid



It hasn't even been around long enough to mark its first anniversary, but already LAU's writing center has gained recognition across the Beirut campus as one of the most vital of student services.

"The primary aim of the writing center is to provide individual support to students and to help them develop," says Dr. Rula Diab, the founder and director of the center, and an assistant professor of English.

But as the center grows out of its infancy, Diab adds, it may play a larger role in nurturing a culture of writing at LAU with programs, activities and workshops.

The center was officially inaugurated on May 12, 2010 with a ribbon cutting, but regular services didn't begin till fall when, according to the staff logs, a total of 77 students completed 136 sessions.

"A center like this was needed, and I knew it would be well received. My main concern was publicizing it, but I'm very happy with the number of students we received in the fall," Diab says. "We've met, and even exceeded our expectations."

The writing center staff, which comprises English instructors and graduate students, say there has been a significant increase in students seeking help in the spring. All told, they expect to receive about twice as many.

In order to accommodate the spring increase, the center hired extra tutors and added an additional two hours each day. It is now open daily from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm and 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

Instructors are sometimes stunned by the improvements in their students' writing after even only a couple visits to the center.

Reine Azzi, an assistant professor of English and writing center tutor, recalls a case of one of her own struggling students. The quality of his work was so poor, she says, that he was going to fail the course till she encouraged him to seek help at the writing center.

"He had the right attitude," she says. "He would visit the writing center regularly with practice essays, even when I didn't ask him to. He wanted to improve."

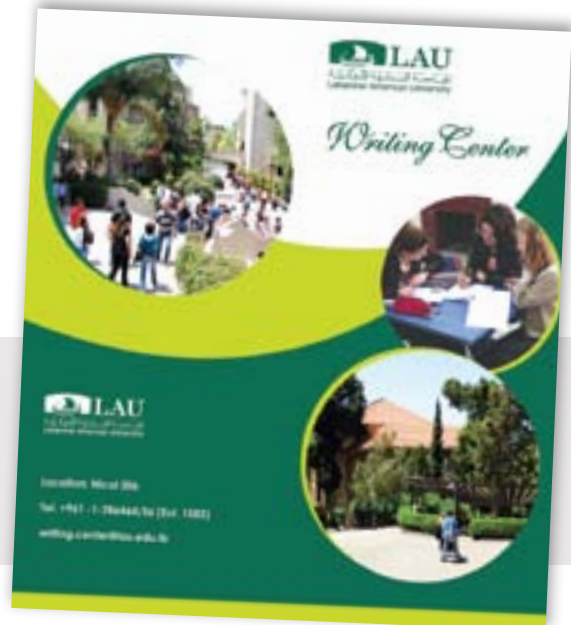
By the end of the semester, Azzi was proud to find the student's extra hustle and determination landing him a passing grade.

"But the center is not just for students who are struggling with their writing," Azzi adds, pointing out that even good writing always leaves room for improvement.

Some students bring personal and creative writing projects into the center, which staff are happy to critique. Others ask tutors for help writing CVs and cover letters.

Students are never required to visit the center. Those who do have the option of dropping in for help on the spot, or scheduling an appointment. With the students' permission, tutors inform their instructors of the sessions.

"We do that to show the teachers that their students are serious," says Rebecca Ammar, a graduate student tutor. "It shows that they are investing extra effort."





Late Spring Reflections

Scholars look in the mirror following regional tumult

By Zahi Sahlí

The unprecedented wave of uprisings in the Arab world that swept away the Tunisian and Egyptian regimes, triggered Western intervention in Libya, and sparked major demonstrations in Yemen, Bahrain, and Syria quite naturally sent a wave of euphoria through the halls of academe.

After a decade-long political winter in which “regime change” became synonymous with foreign invasion, it was thrilling for progressive intellectuals to witness the unfolding of an indigenous “Arab spring.”

It has also been somewhat chastening. As the giddiness subsides, many academics have begun to ask why — to put the matter bluntly — they didn’t see it coming.

“Despite our awareness of the existing poverty, the ethnological systems that ruled the region, the huge youth demographic and the mass emigration from villages to cities, no one saw these revolutions coming,” said Dr. Fawwaz Trabulsi, a prominent historian, political columnist, and part-time professor of history and political science at LAU, at a panel discussion on the subject held at LAU Beirut in late March.

Failure to anticipate regional upheavals should occasion serious academic self-reflection, according to Trabulsi and other members of the panel.

The question is clearly on the minds of many in Lebanon’s intellectual community. The LAU panel was very heavily attended — indeed it was standing-room only at one point — and similar discussions began to proliferate on Beirut campuses in late spring.

The thrust of the discussion at the LAU event — which led to a long and animated Q-and-A session — was that predictive failures in turn shed light on analytical flaws in academia itself.

“Our academic programs were always directed away from the possibility of upheaval,” said Trabulsi.

Citing what he described as mistaken assumptions of dominant political analysis, Trabulsi criticized the common focus on “regional stability” and insisted that the suppression of Islamists by various Arab governments was unwise.

“Consensus academic opinion was that worsening conditions would marginalize the extreme Islamists,” he added. “The moderate Islamist movements would benefit through the civil services they offer, the argument went, and meanwhile the governments would remain unchanged.”

The uprisings have provided the striking spectacle of people in large numbers simply bypassing their political parties, said another panel discussant, Dr. Fadia Kiwan, a professor of political science at the Université Saint-Joseph.

Kiwan said that Mohamed Bouazizi’s self-immolation, which served as a catalyst for the Jasmine Revolution in Tunisia, was merely “the straw that broke the camel’s back.” Kiwan outlined various motives for the Arab revolts, distinguishing between direct and indirect causes.

“Among the indirect reasons for the uprising is the fact that the failing Arab nation-states have been artificial ones, founded after multiple wars and by contradictory groups of people,” Kiwan said.

“Other indirect factors for revolt include Western interference, increase in poverty rates, a lack of citizen engagement in political life, rising interest in Arab nationalism, a lack of investment on the part of states in their own economies, the rise of social media among Arab youth and the absence of incremental state measures to improve living standards,” she added.

Among the more direct causes of upheaval, Kiwan cited the demands of middle-class and bourgeoisie youth for a freer society as particularly important.

Trade unions and other elements of civil society, as well as regional entrepreneurs who have steered clear of government corruption, have also been pivotal to the success of democratic movements, according to Kiwan.

The discussion was organized by the LAU Retirees’ Circle and moderated by Dr. Bassel Salloukh, associate professor of political science at LAU Beirut.

Space Pioneer and Chairman of the Board Reaches Power 500

By Curtis Brown



Chairman of LAU's Board of Trustees Dr. Charles Elachi's fame travels far and wide — indeed throughout the solar system. Literally. An asteroid hurtling through the inner main belt between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter bears his name. Here on Earth, he has been named the world's seventh most influential Arab by Arabian Business magazine, in its "Power 500" list for 2011.

The vastly accomplished Lebanese-American scientist has degrees in business administration, physics and electrical engineering, but is best known for his work in support of space exploration.

"If there's one person who has driven mankind's thirst for knowledge about other planets in our solar system, that man is probably Charles Elachi," wrote the Power 500 editors.

Elachi is director of the Jet Propulsion Lab (JPL) and vice-president of the California Institute of Technology (Caltech), where he holds professorships in electrical engineering and planetary science.

Elachi joined JPL — a NASA field center managed by Caltech — over forty years ago, and has been central to a number of flight and radar imaging projects. As director of JPL's space and Earth science programs, he developed flight missions and instruments for Earth observation, planetary exploration, and astrophysics.

JPL's many projects under Elachi's current directorship include the Mars rovers, the Galileo mission to Jupiter, the Cassini-Huygens mission to Saturn, and the Deep Space Network.

Elachi remains active as a scholar, publishing more than 230 articles on microwave remote sensing and electromagnetic theory, fields in which he holds multiple patents. He has participated in archeological expeditions in Egypt, Oman and China, and lectured in over 20 countries about space exploration and Earth observation.

"I was completely surprised," said Elachi in his gracious response to the news. "I was particularly delighted that they selected two scientists — both Lebanese — in their top ten," he added, referring to the cardiologist Adib Jatene.

"This shows the business community's growing recognition that science, technology and engineering are essential for leadership in today's business and economic world."

Elachi résumé is studded with dozens of major international awards, including the NASA Exceptional Service Medal, Lebanon's Order of Cedars, and the Royal Society of London's Massey Award. In 2006 he was honored as one of "America's Best Leaders" by U.S. News & World Report, in collaboration with Harvard University.

This year he received the Space Foundation's highest honor, the General James E. Hill Lifetime Space Achievement Award.

Elachi has served as an LAU trustee since 2006, and was named chairman of the board in 2009. He appears regularly at the university, lecturing on everything from the environment and global warming (which is studied using satellite technology developed through space exploration) to youth empowerment in the Middle East.

Dr. Joseph G. Jabbra, LAU president and a personal friend of Elachi, described him as a "master of his discipline, a passionate advocate of space exploration, a terrific administrator and a caring, deeply engaged person."

"It reflects well on our university to have someone of his stature as chairman of our board," Jabbra added.

Arabian Business emphasized that the list aimed to recognize achievement and impact, rather than worldly wealth.

"We define power as influence. Whether you're a CEO in a corporate boardroom or a blogger in an Egyptian bedroom, you still have the power to affect millions of people," says Edward Attwood, Arabian Business's deputy editor.



Alumni Profiles

Dany Doughan (B.S. '98, M.S. '01)

Alum appointed chair of Oklahoma higher education advisory council



LAU graduate Dany Doughan has recently been elected chair of the Faculty Advisory Council to the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education (OSRHE), an academic body operating under the state legislature.

Doughan graduated from LAU with a B.S. in Chemistry in 1998 and an M.S. in Computer Science in 2001. In 2001, he was offered a graduate assistantship at Oklahoma State University (OSU), where he went on to earn his master's degree in physical chemistry.

Doughan has lived in Oklahoma ever since. He currently teaches general chemistry, organic chemistry and biochemistry at St. Gregory's University, Oklahoma's oldest institution of higher learning. When he has time, he also teaches introductory and intermediate Arabic.

"I am very excited to have been elected to this position," says Doughan, who began his new duties in April. "It is a unique opportunity, and I have always enjoyed being active in university life," he adds.

As FAC chairperson, his main duties will include setting meeting agendas, conducting monthly meetings, coordinating the efforts of the post-secondary faculty at the state level, and communicating their viewpoints and concerns to the OSRHE.

Asked what stands out most in his history at LAU, Doughan praises the "incomparable Sage Hall faculty members. They were, and still are, my second family."

Doughan has previous leadership experience as chair of the Mathematics and Physical Sciences Department at St. Gregory's, president of the International Student Organization at OSU, president of the Lebanese Student Association at OSU; and president of the Science Club at LAU Beirut.

Azadouhi Simonian Kalaidjian (B.A. '60)

Potent combination of academic work and service to Armenian community



For alumna and former long-time LAU professor Azadouhi Simonian Kalaidjian, academic work has always been inextricably linked to her passion for the Armenian community in Lebanon.

Over the years, the English language and literature professor has been particularly dedicated to the study of Armenian women writers. She has also published both books and articles in Armenian in various Lebanese-Armenian journals about cultural, family, educational and academic issues.

Kalaidjian helped shape the minds of countless students in her 47 years as a faculty member.

"I owe a lot to the diverse academic environment at LAU for forming and developing my open-minded approach to teaching and dealing with students," Kalaidjian says. "I was given the opportunity to introduce my cultural heritage to my colleagues and students, and they have come to know and respect who the Armenians are," she adds.

Last spring, she was honored by the Armenian Orthodox Church's Catholicosate of Cilicia in Antelias, Lebanon, receiving the St. Mesrob Mashdotts insignia, an award given to those who have made significant contributions to Armenian culture, literature and the arts.

His Holiness Catholicos Aram I chose her for this prestigious honor as part of his decree that 2010 be the "Year of the Armenian Woman."

Kalaidjian graduated from LAU (then Beirut College for Women) in 1960 with a B.A. in English Literature, after spending two years at Haigazian University as one of its founding students. She went on to earn her M.A. in English Literature from American University of Beirut. She has specialized in the teaching of English as a foreign language at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, in the United States.

Alumni Events

November 2010

Alumni Relations Office Lecture: “Awaken the Leader in You”

Over 200 alumni packed an LAU lecture hall November 26 for a presentation on leadership organized as part of the Alumni Relations Office’s “Keep Learning” lecture series. The lecture was led by Elie Samia, lecturer in political science and sociology, and executive director of Outreach and Civic Engagement at LAU.

Dubai & Northern Emirates Alumni Chapter – Musical Evening

The LAU, AUB & USG Alumni Associations for Dubai & Northern Emirates Chapter held their annual cultural evening on Tuesday November 30, 2010 at Masrah ElMadinah-Madinat Jumeirah. The event was a Christmas Musical Evening by “Sharq Orchestra” led by Musician Mohamad Hammami.

December 2010

Abu Dhabi Chapter’s New Year’s Eve Party

The LAU Alumni Association – Abu Dhabi Chapter organized a New Year’s Eve Party at the Marina Al Bateen Resort in the city. 250 alumni and their friends were in attendance.

Damascus Alumni Chapter organizes workshops in collaboration with CEP

The LAU Alumni Association – Damascus Chapter, in collaboration with LAU’s Continuing Education Program, held a pair of practical-skills workshops on December 1 and 2 at the city’s Dedeman Hotel. The first workshop focused on time management, the second on critical thinking and problem solving. They form part of a series of six workshops held over the current academic year 2010-2011. The third and fourth workshops are currently in preparation.

The workshops were sponsored by two major corporations, MTN Syria (a telecom company) and Byblos Bank, among other sponsors. The milestone event marked CEP’s organizational debut beyond Lebanon’s borders. The project was a major undertaking, and took over three months to plan and coordinate, with over 70 LAU alumni as well as professionals from the local community taking part in sessions offering the opportunity for both personal enrichment and credential-building.

The unique program helps to position the Damascus alumni chapter as more than just a social chapter, but one providing professional services as well. Dr. Joseph G. Jabbara, LAU President, recognized the significance of the event, and expressed his hopes that it will set a precedent for future international collaboration of this kind between CEP, corporations and alumni chapters in other countries.





Jeddah Alumni Chapter hosts annual dinner

Over 300 alumni and friends from the LAU Alumni Association – Jeddah Chapter came together December 2 for the annual dinner. The event took place at the Lebanese consulate, and was held under the patronage of the Consul General of Lebanon in Jeddah, H.E.M. Ghassan El Moalim. Dr. Jabbra attended the dinner and presented a welcome address and university update.

Kuwait Alumni Chapter - Holiday Bazaar & Christmas Party

The LAU Alumni Association – Kuwait Chapter participated for the first time in a Holiday Bazaar organized annually by the American Women's league in Kuwait and held on December 3. The chapter also organized a Christmas party for children on December 10 at Burger King.



School of Engineering Alumni Chapter annual dinner

The School of Engineering Alumni Chapter organized its annual dinner at Duo restaurant in Beirut on December 18, 2010. Dr. Jabbra honored the 200+ attendees with his presence.

January 2011

Part I of Alumni Lecture program, "Relationships: Managing Life Partnership"

As part of its "Keep Learning" alumni lectures program, the Alumni Relations Office organized a two-part lecture on "Relationships: Managing Life Partnership," by Dr. Raed Mohsen, a specialist in human communication and marital and family therapy, and the Dean of Students at LAU Beirut. Part I took place on January 21. An audience of more than 430 alumni and friends attended both lectures at LAU Beirut's Irwin Hall.



February 2011

South Lebanon Chapter Alumni Elections 2011

The South Lebanon Alumni Chapter held elections on February 18, resulting in the formation of a 15-member committee.

Part II of Alumni Lecture program, "Relationships: Managing Life Partnership"

The second part took place on February 25.





Bahrain Alumni Chapter – Desert Outing

Following last year's Desert Camp Outing, the LAU Alumni Association – Bahrain Chapter organized a desert camp on February 11, with over 250 alumni participating with family and friends. Activities included a welcome breakfast, children's games, magic and music shows, camel rides, free tombola gifts and giveaways for children, and a BBQ lunch.

BCW Chapter presents “Sham Gate”

On Friday February 11, 2011, the BCW Chapter presented a new comedy show, “Sham Gate,” at LAU Beirut's Irwin Hall. The event attracted over 380 alumni and friends.

Alumni participation in the New Student Orientation Program

The Alumni Relations Office participated in the New Students Orientation Program on both campuses February 7. The office introduced the Alumni Association to new students, described its post-graduation benefits, and presented them with a souvenir and a brochure.



March 2011

Oman Alumni Chapter Gala Dinner 2011

Over 300 alumni and friends from the Alumni Association – Oman Chapter got together for its fourth annual Gala Dinner on March 3 at the Intercontinental Hotel Gardens in Muscat.

Montreal Alumni enjoy a Cocktail

About 40 alumni from the Montreal Chapter networked during a cocktail party at Rosalie Restaurant on the night of March 3.



Beirut Chapter – Karaoke Dinner

The LAU Alumni Association – Beirut Chapter organized a karaoke dinner on March 10 at the Hard Rock Café in Ain el Mreisseh. The event attracted more than 150 alumni and friends.

Kuwait Chapter – Open Day

The LAU Alumni Association – Kuwait Chapter organized an Open Day on March 11 at Ahl al Barr Camp. Around 450 alumni attended the event with their families and friends. The day began with a SAJ breakfast and concluded with a barbecue lunch. The activities included volleyball, soccer, backgammon, cards and other fun games for adults. There was also kiting, a Barney show, a jumping castle, cotton candy, face painting, popcorn and donkey rides for children.



LAU Alumni Homecoming and Reunions July 2011



Mark these Dates

- 13 Alumni Dinner
- 14 All Class Byblos Reunion
- 15 All Class Beirut Reunion
- 16 Annual President's Forum Brunch
- 17 All day Trip



Qatar Alumni Chapter Annual Gala Dinner

The LAU Alumni Association – Qatar Chapter organized its annual gala on March 18 at the Marriott Hotel in Doha. Renowned Lebanese singers Tony Hanna and Grace Medawar provided entertainment for the 400+ guests in attendance.



Abu Dhabi Chapter's 18th Annual Ball

The LAU Alumni Association – Abu Dhabi Chapter organized its 18th Annual Ball – Red Carpet Gala Dinner on March 24, 2011 at the Beach Rotana Hotel & Towers. More than 550 alumni and friends participated in the event, which honored prominent figures including Farah al-Khatib al-Hariri, acting charge d'affairs of the Lebanese Embassy in the UAE; Albert Matta, President of the Lebanese Cultural University in the World and former President of The Lebanese Business Counsel in the UAE; and Abdallah Al Khal, Director of Alumni Relations Office at LAU.

South Lebanon Alumni Chapter Reception

The LAU Alumni Association – South Lebanon Chapter organized a reception on March 25, 2011, at Alhan Restaurant in Saida. The President of the South Lebanon Chapter, Majdi Awkal, thanked all those who participated in the elections process, and shared the objectives and plans of the newly elected alumni chapter.



Alumni News

Alice Melikian (A.A.'48) has retired in Toronto, Canada. She enjoys the company of her friends and painting with watercolors.

Ilham Khalife (B.S.'70) owns a boutique in Metro Ghazir for Art de la Table. She assists psychiatric centers that help patients with personality disorders.

Fadi Soubra (A.A.S.'73) is the Chief Financial Officer for an insurance company in Newport Beach, California. He has been married for 33 years and has no children.



Saad Abdul Aziz Al Zein (B.S.'89) works for the United Arab Emirates International advertising Association.

Bachir Sakka (A.A.S.'90) is Quality Control Manager at the Head Office of Ogero, and the CEO of Sidoon National School. He recently served as a member of the LAU Alumni – Beirut Chapter. He is married to Raifa al Arabi and has three children.



Roula Sami Hussami (M.B.A.'91) has been working as a consultant for organizations in different industries.

Nada Ghazal (A.A.S.'92) has continued to develop her own jewelry brand, Nada G, with a full fledge workshop in Gemmayze, a boutique in Beirut Souks and a point sale in ABC Dbayeh. She got married to Elias Gannage in December 2007 and has two children, Antoun and Malak.

Elie Maalouf (B.E.'92) is currently an MIS/Management instructor at LAU. He is married to Darine Maalouf and has a son named Joe.

Souheir Nassar (B.S.'92) is the Branch Manager of Byblos Bank – Nabatieh. She has three children, two girls and a boy.

Rania El Husseinini (B.A.'96) is married with two children, four-year-old Jude and two-year-old Sarah. She has been living in California since 2005.



Sawsan Khanafer (B.A.'96) is the General Manager of a company called Promo I. She recently began writing her M.A. thesis.

Dr. Fouad Zmokhol (B.S.'96) was elected President of the Lebanese Businessmen Association (RDCL) in January 2011.



Rola Assaf (M.B.A.'99) has her own business in accounting and auditing, and has taught at NDU and AUL after receiving her Ph.D. in educational management in 2007 in Washington, D.C.

Nada Bazih (B.A.'99) has recently published her second novella, titled, *Daniel*.

Amr Habbal (B.S.'99) is currently completing his M.B.A. at AUB and has founded Mynditude, an organization that combines group training and one-on-one coaching to help individuals realize their ambitions.

Yahya Khalil (B.S.'99) is currently working for the International Committee of the Red Cross as the Head of Central Region in Afghanistan. He manages ICRC operations in twelve of the thirty-four provinces of the country.



Maamoun Aboul Nasr Yafi (B.S.'00) got married to fellow LAU alumnae **Caroline Abdul Kader (B.A.'02)**. He is working as a senior communication manager at Leo Burnett/MS&L in the field of Advertising and PR.

Mohammed Nawlo (B.S.'00) has been working as the Branch Manager at Bank of Jordan - Syria since 2009.



Nadine Maktabi (B.S.'98, M.B.A.'01) is currently a part time instructor of Marketing Research and Marketing Promotional Mix at the American University of Science and Technology.



Nisrine Machaka-Houri (B.S.'01) is pursuing her Ph.D. at the University of Reading and expects to graduate in September 2012. A mother of three, she has published the second volume of the *Photographic Guide to Wild Flowers of Lebanon*.

George Aboud (B.S.'02) has launched Earth Technologies, a green solution provider offering solutions and products in the Renewable Energy industry. He married Christiane Hakim and now has a daughter named Gaia, born in November 2010.



Rouba Ead (B.Pharm.'00, Pharm.D.'02) is currently working at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in Maryland where she is involved in research and investigative projects.

Marie El Haddad (B.A.'02) is completing a Master's in Urban Design at the Universitat de Barcelona, having worked at Horizon International for the last five years.



Maysa Al Tannir Hamed (B.S.'03) married Nasser Hamed on November 20, 2010. She has been working at Lebanese Canadian Bank as the assistant head of the Internal Audit Department since February 2009.

Nisreen Wehbe (B.S.'00, M.B.A.'03) currently lives in Jeddah with her husband Mohamad Jaber, and baby boy, Ali. Nisreen was a member of the LAU Oman Alumni Chapter.

Moussa Al Rifai (B.S.'04) has been living in Sweden since 2006 where she set up an Al Rifai Roastery production plant to serve the European market.

Lama El Labban (M.B.A.'04) is married to Omar Omran and has two kids, a four-year-old girl and a one-year-old boy.

Jean Bassil (B.A.'94, M.B.A.'05) is the Assistant General Manager/ Head of Commercial Banking at Byblos Bank Syria SA in Damascus, Syria. He is married to Karen Bou Ramia and has two boys, Victor and Christopher.



Maged Khalaf (B.S.'05) has recently joined Axios Systems as a business development manager for the Middle East and North Africa. He is currently pursuing his M.B.A. at the University of Strathclyde.

Mohamad Telyani (B.Pharm.'05) opened his own pharmacy in 2006 in Wata Musaytbeh, Beirut.

Dr. Elias Chahine (Pharm.D.'06) is an assistant professor of pharmacy practice at Palm Beach Atlantic University Gregory School of Pharmacy in West Palm Beach, Florida. He also practices clinical pharmacy at the JFK Medical Center in Atlantis, Florida.



Dana Hachach (B.S.'06) is married to fellow LAU graduate **Ali Natout (B.S.'06)** and has a new-born baby called Mohammad. She is living in Riyadh.

Georges Joseph Hage (B.E.'06) has been a senior software engineer since 2007 in the Management and Information Systems department at INDECO group located in Ajaltoun. He is engaged to Dima with plans to get married in 2012.

Ibrahim Salame (M.B.A.'06) is the Senior Accountant Manager at Gen Re, a Birkshire Hathaway Company, and got married in August 2008. The couple is expecting a baby girl in early August.

Ghenwa Shaar (A.A.S.'06) is working as an advertising representative and coordinator of Middle East Airline's in flight magazine, Cedar Wings. She is divorced and has a 12-year-old daughter, Yasmine.



William Awad (B.S.'04, M.B.A.'07) has recently been appointed as an associate at Mercer Consulting, a management consulting firm.



Rana Kayyal (B.S.'04, M.B.A.'07) has been a university lecturer in Jeddah since 2008, and is looking forward to getting a scholarship to pursue a Ph.D.

Abdel Rahman Sabban (B.S.'05, M.B.A.'07) is Deputy Manager at Lebanese Credit Insurer in the Underwriting Risks Department. He is currently studying for certification as a Chartered Financial Analyst.



Chirine Sabaiti (A.A.S.'08) works for Microsoft in Dubai as the live@edu Program Manager for the Gulf region.

Manal Tabet (B.S.'05, M.B.A.'08) is currently the Commercial Controller at Fransabank.



Rami Abi Jomaa (B.S.'08) is currently working at AUB as Assistant Director for Development Services.

Paolo Boghossian (M.B.A.'08) has a newborn baby girl, Christina Fakhoury.



Sarah Firikh (M.B.A.'08) is managing a recruitment office and teaching at both the LIU and AUL. She is engaged to Hassan Fayoumi, and the couple is planning to get married in June, 2011.

Haysam Al-Sheikh (B.S.'09) is working as a project and marketing analyst for GEMCO, a swimming pool company in Qatar.

Ziad Ghandour (B.S.'09) has been working as a senior data analyst at Unitech, a construction material company, over the past three years. Recently, he was interviewed by company employees and can be found on their website (<http://www.unitechmatters.com/>). He is pursuing an M.S. in Financial Economics at AUB.



Farah Hashim (B.A.'09) is working as a writer and photographer at Adam & Eve, a life style and fashion magazine published in Dubai and Kuwait. She is pursuing a master's of fine arts in film making at the New York Film Academy in Manhattan.

Zeina Hariz (B.S.'03, M.A.'09) married Samir Khaddaj last May. She is working at her husbands company, Leb Ad Agency.



Houssam Lababidi (B.S.'09) has recently joined Leo Burnett as a senior communication executive.



Rabea Kamal Ragheb (B.S.'09) is working in Saudi Arabia as the Country Industrial Engineering Supervisor with United Parcel Services.

Nancy Hamzah (B.S.'10) recently gave birth to Lea.



Elie Ibrahim (B.S.'10) is working in Qatar.



Maher Kalash (B.S.'10) is living in Beirut and working as a Sales/Marketing manager at Kalach Group, a family-owned real estate development, investment and management company.



Vilma Loubnan (Pharm.B.'09, Pharm.D.'10) is currently studying Medical Research at Lebanese University. She recently joined LAU as a part time faculty member at the School of Pharmacy.

Remembered with Love

Suad Najjar Yahya (A.A.'42)

Suad Najjar Yahya (A.A.'42) passed away on March 1, 2011. She married Dr. Yusef Yahya and served as a college hostess at LAU until her retirement. She was survived by her son Wael and two grandsons. She will be remembered by her friends in Ras Beirut as an enthusiastic Bridge player.



WHY I GIVE BACK

Hilda Zarifeh Maalouf '58



When did you graduate and what was your degree?

I received my associate's in business administration in 1958. LAU was then known as Beirut College for Women.

What have you been up to since your college years?

After graduating from BCW I married Wadih Maalouf, and together we established the Ras Beirut School (then on Bliss Street), in 1960. We worked as a couple in the field of education. He was Administrative Director and I was Academic Director. Many years later, the old Ras Beirut building was torn down and relocated to Airport Avenue, and its name became Ras Beirut International School. I owe gratitude to my four children Jessie, Diana, Hani and Danny for helping me after the death of my husband to continue the school's mission of providing high quality education. In spite of the hardships Lebanon has experienced, we have been blessed, and Ras Beirut International School is still catering to the Lebanese community.

Why do you give back to LAU?

I believe that continuity is the most essential thing for any society to sustain. In my opinion, LAU has preserved the sense of belonging I have always felt, and I'm proud to put this belief into action by contributing to the university. A number of students at LAU need assistance in paying tuition fees. For me, the purpose of giving back is to provide that extra push to help the next generations move forward.

How is LAU different today from when you were a student?

LAU has evolved into a university that offers degrees in all specializations and fields of study. Had it not been for the old days, LAU would not have survived long enough to become an educational entity by itself.

What message would you like to convey to your fellow alumni and current LAU students?

One should always show gratitude to whoever has laid a stepping-stone in the journey of his life. LAU has been the basis for the subsequent achievements of many outstanding people all over the world, and this is evident in the roles and responsibilities its graduates assume. When we recognize the value of what LAU has offered, we put into action our commitment to the university.



*Hilda Maalouf surrounded by her four children
left to right Jessie, Danny, Hani and Diana Maalouf*

THE LEGACY
& THE PROMISE
LAU CAMPAIGN FOR EXCELLENCE

As a former Trustee of LAU, an established friend and supporter of the university, and a respected physician in the United States, Dr. Amal Kurban has long understood the importance of supporting quality higher education.



✧ DR. AMAL KURBAN
IS THE LEGACY AND THE PROMISE.

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