

LAU magazine

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& ALUMNI BULLETIN



A Matter of Time



If there is no justice for women,

There is no justice for humankind.

A PIONEER IN GENDER EQUALITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

From its inception in 1924 as the first college for women in the region through its growth into a full-fledged university, the Lebanese American University has championed the empowerment of women and girls. In keeping with that legacy, LAU established the Institute for Women's Studies in the Arab World (IWSAW) in 1973 to promote gender equality and human rights for women in Lebanon and the Arab world.

The Institute focuses on advancing women's empowerment and gender equality through research, education, development programs and outreach at the national, regional, and international levels. IWSAW also works within LAU to engage students, faculty and staff to integrate gender issues across all programs of study in order to build a knowledge base that promotes gender equality and human rights in the Arab world.

IWSAW's bi-annual journal, *Al Raida, The Pioneer*, is a space for researchers, policy-makers, practitioners and students to address gender equality and women's issues in the Arab world. A Masters' Program in Women and Gender Studies was launched in 2014 – the first of its kind in Lebanon. This interdisciplinary program focuses on both academic and practical applications of gender issues, with a view to filling an identified need in the job market.

The Institute also undertakes development programs in collaboration with national and international organizations. The Basic Living Skills Program (BLSP) is one such example – designed to strengthen the capacities of Arab women and empower them in all aspects of their lives.

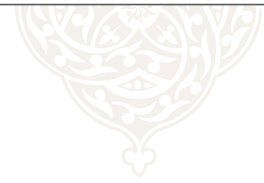
Dr. Lina Abirafeh, IWSAW's director, states that "IWSAW is a reflection of LAU's rich history as a school for women – promoting women's empowerment and gender equality by engaging academics, activists and youth around a shared platform for human rights for all - in Lebanon and across the Arab world."

iwsaw.lau.edu.lb



LAU
الجامعة اللبنانية الأمريكية
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Embark, explore, discover...



A Matter of Time

FEATURES

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It's All Relative

Is time as fixed and absolute as we imagine it to be? *Federica Marsi* examines the ways in which science is progressively proving the idea that all, even time, is in fact relative and explores the ways in which social norms have built our relationship with time on a false premise.

14 Older and Wiser

Do we grow wiser with the passing of time despite the process of physiological decline that comes with age? *Reem Maghribi* investigates the components of wisdom and their relationship to time, seeking to identify that which only time can teach.



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Into the Great Beyond

Religion seems to have "time" at its very core, as it evolved as a response to the fact that our time on earth is limited. *Irina du Quenoy* discovers the ways in which the major religious traditions provide templates for how to best profit from this short time spiritually before the inevitable full-stop at the end.

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Art matters. At a given point in time, we can learn something about who we are as human beings through the arts. *Zalfa Halabi* explores why it does and what can art tell us about cultures past and present through her subjective experience.



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Wherever You Go

LAU Magazine & Alumni Bulletin is your platform for sharing photos and news about yourself, your family and your friends. We encourage you to update us on your professional and personal activities and achievements — from wherever you are!



Help Tell Our History

We welcome news from alumni, friends, supporters and current and former faculty and staff members representing all of the university's current and former schools and colleges. Submit your stories and photos for inclusion in LAU's online and print publications.

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Erratum

We would like to point out that the photographs accompanying the news item "The Wives of the Missing Suffering in Silence" (Page 46, Volume 17, Issue 2, Summer 2015) do not correspond to the text. We would also like to correct that Arminee H. Choukassizian mentioned in Staying Connected (Page 53, Volume 17, Issue 2, Summer 2015) received her B.A. in '61, not her A.A. as stated. Our apologies.

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From the President's Desk

Dear Friends,

LAU began as the American Junior College for Women in 1924, with roots extending back to 1835, when the Ottoman Empire's first school for girls was founded. Whereas the women's college started with a class of eight students, today there are more than 8,000 students enrolled in the university. Over the decades it has expanded from one building — Sage Hall — to seven schools, along with 19 centers and institutes. LAU now spans three campuses: one in Beirut, another in Byblos and a headquarters and academic center in New York, as well as a hospital (LAUMC-RH) and an executive center in downtown Beirut (LAU@Solidere).

As a practical convenience of modern life, where better to appreciate the impact of time than in a university environment in which so much takes place in a circumscribed space. From the first time machine to today's drones, inventions have been an indicator of time. LAU plays a pivotal role in removing barriers between potential creators and their dreams, by encouraging students, scholars, faculty and researchers to explore ever further. Two of our graduates recently found a use for drones — usually associated with military operations — that is potentially lifesaving. And so an invention that started as a project at university becomes a world first in fire detection technology.

The relationship between speed and technology is at the heart of what we today call progress. Indeed, we could argue that time — or its acceleration — has come to represent the essence of modernity. With their discovery of a method for developing graphene sheets, an LAU faculty and alumnus team are set to contribute significantly to this progress. In the medical field, faster technology may mean saving lives.

Perseverance over time is sure to lead to recognition of one's accomplishments. At the core of LAU's mission is the formation of leaders in a diverse world. Our Model United Nations (MUN) and Model Arab League (MAL) student trainers proved just this, as they took the opportunity to train other youth in a first for the university. This July's Global Outreach and Leadership Development (GOLD) Conference in New York was unique in that our student trainers had the responsibility of running two flagship Model UN conferences, which they did with great success.

But sometimes time simply means giving of one's own to help others. At LAUMC-RH that is exactly what happens on a daily basis and why its reputation for human interaction precedes it. The patient is treated as family, which is at the core of the university's values, as we work together as an extended family community that reflects the highest ethical and moral standards.

But time is not simply a means by which we record changes in our lives and surroundings. Although historical periods are usually identified by the clothes people wear during a particular epoch, Yasmine Taan, chair of the School of Architecture and Design's Department of Design, believes that fashion trends act as only a temporal index of fleeting moments. And to Charles Elachi, director of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory and former chairman of LAU's Board of Trustees, living in a universe that's billions of years old reminds us that the span of a human life is but a tiny speck of time and that each moment is precious.

In this issue, we will draw on the vast wealth of knowledge and experience of our students, faculty, staff and alumni in fields related to the concept of time. But that's not all. LAU is but a fraction, though vital, of a community at large to which time is a universal phenomenon. Join us on our journey of discovery as we trace the important role that time plays in the life of the individual and examine the evolution of this role through the ages.



Joseph G. Jabbara
President



Keeping our community green

By Linda Dahdah

Architects and engineers learn how to make their businesses go green



"LAU offers a special mix of courses that appeal to both fresh graduates and those with substantial experience."

—Raymond Ghajar, LAU associate dean of the School of Engineering

"Be part of the Green Community," says the online homepage of the Pro-Green-Joint/Dual Professional Graduate Diploma. With a growing eco-consciousness affecting individuals, companies and governments at the global level, the program gives engineers and architects the opportunity to ride the international wave and train in the latest green technologies.

LAU has embarked on this venture — along with the American University of Beirut and the American University in Cairo — thanks to a grant from the European Union Tempus Programme that funds the development of a joint diploma with a focus on renewable energies, green buildings and water resources.



The project includes a consortium of seven additional partners, including Helwan University and Suez Canal University (Egypt), the University of Alicante (Spain), Lund University (Sweden), Politecnico di Torino and Mediterranean Universities Union (Italy), and University College Dublin (Ireland).

Mohamad Onsi, an accomplished civil engineer, enrolled in the program with LAU last spring. "There is a double purpose here. First to work on environment-friendly projects in a country that needs a more 'green' approach at so many different levels," he says. "On the other hand, I can apply to projects outside Lebanon as most countries have switched to green codes and structures."

This first-of-its-kind program in the Middle East is tailored to suit professionals, as it is delivered through online classes where students can take

courses at any time, in any partner institution and in any country.

"The program is extremely flexible, otherwise I wouldn't have been able to enroll," says Abdo Mhanna, an electrical engineer with LAU's Facilities Management Department who is involved in design for renovation and the building of capital projects. "LAU is starting to have an energy-saving and sustainability approach in their designs. And while I had a broad idea about pro-green technology, I am getting greater and deeper knowledge of the field now. My ideas are clearer," he adds.

LAU Associate Professor of mechanical engineering Wassim Habchi developed a course called "Energy Systems and Sustainable Development" for the purposes of the diploma. "It took me six months to develop the course and the delivery is easy — through a video — considering that it is happening through an e-learning platform. But while we gain a lot in learning flexibility, which is a great advantage for professionals, we still lose in interaction," Habchi admits.

LAU is also collaborating with professionals to develop some of the courses it offers through the Pro-Green program. "LAU is leveraging the experience of practicing engineers (part timers) and the commitment of full-time faculty to offer a special mix of courses that appeal to both fresh graduates and those with substantial experience," Associate Dean Raymond Ghajar explains.

According to project director Nesreen Ghaddar, associate provost and the Qatar Chair in Energy Studies at AUB, "This degree will put leading MENA universities on par with international counterparts." Ghaddar considers that the program will adhere to standards set by the Bologna Process, which ensures comparability in the quality of higher education at the European level.

"This diploma shows that things are moving in Lebanon, although slowly," says Onsi. "The Order of Engineers and Architects and other official entities have started considering changing the Lebanese codes to be more sustainable, so there is a will to change. In fact, considering what is happening at the global level they have no other choice but to follow."



A launch pad for success

By Paige Kollock

LAU MUN student trainers inspire younger students

"The lack of age gap between trainer and trainee is magic. You can never beat the energy of the youth."

—Elie Samia, LAU assistant vice president for Outreach and Civic Engagement



LAU trainers run the classroom sessions and teach the GOLD attendees soft skills.

"I should probably be resting or at the beach enjoying my time with friends," says LAU graduate Bariq Mahadin. "But I feel that I owe LAU so much. I enjoy what I do here and it's so empowering to be part of such a great institution."

It was that level of enthusiasm that kept Mahadin and his fellow student trainers away from the beach and in the classroom during a nine-day Global Outreach and Leadership Development (GOLD) Conference this past July. The event was part of a full-fledged program organized by the Outreach and Civic Engagement unit that has launched LAU into global spotlight for its success in developing young leaders.

As Secretary-General of the LAU Model UN (MUN), Mahadin led the 60 or so middle school, high school and college students who attended the GOLD Conference. With a gavel in hand and a commanding presence, he drilled the students on the ins and outs of UN rules and procedures.

While Assistant Vice President Elie Samia for Outreach and Civic Engagement and other faculty are in charge of LAU's MUN and MAL (Model Arab League) programs, it's the student trainers who run the classroom sessions when the conferences kick off, a role that gives them great pride and responsibility.

Trainer Jamil Maatouk, 22, participated in MUN in high school and quickly was hooked, setting his sights on attending LAU because of its prestigious Model UN program.

"I loved the diversity. I was with all sects, all schools, kids from all areas of Lebanon and all socio-economic backgrounds, and at 16 years old, it really changed something in me," Maatouk says.

With four years of MUN service under his belt, the fresh LAU graduate is now

guiding others. "As you grow with the program, you get entrusted," he says.

"You're handing out scholarships and this instills a sense of confidence and a sense of responsibility in any young individual."

Together with fellow trainers Elsa Samia and Rahma Dalbani, Mahadin and Maatouk taught the GOLD attendees soft skills such as time management, negotiation, conflict resolution, diplomacy, public speaking and leadership. The conference was held shortly after LAU was handed in May the task of running two flagship MUN conferences: the Global Classrooms International High School MUN Conference and the Global Classrooms International Middle School MUN Conference. Whereas UNA-USA had run the conferences since their inception in 2005, now they are completely under LAU management.

"Youth are training youth," says Elie Samia. "In doing so, they start passing the torch from one student to another. The high school students look up to their trainers and they want to be a trainer one day. The lack of age gap between trainer and trainee is magic. You can never beat the energy of youth."

While the trainers do get remuneration at the end of the program, they insist that it's minimal and that their participation is not contingent on money. "It takes a lot of energy, more than school work," says Dalbani, 21. "We do it because we love it."

Mahadin says he wants to finish his master's degree in international relations — which he is pursuing at the University of Nottingham — and to return to his home country of Jordan to work. In the long term, he wants to teach. "I've gotten to enjoy teaching people and MUN has showed me that I have a talent for this."



FEATURE

It's all relative

Time as a concept is malleable, leaving open the possibility of time travel

By Federica Marsi

Our societies are reliant on promoting an idea of time as a fixed and inexorable entity. However, physics, psychology and philosophy all suggest otherwise and embrace the idea that time is flexible, malleable and relative.

Prior to the rise of industrial capitalism, life followed the alternation of seasons. The sun ruled over toil and rest, structuring a notion of time based on human interaction with the natural world. The shift towards the clock — a daunting presence above the heads of the first industrial workers — formed a new collective perception, a merger of economic rules, conventions, customs and expectations that sociologists define as *time discipline*.

"In Latvia's capital, Riga, a clock was erected in 1924 to make workers get used to the idea of arriving on time," says Jennifer Skulte-Ouaiss, assistant professor of political science at LAU and a specialist in post-communist politics. "Economic and industrial development introduced a whole new way of thinking. Time became the measurement of efficiency, the constant struggle towards the achievement of a goal."

The divorce between clock time and solar time did indeed have social utility. In the late 19th century, railroads brought to light the headache of having to move passengers across different time zones, each based on the local movement of the sun. This scheduling nightmare soon made the need for a more uniform system apparent.

"Capitalism shaped our concept of time as a forward movement that cannot be arrested," says Skulte-Ouaiss, explaining the tautology behind this phenomenon. "If time is progress, and progress is infinite and unstoppable, then time is definitely seen as a perpetual forward movement."

Thus time — calculated with increasing precision in hours — became the

epitome of regularity and inevitability. Some sociologists have gone as far as to argue that the modern state and the development of industrial capitalism were made possible by these new social and economic rules.

According to Skulte-Ouaiss, "People have been programmed into thinking of time passing as unstoppable and irreversible because that is how modernization is viewed. Antonyms of progress are necessarily tainted by negative connotations, as post-industrial societies do not value things staying the same."

If we endorse this thesis, it becomes apparent that our societies are reliant on promoting an idea of time as a fixed and inexorable entity. However, physics, psychology and philosophy all suggest otherwise and embrace the idea that time is flexible, malleable and relative.

If only I could go back in time

You can't change what has been. This is the first — and perhaps most obvious — axiom we are taught. A second one is that you cannot make time go slower. According to physics, both seeming truths might well be false.

Ron Mallett, research professor at the University of Connecticut, is an American theoretical physicist who has been making headlines with his claim that he will make time travel a reality. Currently, he is conducting a feasibility study that he hopes will lead to the production of a laser powerful enough to allow the bending of time.

In his book, *Time Traveler: A Scientist's Personal Mission to Make Time Travel a Reality*, Mallett recounts the story that lies

behind the decision to make this project his life's mission. When he was ten, his father died of heart attack. Since then, Mallett has been determined to find a way to see him again.

"Logically, if things move back and forth in space they should also move back and forth in time."

—Rami El Ali, LAU visiting assistant professor of philosophy

Einstein's special theory of relativity published in 1905 states that the faster a clock moves the more time slows down. In a way, this also means that traveling in time is already a reality. Imagine an identical pair of twins, one of whom makes a journey into space while the other stays on Earth. The one who made the trip will return to Earth to find that the twin sibling has aged more due to the fact that our inner clock — the heart — moves slower in outer space than on our planet. This will allow one twin to arrive in the future at a different rate than the other, which is the essence of time traveling.

According to Einstein's general theory of relativity published in 1915, whatever happens to space also happens to time. What we call gravity is, in reality, the bending of space, even though we cannot see the curve. Because space and time are connected to one another, time is also bent. This became apparent when the first GPS systems were sent into outer space and scientists used time —



Professor Ron Mallett prepares the ring laser demonstration apparatus that illustrates his work on time traveling.



monitored through a clock installed on the devices — to calculate their distance. Soon they discovered that the data was incorrect, as they were considering time to be the same on Earth as in outer space. What they failed to understand at the time was that the bending of space also translates into a dilated time.

Mallett's time machine is based on Einstein's general theory of relativity, in which space and time can be altered by matter and energy. "Imagine coffee in a cup is like empty space and the spoon is the laser," he says, raising a mug and holding a spoon above it. "If we drop a coffee bean — which represents a neutron — and then use the spoon — the circulating light beam — to stir it around, we can see the empty space being stirred around."

"Suppose I can twist space strongly enough to turn it into a loop," says Mallett. "Then time also turns into a loop, so I

can go from past to present to future and then move along the line back into the past. This, I was all able to prove with mathematical equations."

Were he to succeed in his endeavor, he has no doubt what his first action would be. "I would certainly save my dad's life," he says, "even if this means that the *old* me would not exist anymore." The universe we experience could be one of many — equally real — universes out there. Time traveling could occur across universes, almost identical to one another but containing different versions of the world — and of ourselves.

If only I could be young again

The physical process of getting older is the foremost evidence of time passing by. When time is measured in "firsts" (first day of school, first kiss, first job), we are not concerned with this correlation. However,

as soon as wrinkles surface and hair turns gray, time seems brutally inescapable.

What we tend to ignore is the way in which our mind influences both the way we age and the passing of time. In 1981 Harvard professor of psychology Ellen Langer gathered two groups of men in their 70s and 80s and drove them to an old monastery in New Hampshire. A control group was kept in a neutral environment while the other was purposely plunged into the atmosphere of 1959: magazine issues, pictures, music and radio all recreated the era of the Cold War and the Soviet Union.

What Langer aimed — and managed — to prove was that the image of growing old that we internalize from childhood plays a dominant role in the way we age. Those who plunged back into their youth years showed significant improvement in their physical health compared to the control group.



"If time is progress, and progress is infinite and unstoppable, then time is definitely seen as a perpetual forward movement."

—Jennifer Skulte-Ouaiss, LAU
assistant professor of political
science



In her *Dancing with Costic* series, Australian artist Jane Long created imaginatively surreal compositions by digitally restoring, colorizing and manipulating black-and-white photos captured over 50 years ago. www.janelong.com.au



At the end of the experiment, which lasted only one week, some of her patients had given up their canes and were playing football in the backyard. “Wherever you put the mind, the body will follow,” Langer concluded during a Harvard Medical School conference.

According to David Weiss, assistant professor of sociomedical sciences at Columbia University’s Aging Center, “The human ability for self-awareness, to think across time and to anticipate the future, gives rise to social cognitive factors that influence how we age.”

In his paper “Still Young at Heart: Negative Age-related Information Motivates Distancing from Same-aged People” (published in the journal *Psychology and Aging*), Weiss demonstrates how people’s sense of age identity influences their psychological well-being as they grow older.

“Our chronological age — the number of years a person has lived — does not tell us much about *how* we age; however, chronological age is a fundamental aspect of how we think and feel about others and ourselves,” says Weiss. “Our images of aging and the stereotypes we associate with certain age groups are often linked to an over-generalization and over-estimation of negative characteristics. For example, adolescents and young adults are often described as ‘lazy,’ ‘rebellious,’ ‘immature’ and ‘unstable.’”

His research has shown how negative age stereotypes have detrimental effects,

especially later in adulthood. Although aging processes are a biological reality, our beliefs about age and aging shape our outlook on the future, well-being, morbidity and mortality.

If psychology can influence aging — or the physical translation of time — to the extent that men in their 80s go back to dribbling soccer balls on a courtyard, then it is perhaps not far fetched to say that mind power can, to some degree, arrest or even revert the passing of time.

The flow of time

Expressions like “time flies,” “the past is gone” or “time waits for no one” capture the way we think of time as an unstoppable flow. Philosophers have tried to make sense of the idea that time *moves* but have consistently encountered a logical deadlock. “If time moves, it must do so with respect to something else,” says Rami El Ali, visiting assistant professor of philosophy at LAU. “This might be another kind of time, which we call *hypertime*, but then this must also move with respect to something else.”

In order to overcome this loophole, philosophy embraced Einstein’s theory of relativity and began thinking of time in relation to space. By drawing a graph that shows time and space on its two axes, it should be possible to represent all of history. According to this theorization, time does not flow but is tantamount to space.

“The problem with this is that these two are not exactly the same. Things can

move freely in space, but in time there are specific directions,” says El Ali. “Logically, if things move back and forth in space they should also move back and forth in time.”

On its own philosophy cannot say for certain whether or not time travel is possible, but concedes that the idea makes conceptual sense. According to Joshua Norton, an assistant professor at the American University of Beirut specializing in the philosophy of physics, “If time travel into the past is possible, it will further demonstrate the similarity in structure which exists between space and time. Such a discovery will further demonstrate the melding of time and space into the single object ‘spacetime’ as described by the general theory of relativity. One must be careful to note, however,” he adds, “that time travel (as understood by general relativity) does not mean that we can change the past, only that we can relive it.”

At the other end of the spectrum, another possibility is that time, simply, does not exist. “There are metaphysically coherent possible worlds which do not have time and which might be the actual world,” says Norton. “In other words, there is some metaphysics that might be true of our world where no such thing is present. Yet, I don’t think anyone would know how to conceive a world without something like time.”

Are you man enough to be a nurse?

By Federica Marsi

As stereotypes against male nurses fall away, professionals at LAUMC-RH share their experiences in a female-dominated profession

"Are you Man Enough to be a Nurse" is the title of a campaign launched by the Oregon Center for Nursing in 2002.

To this day, the perception of men and women as being inherently different tends to confine the two genders into so-called "occupational ghettos." Nursing is one of the many examples of this phenomenon. Stereotypes see the nursing profession as feminine, both because of the nurturing nature of the job and of its perceived status as an occupation of lower prestige.

"When I walk into a patient's room, they usually think I'm a doctor because I am a man," says Nohra Mansour, an LAU graduate who joined LAUMC-RH soon after his diploma in 2014. Even though some patients are still not used to male nurses, he expresses only the deepest respect for his chosen career path.

Mansour's curiosity about the mysteries of the human body and his love for biology and science led him to consider entering the medical field early on. "There is a shortage of male nurses and a high demand for them, that's why I finally chose nursing," he says. "When I finished my studies I didn't even have to apply for jobs, LAUMC-RH contacted me directly and I started working straight away."

In Lebanon, enrollment numbers are encouraging, yet still well below desirable standards. A 2012 survey shows that almost 20 percent of professionals



registered in the Lebanese Order of Nurses were male. According to Nancy Hoffart, founding dean of the Alice Ramez Chagoury School of Nursing, LAU is witnessing promising rates of male enrollment. Of the students who graduated this spring, 22 percent were male. The proportion among rising juniors is even higher, at 24 percent.

Jihad El Masri, a registered nurse at LAUMC-RH and clinical instructor at LAU, explains that male professional figures are sought after by hospitals as they complement the female workforce, and not only by performing tasks that require physical strength. "Cultural issues are still present within our society and sometimes a male patient would feel more comfortable being cared for by another male," he says.

But the gender gap is not absolute. Patient Joumana Ahmad Kanji also appreciates nursing care by men. "They inspire confidence and sometimes I feel they can be even more tender than female nurses," she says.

According to El Masri, a career in nursing opens up possibilities not only in hospitals but also at managerial level, through a master's degree aimed at teaching professionals how to facilitate the delivery of quality nursing care, as well as to coordinate and manage the environment in which the care is delivered.

A growing number of students at LAU are choosing to ignore prejudices to follow their true passion. Mohammad Ali Bdeir enrolled at LAU in 2012, the year his grandfather passed away. "I was inspired by the work of those male nurses who took care of him," he says. "Despite having been admitted to a business degree, I chose instead a profession that makes me happy and makes other people happy."

"They inspire your confidence and sometimes I feel they can be even more tender than female nurses."

—Joumana Ahmad Kanji, patient at LAUMC-RH





Leaving a footprint in the fashion world

By Federica Marsi

LAU fashion design students selected by Bensimon for Paris exhibition

"Their work shows they are already thinking like real stylists."

—Serge Bensimon, co-owner Bensimon



The collaboration between LAU and the French lifestyle brand Bensimon — famous worldwide for its tennis shoes — started within the framework of a seemingly-humble academic final year project.

The French company has a tradition of providing plain canvas shoes to university students and challenging them to come up with innovative concepts, so the idea itself was not new. What was unprecedented was Bensimon's decision to organize a *vernissage* in their shop in Paris in order to showcase the models created by LAU students.

Serge Bensimon — who is co-owner of the company together with his brother Yves — was taken aback by the innovative interpretation of the brand's identity proposed by LAU fashion design students. "As soon as I discovered these students' work, the need for an exposition became evident," he says. "Our tennis shoes are like a white canvas on which new stories can be written. Lebanese students have used them in a singular way, as tools to express strong values — like freedom."

The *vernissage* took place in the presence of Jason Steel, assistant professor at LAU's B.A. in fashion design, and Maya Mroueh, Bensimon's agent in Lebanon who was instrumental in making the collaboration possible. "LAU has shown that Lebanon can live up to European standards," she says.

When she proposed to the company's founders that they give LAU students plain canvas shoes on which to practice their craft, the Bensimons enthusiastically accepted. Serge Bensimon in particular describes himself as sensitive to the needs of the new generation of designers, and indeed he and his company have proven

willing to stimulate and reward new talents.

"This experience opened up for us a new perspective on fashion design," says fashion design student Layal Kazma, whose creations for Bensimon elegantly combine gold elements with hand paint. "When you start as a designer you only think of clothes, but working with Bensimon made us aware of how much can be done with shoes and accessories."

Each of the 19 LAU students who took part in the project designed up to five models revolving around the theme of crystals, bringing in his or her own creative approach while keeping in mind the brand's identity. "Serge Bensimon was delighted by the quality and breadth of our students' design ideas, so much so he had goose bumps on seeing the collection," says Steel.

"Their work with colors and prints — so smart and subtle — shows that they are already thinking like real stylists," says Bensimon, adding that professionalism means also being aware of market constraints.

"I felt a true artistic direction and a good unity in their collection," he concludes. "They were able to grasp the originality of the brand and the infinite number of possibilities that this iconic product offered them."

The project gave students hands-on experience in designing for a brand while combining one's personal creative identity with commercial realities. More than that —it gave them the courage to dream big dreams. "Having the approval of such a huge brand like Bensimon gave us confidence in our work," says Kazma. "Now we know that we can set our goals high and accomplish them."



Destination Europe

By Reem Maghribi

School of Architecture students explore architectural wonders in Spain, France and Norway

Fifty-five students from the School of Architecture and Design traveled to Europe this summer to explore first hand the works of architects they had long been studying and admiring. “Our students had been hearing about Villa Savoye almost daily, so to be there and discover this famous building in person was amazing,” says faculty member Vanessa Dammous, who, together with colleague Sophie Khayat, accompanied 26 students to France.

Tailored for students of interior architecture, the French study tour included both a week-long immersion in Paris and a five-day workshop exploring the extremes of creativity at the architectural park Domaines de Boisbuchet. “It’s a huge space that’s very green and includes a lake and a river, so our students conceptualized projects and built them as real scale models on site,” says Dammous.

For its part, the itinerary in Spain showcased the country’s Islamic architecture. “We have offered courses in Islamic architecture since 2004, and now we have three students minoring in the subject, so this trip was a culmination of those efforts,” explains associate professor Abdallah Kahil, who toured Spain with 14 students. Renaissance and contemporary architecture were also on the agenda, including the headquarters of the Bank of Caja in Grenada that was designed by Alberto Campo Baeza. “Baeza had previously visited and given a lecture at LAU, and we had a unique opportunity to visit a fascinating building that is usually closed to the public. The whole trip was an exhilarating experience for the students,” says Kahil.

“I enjoyed the opportunity to witness the influence and charm of Islamic architecture in Spain,” enthuses interior design student Nour Tannir. “I chose to



While one group of LAU students enjoyed the wide urban spaces of Oslo (opp. page) and the fjords (above) in Norway; another enjoyed a five city tour of Spain (left) and a third traveled to France, where the students attended a five day workshop retreat (top left) and visited, among other landmarks, Villa Savoye (top right).

minor in it to broaden my professional opportunities, but with each course I studied, I became truly fascinated by the misconceptions, cultures and finesse of the Islamic arts," she adds.

While Tannir and her fellow students traveled across Spain by bus, the 15 students touring Norway's capital Oslo peddled their way through the city with faculty member David Aouad. They admired architectural feats from the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries before heading west to the country's glorious fjords.

"Cycling is a wonderful way to immerse yourself in a city and absorb its architecture, history and culture," says Aouad, who treated his students to visits to two brand new neighborhoods in Oslo. "These areas were passionately planned and molded by novel ideas in architecture. They were great spots for

"The whole trip was an exhilarating experience for the students."

—Abdallah Kahil, associate professor and the director of LAU's Institute of Islamic Art and Architecture

our students to explore contemporary Scandinavian urban planning."

All the students recorded their discoveries, impressions and thoughts in sketchbooks and diaries in preparation for presentations that ranged from research papers to exhibition posters. The LAU community was given the opportunity to enjoy the fruits of the students' labor at a special exhibition that highlighted the wide range of activities and achievements they had enjoyed.



Older and wiser

By Reem Maghribi

Can we truly grow wiser with the passing of time despite the process of physiological decline that comes with age? Is wisdom a societal construct invented to give value to the aged or an attribute knowledge-hungry youth cannot possibly possess? What can we learn over time that we cannot in the library?

FEATURE

Our bodies and minds go through a lot in the 70 or so years most of us spend on this earth. The first two decades bring increasing vitality, strength and brain function and in most societies these are the years during which children and youth pursue knowledge through organized education. Their experiences are however often limited to the confines of the environment approved or prepared by their guardians, and as such opportunities to encounter, confront and reflect upon a variety of occurrences are limited.

Such a process of digesting life experience is what leads to real wisdom, according to the late German-born American developmental psychologist and psychoanalyst Erik Erikson. Wisdom, he said, "is not what comes from reading great books. When it comes to understanding life, experiential learning is the only worthwhile kind; everything else is hearsay."

Developed in 1990 by fellow German and psychologist Paul Baltes, the Berlin Wisdom Paradigm is the oldest of four well-established measures of wisdom that consider a range of diverse facets. Combined, they identify cognition, reflection, affection, self-transcendence, openness, humor and critical life experience as aspects of wisdom.

Baltes defined wisdom as expert knowledge concerning the fundamental pragmatics of life and believed that such knowledge is formed from overcoming tough life situations. Psychologist Nabih Eid agrees. "Life is a school, and learning

is experience gained over time," says Eid, who runs the remedial program at LAU's Continuing Education Program for student with low GPAs. "With age comes a maturity and awareness that my students have yet to develop," he adds.



"The years teach much which the days never knew."

Ralph Waldo Emerson, 19th century American poet

Neuroscientists largely agree that our brains do not fully mature until we reach our mid-twenties. By this age, however, the majority of students the world over are expected to have completed their undergraduate programs. While the neurological development that takes place after the age of 18 is essentially a continuation of processes that began during puberty, the latter stage development is most acute in the pre-frontal cortex. This area of the brain

influences impulse, attention and short-term memory.

"A lack of impulse control and ability to comprehend consequences is one reason behind prevalent drug use among university students," explains Eid. "It's a big problem in Lebanon, and is compounded by advances in communication and experiences of war."

Non-stop news cycles that churn out scenes of devastation and death, a sense of inadequacy resulting from social media use, and the lack of security related to living in a regional hotbed can all lead to fear and anxiety. "This stress impairs your ability to retrieve memories in the hippocampus of the brain," says Eid, who runs stress and time management courses and advises students to avoid exams when highly stressed.

Still, behavioral problems rarely have a permanent impact on cognitive function, as our ability to encode and retrieve memories is only impaired during the time of the problem. The exception is chronic stress, which can lead to neuron degradation resulting from the over-production of the hormone cortisol. Certain medicines and other substances — such as drugs and alcohol — can also degrade neurons, induce neuron damage and have a permanent effect on brain function that cannot heal over time. Ironically, Benzodiazepines, widely prescribed medications in the U.S. often taken to minimize anxiety and treat alcohol withdrawal, lead to neuron degradation.



Another cause of neuron degradation is quite simply time. “Our cognitive abilities decrease with age so we’re slower in all cognitive spheres — learning languages, attention, memorizing. It’s a biological imperative, because we lose neurons with age,” explains Rechdi Ahdab, assistant

“Speed isn’t everything. Over the years we build up knowledge. This is the paradox between wisdom and cognition.”

—Rechdi Ahdab, assistant professor at LAU’s Department of Neurology

professor at LAU’s Department of Neurology and a practicing neurologist at LAUMC-RH. “But speed isn’t everything. Over the years we also build up knowledge. This is the paradox between wisdom and cognition.”

Ahdab defines wisdom as being made up of three components: cognition, reflection and compassion. His definition is consistent with those of Monika Ardelt and Jeffrey Dean Webster, who each

produced one of the four measures of wisdom currently adopted by researchers. Ahdab believes that reflection and compassion are personality markers and that compassion lessens with age. Though little research exists on the relationship between age and compassion, some suggest a correlation between compassion fatigue and the medical profession. This would ironically suggest that medical professionals, among the most revered in our society, become less wise with age.

The age at which wisdom is at its peak is debatable. Though Baltes at first hypothesized that there would be a positive correlation between chronological age and wisdom, he found that wisdom only increases into the early twenties before staying constant for the rest of one’s life. A more recent study involving over 500 Dutch adults ranging from 17 to 92 years of age concluded that middle-aged people were the wisest. Another study shows a zero relationship between age and wisdom, suggesting rather that a complex pattern of characteristics and experiential features must come together in order for wisdom to emerge.

While dictionary definitions of wisdom vary slightly, none refer to cognitive

ability. All refer to sound judgment, and many suggest that this is made possible through the attainment of knowledge and experience. As these grow over time, says Eid, “older people are better at understanding, assimilating, retrieving and applying knowledge.”

“He who devotes sixteen hours a day to hard study may become at sixty as wise as he thought himself at twenty.”

Mary Wilson Little, 19th century American writer

Mature student Dima Youssef agrees. She graduated from LAU (then named Beirut University College) in 1986 and returned last year to pursue a degree in fashion design. “I may find the technology more challenging to learn than the younger students, but I know better how to deal with people, and with time. I am more patient now and more mature.”

Youssef offers many analogies to emphasize the importance of time and experience in the development of maturity. The superiority of ripe over unripe fruit is one. A river is another. “The



water carries with it sands from different banks and the pollen of all the flowers it passes as it streams," she says. "Such water nurtures many a tree."

Having worked in various design fields during her near 30-year sabbatical from formal education, Youssef also feels better able to contribute creatively: "I have practical knowledge and can instantly see how theory relates to the real world."

LAU's Senior Recruitment & Retention Specialist Grace Lebbos can certainly attest to the value of hands-on experience when pursuing an academic qualification. After 16 years of work in various administrative roles at LAU, she pursued a degree in business. "I graduated with a GPA of 3.89," boasts Lebbos, who subsequently went on to gain an E.M.B.A. while continuing to work at LAU as a recruitment specialist.

"I had put off formal education because I knew I had time and competence so decided to prioritize my work," she says. "I witnessed the transformation of this university from a college to a multi-campus university and was overwhelmed with knowledge and information." This wealth of practical experience and a strong sense of self enabled her to succeed in the classroom, despite the initial difficulties:

"When you're younger you can read something once and understand it. It's more difficult when you're older." Her remedy was to apply practical examples and seek knowledge through the exchange of ideas with others.

"We can be knowledgeable with other men's knowledge, but we cannot be wise with other men's wisdom."

Michel de Montaigne, French Renaissance philosopher



Another LAU graduate who believes strongly in learning through human interaction is Samir AbouSamra (M.S. '95), chief technology officer at DigiPen, a university specializing in game development. "I learn by listening to wise and knowledgeable people. I wasn't able to always reach such people previously and when I did, I wouldn't properly understand them." With age, both AbouSamra and Lebbos have increasingly benefited from interaction with others,

"Life is a school and learning is experience gained over time."

—Nabih Eid, psychologist and head of LAU's CEP remedial program

and their ability to do so effectively has improved with experience and time.

Past experience, insists Eid, is very important in preparing us for new challenges: "Living through the events and trials of a changing world year after year, one develops many control methods and becomes more adept at absorbing, assimilating and accommodating." What Eid calls control methods Ahdab refers to as coping mechanisms. "We develop them to compensate for the decline in our cognitive abilities. I became better at creating links with age and began to utilize these strategies in my later year of studies when I was around 30 years old," explains the neurologist.

The desire to attain knowledge over time, whether through formal education or practical experience is, in AbouSamra's view, at the heart of wisdom. "Wisdom is knowing that your worst enemy is your own ego. The inability to accept that there can be a better way than your own is what prevents a person from becoming wiser," he says. "Never shy away from seeking knowledge, and always be willing to share it." ■

The key to saving time

By Federica Marsi

LAU father and son produce an ultra-thin layer of conductive material that is bound to push the frontiers of technology

"I could not believe this was really graphene."

—Ahmed Kabbani, LAU professor of chemistry



Mohamad Kabbani grinding the graphene

Since the 1970s, the power of computers has doubled every year in the attempt to maximize our ever-dwindling reserves of free time. The relationship between speed and technology is at the heart of what we today call progress. Indeed, we could argue that time — or its acceleration — has come to represent the essence of modernity.

LAU professor of chemistry Ahmad Kabbani and LAU alumnus and current Rice University Ph.D. student Mohamad Kabbani are thus significant contributors to progress. In 2012, Ahmad Kabbani was taking his sabbatical at Rice University in Houston, Texas. At the same time and in the same university, his son Mohamad was conducting experiments using carbon nanotubes — which appear as a thin black powder — in the laboratories of professor Pullickel Ajayan.

"We manually ground two carbon nanotubes (CNTs) of different functionalities in the solid state and saw that doing so produced a silver sheet," Kabbani-senior recalls. "I could not believe this was really graphene."

Scientists worldwide had previously tried to obtain graphene sheets by treating carbon nanotubes with concentrated chemicals. But the use of chemical components combined with very high temperatures always left the graphene sheets crumpled, reducing their electrical conductivity.

Until the Kabbanis' discovery. "The reaction is giving graphene in high quality and good yield," says Mohamad Kabbani, who is now continuing the research with a team of experts at Rice University. The new challenge is to produce a wafer, an ultra-thin layer of conductive material to be employed in the realization of microchips. At present, technology employs silicon, which is a hundred times less conductive than graphene and more expensive to obtain.

"Another very important attribute of graphene is its very high thermal conductivity, a property that extends the life of electronic devices," says the younger Kabbani.

Utilizing graphene will raise the performance of electronic devices to unimaginable levels. In the medical field, faster technology may mean saving lives. As for the devices used in daily life, consumers will opt for those that promise to free up the most time.

But will scientific progress alone make our lives more efficient? According to London School of Economics sociology professor Judy Wajcman, technology does not accelerate time uniformly and for everyone.

"Time is rather multiple and varies according to who you are and what you are doing — context and power matter a great deal," she says. In her book *Pressed for Time: The Acceleration of Life in Digital Capitalism*, Wajcman suggests that the main problem we should worry about is not saving more time but managing the one we have.



Ahmed Kabbani, LAU professor of chemistry

While time management remains in our hands, Ahmad Kabbani is certain that the employment of graphene in technology is part of the "revolution of materials," as he likes to define the different elements that have led to a scientific leap forward.

As a scientist who has been working in the field for almost 40 years, Kabbani witnessed and cherished any technological progress that helped him dedicate more time to research. In 1975, while he was pursuing his Ph.D. at the University of California, Kabbani's research required advanced mathematical calculations, which drained him of all his energy.

"After the first assignment, I couldn't keep my eyes open and fell asleep during class. One week later, I met a student who had a Texas-81," he says, referring to the first graphic calculator made by Texas Instruments. "My life changed after that, the same task took me twenty times less than it used to! This is progress and materials like graphene are the key to it."



The role of time in space exploration

By Charles Elachi

"Living in a universe that's billions of years old reminds us that the span of a human life is a tiny speck of time."



Working in space exploration always reminds me that time is both vast and minuscule. Our orbiting telescopes peer across the colossal expanses of space and time to study stars and galaxies in our universe, which is 13.8 billion years old. A light year is the distance light can travel in one year, so when we observe a star millions of light years away we see it as it was millions of years ago. Yet we use atomic clocks that are precise down to a fraction of a nanosecond to navigate spacecraft.

It takes time for radio signals to travel between Earth and our distant spacecraft — for example, 18 hours to reach Voyager 1 at the edge of our solar system.

The stress of waiting can make time seem like an eternity. When the Curiosity rover landed on Mars in 2012, there were "seven minutes of terror" during entry, descent and landing. Add to that 13.8 minutes for a signal to travel from the spacecraft to JPL Mission Control and you understand why you saw the team cheering and even leaping into the air when we got a signal confirming that the spacecraft was on Mars.

After Curiosity's landing, we adapted to Martian time. A Martian day, or sol, is nearly 40 minutes longer than an Earth day. Many team members lengthened their schedule each day to match the rover's timeline, which caused constant "jet lag." Interestingly, research shows that even our 24-hour Earth day can fluctuate very, very slightly because of earthquakes, tides and weather.

The timing of spacecraft launches is affected by celestial mechanics. We need a date when Earth and the target

Esteemed space scientist and former chairman of LAU's Board of Trustees Charles Elachi is best known for directing NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), which has conducted numerous space-exploration missions.

destination are properly positioned relative to each other.

Living in a universe that's billions of years old reminds us that the span of a human life is a tiny speck of time, and that each moment is precious — it's impossible to measure the value of time spent with family and friends or doing work that brings great satisfaction.

I believe we should make the most of our time on Earth by challenging ourselves. At JPL, we encourage people to dream big and develop new ideas for exploring. We have a long list of successful space missions, but since we always try to do better, go farther and try new things, there have been disappointments. I tell our teams that if we never have a setback it means we're not trying hard enough. When we do have a problem, instead of placing blame, we figure out what to do differently the next time to be successful.

I'm living proof that anything is possible for anyone during a lifetime. Who would have thought that a little boy who grew up looking at the nighttime sky in Rayak, Lebanon, would someday become director of a world-renowned NASA center for space exploration? What if someone had told me as a child that I had no chance of achieving this? That's why I like to share my story, to tell young people that the world is open to them.

The stars I watched as a child still inspire me and remind me of the cosmic mysteries waiting to be revealed. I can't wait to see what discoveries lie ahead — on places like Mars, Jupiter, Saturn and Europa. It's all just a matter of time.



Establishing a culture of care

By Federica Marsi

The LAUMC-RH Physical Therapy Department combines innovative therapies and avant-garde equipment with a genuine concern for each patient's wellbeing.

"Constant innovations, together with attentive care for every patient's physical and psychological wellbeing, are at the heart of our department's philosophy."

—Antoinette Beyrouthy, manager of LAUMC-RH's Physical Therapy Department

The Physical Therapy Department of the Lebanese American University Medical Center-Rizk Hospital (LAUMC-RH) has come a long way since it was opened in 1987. Since its early years, the department has grown to offer specialized medical treatment for a variety of pathologies, including scoliosis and the deformities of the spine. In 1989 LAUMC-RH was the first in Lebanon to establish a gymnasium for stretching courses. 1996 marked another first with the introduction of uro-gynecology rehabilitation, a type of treatment that uses biofeedback to control muscles power function in anal and urine incontinence.

Branding the motto "physiotherapy is preventive," today the Physical Therapy Department can boast of state-of-the-art medical equipment and a set of sports facilities integrated within a hospital environment — something that is quasi-unique in Lebanon. The fitness center and multi-level swimming pool allow both patients and external visitors to benefit from hydrotherapy, aquagym and sophrology sessions, among other activities. Programed treatments are modeled according to individual needs, under the guidance of highly educated, competent, ambitious and dynamic therapists, focusing on safety at the technical, medical and human levels.

Committed to quality care and practicing international standards, the department has a renowned reputation and is considered a referral center for many orthopedic surgeons outside the hospital, with 25 to 30 percent of outpatients being referrals from physicians at other hospitals.

"In regular gym centers, personal trainers are generally not physiotherapists, they know nothing about my condition

and are not always considerate of my age," says LAUMC-RH patient Zeina Nasri, who had lost complete motion of one shoulder due to diabetes and is now undergoing rehabilitation. Every exercise the patient conducts within the fitness area is agreed upon beforehand with one of the department's professionals, a level of care that can only be offered within a hospital setting.

The facility was also the first to offer fasciatherapy, which has helped countless patients by restoring their movement and getting rid of their pain, thus giving them back their lives. Another pioneering technique used by the department is that of lymphatic drainage, utilized to stimulate the lymphatic vessels and channel the excess lymph fluid towards healthy lymph nodes in case of swelling and edema. To ensure maximum quality care, professional staff have been trained just for these initiatives. Over the years, the department has also further specialized in pre-natal exercises, the treatment of scoliosis and in 2006 introduced osteopathy and manual therapy treatments.

Thanks to the presence of a team of experts on the treatment of sports-related surgeries and all types of musculoskeletal injuries, LAUMC-RH has become the point of referral for the Lebanese sports federation. Until recently, general orthopedic surgeons had been treating sports-related injuries, regardless of the patient's activity or athletic level. Now, at LAUMC-RH, patients have access to physicians and physical therapists specializing in all kinds of sport-related injuries, with a particular focus on ligamentous and tendinous injuries of the knee, shoulder and ankle. The department's surgeons specializing in ACL/PCL repair and shoulder instability



perform arthroscopic procedures on a regular basis.

Elias Khoury — a 24-year-old basketball player — has been a patient at LAUMC-RH for the past two years due to a serious hip and back injury. After four major surgeries in a renowned hospital in the Beirut suburbs, he finally found relief in the treatment provided by LAUMC-RH. “I was completely devastated when I heard the doctor whispering to my parents after my surgery: ‘he might not be able to practice basketball in the future, his nerves are seriously damaged,’” Khoury says. “In the LAUMC-RH center, they kept innovating my physiotherapy protocol, boosting my morale, and accompanying me step by step to gain confidence and build my muscles again. If I am up today, I owe it to their confidence and hard work.”

Specialty services are also delivered to children and adolescents through chest physical therapy — a method that combines chest techniques and breathing exercises that decrease the need for antibiotics — and global postural re-education, a unique approach to the treatment of musculoskeletal problems.

The pediatric therapy staff facilitates the treatment of children with cognitive or physical disorders through programs that address all areas of normal development.

Women also occupy a special place within the department, which designed specific therapy programs for female patients, including pre and post-partum exercises to treat musculoskeletal problems, core strengthening exercises for urinary incontinence, and individualized programs to prevent and cure osteoporosis.

“Our main success is the fact that we provide a personalized treatment for each patient,” says Fady Dagher, the department’s deputy manager. “When people come here from other medical

field for many decades while preserving the ethics and care that distinguishes this center from others. I am not treated as a patient, rather as a family member.”

The department’s manager Antoinette Beyrouthy is an institution at LAUMC-RH. She was hired in 1984, during the civil war, when the scarcity of medical equipment allowed only for postural manual treatments. Today, her experienced healing touch surpasses what any machine can offer.

“Constant innovations, together with attentive care for every patient’s physical and psychological wellbeing, are at the heart of our department’s philosophy,” says Beyrouthy. “The Physical Therapy Department is an integral team committed to improving the health status and quality of life of individuals and populations and to ensuring excellence through the promotion of primary healthcare principles at national and international levels.”

Throughout her career, she has cured infinite numbers of patients, including diplomats and ambassadors. In her office, she keeps a pile of thank you letters as the most meaningful proof of her professional achievements.

“I have had years of serious back trouble and I have never encountered a physiotherapist, either in Switzerland or in the countries where I resided as a diplomat, who tackled problems in such depth, with a holistic but medical view, with such diagnostic confidence,” says Ruth Flint, former Swiss ambassador in Lebanon.

“Our main success is the fact that we provide a personalized treatment for each patient.”

—Fady Dagher, deputy manager of
LAUMC-RH’s Physical Therapy
Department

facilities, we realize that they do not really understand their body or the way in which they have been treated. We want to make them part of their own healing process.”

The department is known not just for the best physical care but also for the way in which it is delivered. According to Carol Bou Haroun, a patient who has been receiving treatment for the past five years, “I know I am in safe hands, with people who have been mastering the

Postcard from New York

By Paige Kollock

The evening started off with actors Sany Abdul Baki and Raffi Feghali performing a scene from *The Dictator*, after which director Sahar Assaf, translator Nada Saab and playwright and translator Robert Myers joined them to field questions from the audience.

The Dictator, by Lebanese writer Issam Mahfouz, is the story of a delusional tyrant posing as humanity's long-awaited savior. The panel at LAU NY took place in conjunction with the play's English-language world premiere at the "Between the Seas" festival in New York on September 10 and 12.

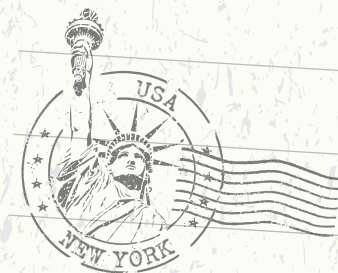
Many audience members were curious about the play's historical context and about the challenge of translating works steeped in history.

"In some cases, texts are born out of specific historical moments and they make allusions to these moments," said Saab, the LAU assistant professor of Arabic studies who worked with AUB's Myers to translate the play. "And once you transform them into English, you have to make sure they elicit an audience response that is similar to what the audience response would be in Arabic, and that is the challenge."

The event included the screening of film clips of Sa'dallah Wannous's *The Rape, Rituals of Signs and Transformations*, and *Watch Your Step* — a piece about the Lebanese Civil War — to give the audience a broader taste of Lebanon's theater scene.

The theater panel kicked off a jam-packed fall season at LAU NY. On September 30, author Karim El Koussa visited the Academic Center to give a lecture titled "Jesus the Phoenician: Unveiling the Hidden Identity of Christ." El Koussa's talk focused on his book *Jesus the Phoenician*, in which he challenges the idea that Jesus was Jewish by delving into the history of the Canaan-Phoenicians and searches for the true

In September, LAU NY hosted a panel discussion titled "Conversation on Contemporary Beirut Theater." The event brought together professors and actors from the Tahweel Ensemble Theater, LAU and the Theater Initiative at AUB.



identity of the Christian savior using previously dismissed texts as evidence.

On October 20, LAU NY hosted another book launch for *Strangers in the West: The Syrian Colony of New York City, 1880-1900*, in partnership with the City University of New York. As the title indicates, the book tells the story of Arab immigrants who settled in New York City in the late 1800s. Author Linda Jacobs painted a vivid portrait of their lives to the audience, complete with intricate details about their businesses, family and social lives.

The November 4 book launch of LAU Associate Professor Samira Aghacy's *Writing Beirut: Mappings of the City in the Modern Arabic Novel* provided yet another forum for literary enthusiasts. Her tome explores Beirut through 16 Arabic novels, encompassing the themes of the urban/rural divide, the imagined and idealized city, panoramic views and pedestrian acts, the city as sexualized and gendered, and the city as a palimpsest.

On November 12, Lebanese wine connoisseur Michael Karam delivered an illustrated lecture on the evolution of the Lebanese wine industry from its inception to the present day. The talk gave an overview of the country's 5,000-year-old wine tradition, from the Phoenicians to the Ottomans to the French mandate period, before delving into the structure of the modern industry. Following the lecture, the audience got to taste wines from several Lebanese producers.

LAU NY opens doors for business students

By Paige Kollock

As LAU moves to capitalize on its strategic location in the heart of Manhattan — the financial capital of the world — the Adnan Kassar School of Business hosted two courses at the New York Academic Center in August, drawing on the facility's proximity to leading businesses and professionals and enriching the students' learning experiences.

Taught by marketing professor Nadia Shuayto, "Graduate Study Tour in Management" drew 30 M.B.A. and E.M.B.A. students from Beirut. "I signed up for the course because New York City is a place where, if you have a good network, you can reach for the stars," said E.M.B.A. candidate Mohanad Zebib.

provides shared workspace and services to entrepreneurs and freelancers.

At Capelli New York, students sat with Lebanese founder George Altirs for over an hour.

"Stop waiting for things to happen — instead go out and make them happen," he told the group. Excellent advice from a successful businessman, originally from Zgharta, who in 1988 moved to New York, where he opened a hair accessories company with his brother. Now, Altirs' company makes everything from hats and scarves to hosiery, footwear, apparel and sportswear. With more than 3,000 employees worldwide, the firm operates throughout North America, Europe and Asia.

Shuayto designed the curriculum with the students' needs in mind. "Sixty-seven percent of Lebanon's industry is reliant on tourism, so these students have to know how to manage service," she stressed.

In parallel, business students from the LL.M. program also visited LAU NY in August for a course called "Compliance for Financial Institutions." The study tour was a first for the LL.M. program, which will see its initial graduates next year.

Professor Joey Chbeir, a lawyer with the firm Maynard & Cooper in Birmingham, Alabama, says compliance laws are critical to doing business on a global level. "If you don't understand how the law works in the United States, you will never understand what you should do in order to keep the government happy. And if you don't keep the U.S. government happy, of course your business is going to suffer," he said.

LL.M. students had the opportunity meet with executives at Bank of America and at multinational law firm King & Spalding. They also paid a visit to the New York Supreme Court, where they sat in on a court procedure having to do with a breach of contract between Deutsche Bank and a Venezuelan company.

LAU's LL.M. focuses on the Anglo-Saxon common legal system as opposed to the civil legal system adopted by most former French colonies, including Lebanon. "The students have given rave reviews about the contributions of the New York Academic Center towards their professional development and career advancement," said Said Ladki, interim dean of the Adnan Kassar School of Business. "We look forward to establishing stronger ties with the center."



Situated in the heart of New York, the university's Academic Center is an ideal networking hub

"The students gave rave reviews about LAU's New York Academic Center."

—Said Ladki, interim dean of LAU's Adnan Kassar School of Business

Shuayto's ten-day study tour incorporated guest lectures from executives at luxury retailers Hermès and Barney's Department Store. "For a luxury company, the digital age can feel quite uncontrolled and scary because it's hard to capture the feeling of luxury on social media platforms," Peter Malachi, senior vice president of communications for Hermès, told the class. He then went on to describe how Hermès confronted that challenge by fortifying their online outreach.

Students were also treated to a guest lecture by Jon Harari, CEO of WindowsWear, a fashion technology company that showcases display windows in real-time and then allows consumers to purchase the merchandise online.

Off-site visits included trips to the United Nations, the city's marketing arm NYC & Company, department store Lord & Taylor, e-commerce beauty company Birchbox, sports complex Madison Square Garden and WeWork, a company that

Into the great beyond

Religion and the structure of time

By Irina Papkova

FEATURE



"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven . . . a time to be born and a time to die . . . a time to mourn and a time to dance . . . a time for war and a time for peace." So wrote the author of the biblical Book of Ecclesiastes, thought by some to be Solomon himself, but in all likelihood an anonymous writer from the third century B.C. Whoever he was, "Ecclesiastes" captured, in one famous passage, the centrality of the concept of time to religion.

According to Habib Malik, LAU associate professor of history and cultural studies, "Religions are a response to the yearning of the human spirit." As such, they attempt to answer two basic human questions revolving around time: How did the world begin and what will happen to us when it "ends"? In the West, religious Creation stories familiar to us from childhood include not just Genesis but the Egyptian and later Greek, Roman and Viking mythologies, all of which posit that there was once a time "before" the creation of the Earth by a God or gods. Farther east, the ancient Vedic books of Hinduism claim that universes form as the god Vishnu exhales. The Buddhists hold that there is no such thing as "before" and that the world eternally cycles between creation and destruction.

Even if they don't all agree that there was a time when the universe did not

exist, Malik insists that all major religions "are in a state of waiting." That is, they all have some idea that the world as we know it will come to an end in some form. They all, says Malik, "have eschatologies — the end and resolution of everything," a time *beyond* time.

The Jews wait for the Messiah; the Christians attend the Second Coming of Christ. In Islam, it all ends with the Day of Judgment, with the Shiite sect adding the element of the appearance of the Mahdi. In the Vedic books, universes are destroyed as Vishnu inhales. As for the Buddhists, Malik tells us that they wait for the day on which they individually achieve the state of Nirvana, which "frees the person from the [endless] cycle of birth, death, rebirth and reincarnation."

While the mass media often conflates religions with ideology, pointing to such phenomena as ISIS in the Middle East and the "Christian Right" in the U.S., Malik asserts that they are not the same thing, primarily because while ideologies deal with worldly questions such as economics and politics, religions face the issue of death head-on. That is, they attempt to answer what happens "after" we take our last breath. It is not, then, just about what happens theoretically to the whole planet on "Doomsday," but about what happens to us individually after we die.

Many of the major religious traditions teach that a certain amount of time passes between death and the moment when the person, or his or her soul, moves on to the next stage. For example, according to Dr. Sanami Takahashi, assistant professor at Hokkaido University in Sapporo, Japan, Shinto rituals are held every seventh day after death for 49 days, because it is believed that on those days the dead person faces the judgment of the gods. Once the judgment is passed, the relatives of the deceased pray for him or her “on the first, third, seventh, 13th, and 33rd year after death,” Takahashi says. “After the last prayers, the spirit of the deceased joins the spirits of other ancestors and becomes a god of the household where he lived, remaining in the geographic vicinity and returning home for holidays.”

In Christianity, the souls (or spirits) of the dead generally are thought to move on to the next world rather than remain close to home. But the journey to the otherworldly destination is still believed to proceed in precisely timed stages. According to Armenian Orthodoxy, the soul of the deceased remains in the grave for the first seven days. Dr. Hovhannes Hovhannisyan, associate professor of religious studies at the State University of Yerevan, says the Armenians believe that after the seventh day, “the soul comes out of the grave. But it still stays on earth until the 40th day, when it finally leaves.”

Not surprisingly, given the pervasive belief in some form of life after death, religions provide temporal rituals for structuring our limited earthly time. “We are the only creatures conscious of mortality,” says Malik. “There is a built-in obsession about the future, looking for ways to live our finite time in the best possible manner.” Being human includes planning ahead, he asserts. And rituals allow us to plan, across the major religious traditions.

In Shinto, the structuring of life begins even before birth. “When a woman reaches the fifth month of her pregnancy, she goes to the Shinto shrine on the Day of the Dog to pray for an easy birth,” says Takahashi. “That’s because a dog usually gives birth very easily to multiple puppies.” While Christianity does not have such a ritual, it joins Shinto in specifying a day on which a child is officially named: nine days after birth in some branches of Christianity, seven days in Shinto.



Shirahige Jinzya in Biwako, Japan



A medieval Armenian chapel on Lake Sevan, Armenia

“The Lebanese have even come up with the first joint Muslim-Christian holiday in the world.”

—Makram Ouais, LAU assistant professor of political science and international affairs

Other time-ordering rituals also seem to follow similar patterns across religions: the major traditions all appear to have ceremonies marking the stages of a child’s entrance into adulthood. At seven years of age, an Eastern Orthodox child goes to confession for the first time, while a Latin Catholic receives First Communion.

“Seven” in general is sacred across religions, and while the reasons for this in

Christianity are rather obscure, traditional Japanese practitioners of Shinto believed that “before seven years of age, children are gods,” meaning that in pre-modern Japanese society many children died before reaching that age. If he or she did make it to seven, however, the child was “received as a member of the village, began serving in the temple, studying and working,” says Takahashi. Today, Japanese children celebrate third, fifth and seventh birthdays at the temple, as well as their coming of age at 20.

There are numerous examples of the ways in which religions temporally structure practitioners’ lives through rituals that are spaced out over the years. Among the Mormons, young people spend the greater part of their growing-up years preparing for the day when, at the age of 19, they will go on a two-year mission to spread their faith. In all cases,

“Not surprisingly, given the pervasive belief in some form of life after death, religions provide temporal rituals for structuring our limited earthly time.”

—Habib Malik, LAU associate professor of history and cultural studies

anticipation of the next great religious affirmation of one's passage through life's stages is as much part of the story as the ceremony itself.

Yet religions abound not just with ceremonies that allow the faithful to plan their life years in advance, but also with religious festivals that structure the entire year, sometimes on a daily basis. The calendar itself can be movable. For Emel Akcali, assistant professor at Central European University in Budapest,

where she taught courses on Islam, the fact that Ramadan is held at a time that is determined by the movement of the moon adds to life's variety. “When I was growing up, it was always in the fall and winter months, whereas now it has been a summer fast for several years,” she says.

Though they bring some order to human activities, religious festivals are not themselves immune to the pressures of the temporal world. Politics, for example, occasionally play a role in determining the extent to which governments tie religious observance to national holidays.

In Lebanon, with its 18 officially-recognized confessions, the potential for conflicts surrounding the question of whether or not a religious feast automatically means a “day off” is obvious: if everyone wants to be excused from work for every important religious observance, will anyone ever work at all? According to Assistant Professor of political science and international affairs at LAU Makram Ouais, the country has resolved this problem by setting a quota

on holidays in each of the communities, giving each group a certain allocation of government-recognized feast days.

More than this, in the search for compromise, the Lebanese have even come up with what Ouais identifies as the “first joint Muslim-Christian holiday in the world.” As both religions consider Jesus' Mother to be a central figure to their faith, and since in Lebanon both Muslims and Christians venerate the shrine of Mary at Harissa, March 25 has been set aside as a multi-confessional holiday in her honor.

While the timing of major feasts and the fasts leading up to them may differ each year across religions, their function remains the same: allowing people to purify themselves in hopes of pleasing their particular deity of choice and of moving a few steps closer to salvation, illumination, Nirvana, or other desired final outcome. ■

18th century Temple of the Emerald Buddha in Bangkok, Thailand



Abstract blue painted picture with circle pattern, mandala of vishuddha chakra



DID YOU KNOW?

A new time zone was created this summer

By Reem Maghribi

The introduction of Pyongyang time had residents of **North Korea** turning back their clocks by 30 minutes on 15 August. In a political move, the country chose to revert to the time zone the Korean peninsula had followed before Japanese colonial rule, which ended in 1945.

Pyongyang time is 8.5 hours after **Greenwich Mean Time** (GMT), the standard for world time that was adopted by a vote of 25 nations at the Meridian conference held in Washington, D.C., in 1884. Twenty-four time zones were introduced across the globe in a move that was a practical necessity following the development of high-speed transport systems.

North Korea is not the only country to adopt a non-standard time zone. **Iran, Afghanistan, India, Sri Lanka, Venezuela, Myanmar, the Marquesas Islands** in French Polynesia and **Newfoundland** in Canada all have time zones offset by 30 minutes. New Zealand's **Chatham Islands** and **Nepal** follow time zones that are offset by 45 minutes, making Kathmandu 3 hours and 45 minutes ahead of Beirut in the wintertime.

Nepal is among those countries that do not adopt Daylight Saving Time (DST), the turning forward of clocks in spring and back in the fall to make the most of available sunlight through the seasons. U.S. politician Benjamin Franklin was the first to propose the concept in the eighteenth century, but **Germany** was the first country to adopt it, moving its clocks forward by an hour on April 30, 1960. While many countries now move their clocks forward by one hour, **Lord Howe Island** in Australia only puts its clocks forward by 30 minutes in the springtime.

Further east, the small island state of **Samoa** moved its clock forward by 24 hours during the winter of 2011, moving westward across the international date line to align with its trade partners.

Trade and commerce have long influenced how countries manage their clocks. The 1.3 billion people who live in **India** all follow one time zone, which was introduced across the country during British rule to streamline the railway network.

Despite spanning five geographical time zones, equally populous **China** also follows only one time zone, introduced by the Communist party in 1949 to unify the country. This means that in some areas the sun only rises at 10 a.m. Beijing time is four hours ahead of Beirut in the winter and five in the summer, as China, unlike Lebanon, does not observe DST.

Egypt abolished DST in 2011 but brought it back in 2014, in a bid to reduce energy consumption and lessen the blackouts then plaguing the country, despite a 2011 study by the Egyptian ministry of electricity suggesting that DST had done little to curb power usage. During the lunar Muslim month of Ramadan, which fell that year during the hot long days of summer, the clocks were turned back again to shorten the day and lengthen the food-fuelled evenings. As a result, the time was changed four times in 2014. This had also happened in 2010 and was in fact the impetus behind the elimination of DST in 2011.

Another country to reverse changes to its time policy is **Russia**, which eliminated two of its 11 time zones in 2010 only to reintroduce them in 2014. Russia, which spans more time zones than any other country, abolished DST in 2011. The country then followed "summer time" all year round until another change in 2014 saw most of the country switch permanently to "winter time".

Fleeting moments

By Yasmine Taan

"Like many other industries, the emergence of the social media revolutionized the fashion industry, where the promotion of new products is shaped by speed and a new dynamic of image circulation."

Yasmine Nachabe Taan, an associate professor and the chair of the Department of Design at LAU's School of Architecture and Design, earned her Ph.D. in art history and communications studies from McGill University.

There have been extensive scholarly writings on the fashion systems in relation to time, taste and trends. Fashion's ephemeral nature, being constantly renewable and renewed, remains just as out of reach as taste, invention and intuition are inexhaustibly renewable.

Fashion is time. It seems as if it's always moving forward, always resisting a sense of déjà-vu. Yet the past often reappears, seemingly reinvented. It can act as temporal indices of fleeting moments. Historical periods can be identified by the fashion trends and what people wear during a particular time period.

A number of factors have changed the fashion industry, most of them directly related to this temporal dimension. The hippie movement, for example, embraced the anti-consumerist appeal of ethnic clothing, which became a passive form of anti-fashion or at least a counter-culture dress that was seen as integral to the



i.e., social media — came to dominate our shrinking world. The affordable ready-to-wear market caters to younger clients. "Counter-culture" movements, such as the hippies and the punk movement of the past, have demonstrated the ability to make fashion listen to voices from below.

Yves Saint Laurent challenged the seriousness of couture by introducing fun clothes mimicking the sailor and gypsy looks. He watched what the young were wearing, where they were going and what they were doing. He combined couture with street style and borrowed styles from cultures beyond the European continent. He appropriated the high-buttoned and collarless jacket characteristically worn by Jawaharlal Nehru, the first prime minister of India. The Beatles wore the "Nehru" jacket in the 1970s. Saint Laurent also designed peasant dresses with turbans to be worn by high-society women.

Laurent later borrowed the tuxedo men's suit to create "Le Smoking" for women. The combination of feminine features with tailored masculine style created an ambiguity that many saw as reflecting the dual role of women in society. This fashion style is known for engaging women in a new aesthetic of urban life and challenging the status quo of women in society. An interesting local example for empowering women through fashion is Sonia Beiruti, a prominent figure in Lebanese media in the 1960s and 1970s, whose short hair and masculine attire were considered an icon for women's liberation at that time.



hippie movement and the anti-war protests of the late 1960s. The evolution of fashion constantly changes over time as people emulate new styles.

Like many other industries, the emergence of social media revolutionized the fashion industry, where the promotion of new products is shaped by speed and a new dynamic of image circulation. More importantly, gone are the days when fashion was the exclusive domain of the elite.

By the turn of the 21st century, consumer culture — promoted by the new technological communications systems,

On the Move

SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN



DR. CHAHID AKOURY

Assistant Professor

Coming from a design background, Akoury has pursued an interdisciplinary path that explores the intersection of philosophy, politics, media, material science, design, architecture and mathematics. He obtained his Ph.D. from the Division of Media and Communication (*summa cum laude*) at the European Graduate School in Switzerland and aims at LAU to advance his pedagogical and research career. He chose LAU because his objectives and pedagogical approach are in line with those of the institution and especially with those of the Foundation Studies program at the School of Architecture and Design.



DR. LUISA BRAVO

Visiting Assistant Professor

Bravo is interested in gaining experience in the Middle East and to study Beirut's culture and contemporary urban and social environment. She obtained her Ph.D. in building and territorial engineering from the University of Bologna, with a thesis on Contemporary Urbanism. Her research at LAU will focus on urban planning and design related to the contemporary city, both historic and suburban, with a particular focus on public space. As president of City Space Architecture, a non-profit organization based in Bologna (Italy), she is currently coordinating the collaborative research network "MaPS. Mastering Public Space," which is intended to be an international debate on cities, public space and urbanity developed in collaboration with more than 25 leading universities and institutions around the world.



STEFANO CORBO

Visiting Assistant Professor

Corbo joined LAU in January 2015 as a visiting professor of architecture. His goal is to extend and complete his academic formation and, at the same time, to test the validity of his current research projects. He hopes to provide his students with a "European" sensibility, based on the constant interpenetration of theory and practice. He is currently a Ph.D. candidate in

advanced architectural design at Escuela Técnica Superior de Arquitectura in Madrid with a dissertation titled "Archaeology of Infrastructures. A Conceptual Cartography," his main fields of interest are advanced design and architectural theory, with a special focus on contemporary architecture. In 2012 he founded a research platform, SCSTUDIO Architecture and Design, a multidisciplinary network practicing architecture and design, preoccupied with the intellectual, economical and cultural context.



LEE FREDERIX

Assistant Professor

Artist and designer Frederix obtained his M.A. in landscape urbanism from Notre Dame University after having studied for his B.A. in architecture at Georgia Tech and fine arts at Université de Paris VIII. He believes that the caliber of the faculty and the overall atmosphere within SARd allow for experimentation and development of his own teaching methods and artistic processes. By focusing on a transdisciplinary approach to design studios, he hopes to expand the scope of LAU's design students with respect to medium, conceptual basis and design process. Frederix's research focuses on interstitial urban spaces and on the role of art in the public domain. His current work investigates urban transgressions, practices within the public realm that defy both conventions of social behavior and of municipal regulation.



DAVID ORTIZ JUAN

Visiting Assistant Professor

Ortiz Juan's motivation for joining LAU was dual: he wished to be part of a leading university while discovering Lebanese culture. With an M.A. in design from the Sandberg Instituut in Amsterdam, he strives to improve teaching methodology in order to inspire student enthusiasm and also to progress with his ongoing research in visual culture. He is interested in the dialectics of the image and in how modern processes of subjectivity are characterized by their tendency toward homogeneity and the destruction of diversity, a movement from the abstraction of thought and narratives to the physicality of public space. He

is currently involved in a project about the historical memory of the more than 110,000 missing people buried illegally along the Spanish landscape during the Civil War (1933-1936).



ALI KAYS

Adjunct Faculty

Although Kays studied industrial programming and electronics, he obtained a master's degree in fine arts from the Lebanese Academy of Fine Arts (ALBA), a diploma in visual effects for production from Escape Studios in London, and is currently pursuing a two-year program in character animation at iAnimate School. Having worked for the commercial and art market for many years, he hopes to continue building different methods while teaching. He is currently researching projects related to augmented reality and the notion of objectivity-reality-subjectivity in the post-new media era. His company, The Council, is at present voluntarily collaborating on a project to re-establish the visual identity of the fund-raising campaign of the YouStink movement, in order to ensure its indefinite sustainability, diversity and productivity.



DARA MCPHEE

Assistant Professor

The allure of a new experience motivated McPhee to join LAU. She gained her M.Sc. in environmental design of buildings from Cardiff University's Welsh School of Architecture and she is particularly interested in transitional housing following man-made or natural disasters and integrating passive design strategies as a fundamental part of the architectural solution. As a practicing architect, her experience includes leading and collaborating on the design of varying scale projects. McPhee's approach focuses on a fusion of theoretical research, pragmatic practice and contextual environmental, social and economic issues. From a practical design point of view, this compound approach is relevant to the holistic education of critically engaged architecture students.



CYRILLE NAJJAR

Adjunct Faculty

With a double master's degree in interior architecture and industrial design from the Royal College of Art in London, Najjar has been working in R&D for years, most recently with a startup that was successful in developing the latest technology in airborne allergen detection, healthcare analytics and big data. He is currently involved in a social outreach project that looks for solutions for displaced populations. In 2007 he won awards for a new way to clean water in the U.K. He has also received an award at the Francophone Games, where he represented Lebanon as a finalist presenting a compact energy solution for the home, enabling displaced families to have solar power on the go and in their homes in post-war countries.



FRANCESCO POLESSELLO

Visiting Associate Professor

Polesello's first time at LAU was in 1998 as a visiting professor. He returned again in 2005 and later served the university as a part-timer for two academic years. He considers himself part of the institution's family. He gained his master's degree in urban design from USC Los Angeles. His particular areas of interest are architecture and urban design. He is especially interested in the international debate regarding the urban future of problematic cities, focusing attention on the re-use and re-vitalization of depressed neighborhoods.



ROGER SKAFF

Adjunct Faculty

As an American institution Skaff believes that LAU offers students the education and responsibility to abide by the "Trinity," which is part of the country's architectural code: preserving the health, safety and welfare of the public. As such, students will experience the profession from multiple perspectives, which will place them at an advanced rank in the local, regional and even international markets. Skaff is a licensed architect in the American state of Nevada and an NCARB-certified member, as well as a member of the Order of Engineers and Architects in Beirut. He holds a degree in applied physics from the Lebanese University, an architectural engineering with structural concentration degree and an architectural degree from Drexel University (Philadelphia).

On the Move

SCHOOL OF ARTS & SCIENCES



DR. SABINE EL CHAMAA

Assistant Professor

El Chamaa obtained her Ph.D. from Goldsmiths University in London for her thesis "Picturing Live War: A research practice in an installation and a text," which questions the concept of live war from a local perspective. She received an M.F.A. in cinematic arts, film and TV production from the University of Southern California (Los Angeles) in the late nineties. Among her short films, *Promenade* received a Berlin Today Award grant and premiered at the Berlin Film Festival in 2009. *Un Mardi* won first prizes at the Dubai film festival (2010) and at the Festival International de Namur 2011 (FIFF). Her current academic and film interests are on the interconnectedness and intersections of filmic, media and artistic (such as dance and painting) representations.



DR. MAHMOUD NATOUT

Visiting Assistant Professor

As an alumnus and former part-time faculty at LAU, Natout's motivations to return to a full-time position at the university stem from the much rewarding and genuine personal and professional experiences he had while a student and later as an instructor. Natout aims to be a positive and genuine influence on students' development as critical thinkers and practitioners in the field of education in Lebanon and beyond. He obtained his Ph.D. in the philosophy of education from the University of Oxford; his main research interest involves an inquiry into the meaning of teaching. His research combines philosophical, ethnographic and historical methods, with a critical attentiveness to the understanding of the changing nature of teaching as a form of socio-cultural practice.

THE ADNAN KASSAR SCHOOL OF BUSINESS



DR. HOSSEIN ESLAMI

Assistant Professor

Eslami views LAU as an established university in Lebanon and the region, one whose international curriculum and collective working culture make it an ideal choice to pursue his academic career. Eslami plans to offer new quantitative courses — such as marketing analytics — which are in high demand in the region. He obtained his Ph.D. in marketing from the NUS Business School in Singapore and his research interests include studying the adoption of new technologies and building empirical models to explain consumer choices. His schedule allowing, he is interested in becoming involved in projects with cultural and environmental causes (sustainability).



DR. MONA MRAD

Assistant Professor

Mrad joined LAU's Adnan Kassar School of Business in Spring 2015 as an assistant professor of marketing. She received her Ph.D. in marketing from the University of Manchester in the U.K. She also holds an M.B.A. and a B.S. in Business Marketing (with distinction), as well as a degree in fashion design from ESMOD. Mrad's research interests fall in the general area of consumer behavior and branding. Her current research examines the different facets of the relationships that consumers establish with brands. She has methodological expertise in focus groups, discursive psychology technique for qualitative data analysis, measurement scale development, survey design and structural equation modeling.



DR. ZAHY RAMADAN

Assistant Professor

Ramadan holds a Doctor of Business Administration (D.B.A.) from Manchester Business School and received his B.S. and M.B.A. from LAU, and as such has a lot of respect and attachment for the university that he has just joined as a faculty member. His aim is to significantly contribute to students' experience

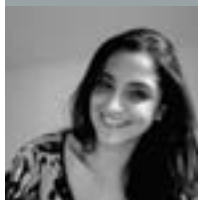
through his multi-cultural and multi-regional work experience with blue chip multinationals, combining theory and insights with illustrative examples from practice and latest trending researches. His research interests include social media saturation, brand-consumer relationship and shopper marketing.



DR. ZAHER ZANTOUT

Professor and Assistant Dean
Zantout joined LAU in Fall 2015 as professor of finance and assistant dean at the Adnan Kassar School of Business. He holds a Ph.D. in finance from Drexel University and has taught at several universities. He believes that his long and diverse teaching experience will enable him to contribute to the pedagogical objectives of LAU. His research is published and has been cited extensively in leading finance journals. He has also worked as a consultant in the areas of corporate finance and banking. Zantout is happy to be at what he calls a great institution such as LAU and would like to contribute to its progress.

SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING



DR. PERLA ATIYAH

Assistant Professor
In addition to her academic background, Atiyah has worked with the European Commission, the United Nations Environment Program, government ministries and research foundations on projects that promote economic and ecosystem-based management practices in marine and coastal areas. Prior to joining LAU, she was an assistant professor in the Environmental Science and Sustainability Program at Zayed University in Abu Dhabi, UAE. She also served as chair of the Department of Natural Science and Public Health there and was then appointed assistant dean of Students Affairs. She received her Ph.D. in environmental management from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) and her research interests include both the economic valuation of marine and coastal resources and policy development related to their conservation.

GILBERT & ROSE-MARIE CHAGOURY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE



DR. ANIELLA ABI GERGES

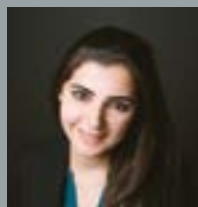
Visiting Assistant Professor
Abi Gerges gained her Ph.D. in cellular and molecular cardiac physiopathology (with the highest level of distinction) from the University of Paris South in France and she believes that joining LAU will mark an important turning point in her career. She hopes to develop a research project in physiology and an innovative teaching project that will interest and inspire medical students, while allowing her to continue to produce the highest quality work in her field. She would like to apply the integration concept adopted by the medical school to human physiology. Having worked on cAMP pathway and β -adrenergic signaling pathway in cardiac hypertrophy in rats, Abi Gerges is interested in exploring this research aspect further, particularly in humans. She is also keen to extend her expertise in cardiac physiology and cell signaling to other signaling pathways and other diseases and organs.



JOSEPH ABOU RJEILY

Instructor and Director of Perioperative Services
Abou Rjeily was motivated to join LAU by its prestigious reputation and by the presence of highly skilled administrative staff. With an M.Sc. in operating room management, he aims to achieve excellence in the perioperative course that will encourage the graduate to apply for vacancies in this field of work (operating room, anesthesia and recovery room). Abou Rjeily's main area of interest and research is surgical site infection.

On the Move



DR. CARMEL BOUCLAOUS

Assistant Professor

Bouclaous is thrilled to be a part of the LAU Gilbert & Rose-Marie Chagoury School of Medicine, which she finds to be a truly dynamic work environment. She gained her Ph.D. in development studies (with high distinction) from Geneva's Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Switzerland and her research is on themes related to sustainable food systems, food and health policies, the social determinants of health and disparities in health. She also continues in her role as associate editor and peer reviewer of the *Global Journal of Medicine and Public Health* (ISSN: 2277-9604).



DR. ABEER HANI

Assistant Professor

Hani received her Doctor of Medicine (with Distinction, ranked first in her class upon graduation) from AUB and did both a child neurology residency and a clinical neurophysiology/epilepsy fellowship at Duke University Medical Center in the U.S. Although she trained in the America, Hani decided to return home to help and share her expertise. In her view, the Lebanese patient is a very sophisticated and unique type of patient and she always finds it to be a very stimulating experience attending to and treating most of her patients in Lebanon. At LAU, Hani will introduce some of the new methods of adult learning to motivate and encourage self-learning. She also hopes to be able to educate the public about pediatric neurology and epilepsy issues and remove misconceptions or taboos associated with some diseases.



DR. MARIANA HELOU

Instructor

Helou joined LAU because of the high standards of its medical school and her passion for teaching. She completed a four-year specialization diploma in family medicine at Beirut's Saint Joseph University, followed by a two-year program in emergency medicine capacity at the University of Picardie Jules Verne in France. Through her academic teaching, she hopes to share her knowledge and expertise in emergency medicine with students. She aims to develop a residency program in emergency medicine and thus create a new opportunity for medical students.



DR. JOE STEPHAN

Assistant Professor

Stephan gained his Doctor of Philosophy in molecular, cellular and developmental biology from Ohio State University in the U.S. He is also a Fellow Research Scientist at the laboratory of Dr. Eric Kandel — recipient of the 2000 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine — at Columbia University, where he has been using mice and the budding yeast to characterize CPEB3, a prion-like translational regulator. He has been interested in functional prions, which are a class of molecules originally only known in a pathogenic context. Through the research work in the Kandel laboratory, scientists have found functional prions to be important to several physiological processes, particularly in the context of long-term memory maintenance. He hopes his research at LAU will further characterize the important roles of these functional prions.

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY



DR. PASCALE SALAMEH

Professor and Associate Dean

Salameh has been familiar with LAU since 1996 and was encouraged to join it by its excellent reputation as a teaching institution. Having a relatively long experience in teaching, administration and research, Salameh aims to collaborate with colleagues to anchor a culture of research and academic excellence. She obtained her Doctor of Pharmacy, with a master's in public health, a diploma in biostatistics and a Ph.D. in public health and intervention epidemiology and she has a particular interest in the clinical epidemiology of chronic and infectious diseases, applied to the fields of pharmacy, toxicology and public health. She is an active member of scientific societies that reach out to the general population, promoting the rational use of drugs and reducing unhealthy behaviors such as smoking and alcohol abuse.

Saving lives

By Scott Preston

LAU graduates create
pioneering fire detection
technology

"You have this vision in your head that you will succeed and that gives you hope."

—Charlie El-Khoury, LAU alumnus
and co-developer of the Quadrocopter

The word drone is often associated with formidable military aircraft, but two LAU graduates have found a way to use these machines for potentially lifesaving purposes. Nicolas Zaatar and Charlie El-Khoury, who studied computer engineering, have been hard at work developing a novel flying robot that can detect forest fires. And so the invention that started as their Capstone Design Project is soon to become a world first in fire detection technology.

El-Khoury was initially inspired to create the drone after volunteering to help contain a forest fire near the Mount Lebanon village of Betchay. When he observed how overwhelmed fire fighters struggled to prevent the blaze from spreading, he decided to put his education to good use. After El-Khoury teamed up with classmate Nicolas Zaatar, the duo created a robotic aircraft they dubbed the Quadrocopter.



The four-rotor copter flies along preprogrammed routes and can detect fires from an altitude of up to 100m. It is programmed to then report the fire's exact coordinates to the user or even the local fire department. Zaatar and El-Khoury entered their invention into the national Microsoft Imagine Cup, the Lebanese version of the world's most prestigious student technology competition. To their surprise, they won.

Zaatar and El-Khoury went on to participate in the regional Imagine Cup in Bahrain, where their fire-detecting robot received a high degree of media interest and positive feedback from the judges. "Although we didn't win an award, we got the most media interest. We were the



only ones the BBC filmed. This alone was rewarding enough for us," says El-Khoury.

Propelled by this experience, the partners plan to launch their own company this fall. The product itself has evolved substantially from the initial Quadrocopter design as a result of feedback from the Imagine Cup competition. The latest version mixes a fixed wing design with two rotors and can fly faster while covering a distance of four square km, the area of the largest forest in Lebanon. Other improvements include fully automated flight and battery changing, as well as the ability to control the drone via a mobile phone application. Above all, El-Khoury and Zaatar's aerial fire detection system is unlike any method previously implemented to find forest fires.

After testing the market in Lebanon, the entrepreneurs plan to take their drone abroad. "Our starting ground is going to be in Lebanon, and then we're going to expand worldwide. In Lebanon, this year, we've had around 36 forest fires and in the U.S. they've had around 200,000, so you can imagine the scalability," explains Zaatar.

Despite their early successes the partners acknowledge that the biggest challenges may still lie ahead. "It's a bit daunting. You have this vision in your head that you will succeed or that in five to ten years you will be in a winning position and that gives you hope," says El-Khoury. "But it's a risk, you might fail or you might succeed. However, we've decided to take challenge and see where it leads us."

One bottle's journey

As the meetings of the committee devoted to developing Lebanon's waste management plan remain open-ended until a sustainable solution is reached, we thought it would be a good idea to take a closer look at our garbage, keeping in mind that only around 9.5 percent of the solid waste is recycled according to the State of the Environment Report of 2011.

We all know that sorting should start in the home and that recycling is a word we should use in our daily routine, but just how many of us

do so? So we decided to follow the fate of just one form of waste — plastic — and one form of plastic, bottles filled with mineral water that are very much part of everyday life.

To understand their fate we must know where they came from. Plastic is made from chemically bonding oil and gas molecules to produce plastic pellets. These pellets are then melted and molded into different objects, such as the plastic bottles that hold mineral water. In turn these are filled, sold, emptied of their content and thrown away.

This is the story of three plastic bottles, empty and discarded. Although their journeys are quite different, the outcomes of all three will impact the planet.

This bottle ends up in a landfill with loads of other rubbish. Rainwater flows through the waste and absorbs the water-soluble compounds it contains, some of them highly toxic. This creates a harmful fluid called "leachate," which can move into ground, water and streams, poisoning ecosystems and killing wild life. It can take 1,000 years for a bottle to decompose. If burned, plastic produces dioxin, one of the most toxic fumes known to science.



This bottle floats on a trickle down into a river, which goes into the sea. After several months it is drawn by currents toward one of five giant plastic-filled gyres in the world's oceans. Plastics do not biodegrade but get broken down in smaller pieces. Some animals like giant sea turtles get entangled in the mess or mistake the brightly colored plastic for food. It makes them feel full when they are not, so they starve to death. Toxic material seeps into the food chain and eventually is eaten by us.



This bottle is recycled. Bottles are squeezed flat and compressed into blocks. These are shredded into tiny pieces, which are washed and melted so that they become pellets again and are ready to be reused. Arc en Ciel, a non profit organization that focuses on the sustainable development of society, sells the plastic to companies that reuse the material. With this money, it finances its project and can buy first-necessity items like wheelchairs.



Receive and/or collect all kinds of PET plastic

Averda/Sukleen/Sukomi Karentina 1551

Lefico Zahle Baalbeck Highway 08 921222

Plast Wood Sin El Fil 01 491152

Rocky Plast Jbeil 09 795666 – 03 634400

T.E.R.R.E Liban or **Earth Organization** Baabda 05 923060

Receive and collect all kinds of organic plastic

L'écoute or **Al Isgha2 Organization** Mousaitbeh 03 655386

Recycle Beirut is a newly launched initiative through which sorted waste is collected at your doorstep for only \$10 a month. www.recyclebeirut.com

An unusual documentary

By Amahl Khouri

Amahl Khouri (B.A. '97)
talks about the unique
bonds, which once
formed at LAU, continue
into the future.



*"It's amazing to be able to
work with one's student, 20
years later."*

—Lina Abyad, theater director and
LAU associate professor
of communication arts



Actors Hadi Tabbal and Lameece Isaac



Lina Abyad directing the rehearsal

She He Me is the product of three hard years of research and editing. Lina and I interviewed several transgender people — over Skype and in person — and I later poured over many hours of recordings. We started with a one-person show, which I wrote and performed in New York City — at the 2011 "Between the Seas" Festival — with Lina directing. Last year, we were invited for an artist residency at New York University Abu Dhabi, where I added two characters to the play. Then, this spring, NYU Abu Dhabi invited me to in New York to speak as part of a panel New Arab Dramaturgy. This enabled our participation in hotINK at the Lark, an international play reading series sponsored by the Lark. Playwright Development Center. There, we were given professional American actors to rehearse with for a week, culminating in a reading before a live audience. The feedback and support we received there was truly overwhelming!

A few weeks ago, I was approached by the French Cultural Center with a proposition to host the play in Arabic in Beirut, which has always been a dream for us.

Lina is just as excited as I am about the production. "It's amazing to be able to work with one's student, 20 years later," she says. "The text is important in the ways it works towards bringing transgender community acceptance through theater. I believe it will be a very disturbing play but it falls in line with my conviction that theater should be troubling. It should be an explosion or implosion in people's consciousness, otherwise it's a useless thing."

Stay tuned! The performance will take place in a few months, with the date to be announced by the L'Institut Français de Beyrouth and on Beirut 8:30's Facebook page!



The writer Amahl Khouri



Art is timeless

Art works have multiple lives through which cultures are transposed

By Zalfa Halabi

FEATURE



On the walls of the cave of Chauvet in southern France, blood red scribbles of eight-legged animals date back to 32,000 B.C. "In a forbidden recess of the cave, there's a footprint of an eight-year-old boy next to the footprint of a wolf," says German film director Werner Herzog in his documentary *The Cave of Forgotten Dreams*. "Did a hungry wolf stalk the boy? Or did they walk together as friends? Or were their tracks made thousands of years apart? We'll never know." Experts still disagree in their interpretations of these drawings. Their cosmic resonance, however, suggests Herzog, transcends human understanding.

The function of art, most art historians, critics, artists and art lovers agree, is to tell us something about who we are as human beings at a given point in time. Artists paint, photograph, build and reshape objects to reveal the underlying structure of a culture, a context, a time past or present. The viewer interprets the meaning of the work by visually reading it, examining the artist's choice of subject, material, color, composition and scale.

What can art tell us about an era? "Everything," says Lina Abyad, theater director and LAU associate professor of communication arts. "Artists are able to represent the condensed in a clear way." In 1997, upon her return from France (where she had sought refuge during

Lebanon's civil war) Abyad staged *Electra*, a play based on Sophocles' text, in an abandoned old Lebanese house. The green fabric that covered the scaffolding on the house served as the backdrop. The play contemplated war-torn Beirut, where former militia leaders now hold political power despite ravaging the country from 1975 to 1992.

The context in which Abyad staged the play was unlike the one in which it was written. Yet, Abyad used a play thousands of years old to say something about contemporary life, and used the stage, the text and actors to communicate Lebanon's plight. Like her abandoned, deteriorating "theater," by 1997 Lebanon had been languishing under construction in the aftermath of the war for several years. A great play speaks forcefully forever, and a great theater takes infinite forms. Art is timeless and unbound by convention.

"From the first scribbles of a toddler to Damien Hirst's diamond skull to Joseph Beuys' performances — drawings, sculptures or an ephemeral random performance — reflect the concern of a community in a particular time in history," says Yasmine Taan, chair of LAU's Department of Design.

As a studio art student in Beirut, I analyzed and interpreted canonical art works from Manet to Picasso, through slide shows, on laptop screens and in art

books. Paintings flattened into images. In New York City, where I am now getting my M.F.A. in art writing and where most of these works are housed — at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and at the

"Artists are able to represent the condensed in a clear way."

—Lina Abyad, theater director and LAU associate professor of communication arts

Museum of Modern Art — I have learned to look at art differently. I've learned, that is, to look.

One afternoon, bobbing in and out of galleries in the Chelsea district, pushing and shoving through waves of shoulders, Hakim, a classmate, pulled me into one last show. Through the glass door of Gallery 303, I saw a room filled with people. Walking towards the main exhibition room, palm-sized paintings discretely emerged from behind the chitchat. From a distance, gentle blues, calm greys and dusty yellows soothed my eyes. The horizontal canvases looked like amateur photographs of scenic routes captured somewhere along the Hudson River on an early spring day. Up close,





Damien Hirst's diamond skull

the paintings deconstructed into brush strokes, as each stroke became a landscape in its own right.

Why is it that certain types of artwork seem dated while other artworks — such as the chants of ancient indigenous peoples, the cave paintings in France and Spain and the early Buddhist sculptures — remain timeless? For German sociologist, philosopher and composer known for his critical theory of society, Theodor W. Adorno, “the experience of art is subjective. While the object exists and is bound to place and time, the subjective experience is universal in the sense that we generally agree on whether a piece of art is good or bad. Good art has a quality that creates in each observer a unique subjectivity, so that the arrangement that is good is in the object. At the same time, the quality or experience of good art is timeless and is not in the object.”

Maureen Gallace’s recent landscape paintings at Gallery 303 reminded me of this paradox. Twelve humble paintings hanging at eye level in a high-ceiling gallery drew me to examine them closely, microscopically. In some of them, doorless houses looked like the “little boxes” from the 60’s folk song of the same title. One was white, one was red, one was yellow, two were grey and yet “they all look just the same.” In other paintings, thumb-sized white brush strokes smashed into each other, turned into a thick, uneven line, a wave crashing onto a beach. If you stood too close to the painting, you got lost in the infinite particles of oil colors. If



you stood too far, the painting appeared as something it was not, a photograph or a postcard.

Two ten-by-ten inch paintings stood out from the rest. They were different in size, they were square and depicted flowers. In *White Flower July*, a chalk colored flower is painted against an ivory background. My gaze followed the contour of the petals, which slipped in and out of the background, it was impossible to see the flower as a whole; the difference in hues was nearly imperceptible.

I was compelled to take out my phone and take a picture, I wanted to remember that dizzying effect where subject and background merge. The moment I reached into my purse, everything clicked into place, and I realized why I was attracted to the paintings. Their modest size is familiar: it was that of the laptops and tablet screens that daily entrance

“Art acts as a crystal that encapsulates the epoch within it, and yet it never fully coincides with this epoch.”

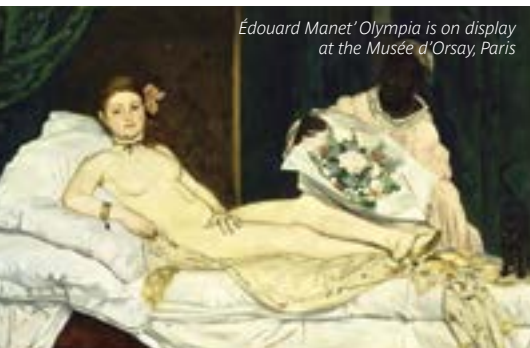
—Angela Harutyunyan, AUB assistant professor of art history

my eyes. I dropped my phone back into my purse and resisted my earlier urge to photograph in order to remember. I simply looked at them.

Gallace captures the constantly altering landscape before her. Her gesture of *making*, like with all artists, involves grabbing the world with her hands to better understand it. “This gesture presses



Joseph Beuys' performance Coyote:
I like America and America likes me, 1974



Édouard Manet's Olympia is on display
at the Musée d'Orsay, Paris



from two sides on an object so that the two hands can meet," says Czech-born philosopher, writer and journalist Vilém Flusser in his essay on *The Gesture of Making*. The object changes form and the new form, this "information" impressed on the objective world, is one of the ways of getting beyond our basic human constitution. Thrown into the whirlwind of time and space, human beings *make* to cognize the world around them.

Gallace's tactile paintings — made with an impasto technique (the unpolished fast application of paint on wet paint) — revive a century-old engagement of painters with the materiality of paint, the modernist engagement. "Modernism is also a product of developments internal to art, even if it appears as a rupture from those developments," explains Angela Harutyunyan, assistant professor of art history at AUB. When "Manet showed *Olympia* in 1865, he was not only attacking the general morality of his time that called for elevated representations of Venuses but also the very notion of inherited artistic skill," she adds. One of the first artists to paint modern life and a pivotal figure in the transition from Realism to Impressionism, French painter Édouard Manet instigated controversy with *Olympia*, because his model was a courtesan. But the real shock effect was not his choice of subject matter but the way he portrayed her, almost like a cut out collage against a sylvan background that

decomposes into blue, green and brown brush strokes.

"Art acts as a crystal that encapsulates the epoch within it and yet it never fully coincides with this epoch," says Harutyunyan. The interpretation of art anchors it in the time and the space of the interpreter. Careful examination is always imbued with the subjectivity of the examiner, but should not be a matter of opinion. Rather, it should be founded on, as she puts it, the "recognition that the artwork encapsulates the religious, metaphysical, cultural, political and economic tendencies of its time."

Since Manet, painters have been interested in the "painterly" quality in paintings, rather than realist reproduction of the world. From the brush to the canvas, with each stroke, Gallace records an evanescent point in space. A smear of white is a foamy wave crashing on the shore, a diagonal line of cobalt blue is the shadow of a tree on a sunny afternoon. While Gallace is fascinated with the infinitely yet impossibly repeatable — no two waves are the same, let alone images of waves — there is more to the power of her work. Gallace's laptop-sized paintings transported me in ways that glowy screens rarely do. They incited me to take my time and look, rather than scroll and skim. ■



From Maureen Gallace's exhibition

Student Achievements

Discovering America

In collaboration with the American embassy, the student-based hospitality club organized a special event on the Beirut campus labeled "Discover USA at LAU."



"This was only our second such event, but its success has spurred us toward hosting one annually," said Bassem Slim, the instructor of hospitality at the Adnan Kassar School of Business responsible for instigating the festival.

After hosting "Taste of Italy" two years ago, Slim led a team of eight students this year in bringing together dozens of American brands that reflected the diversity of the U.S. and its various states. "We dubbed the area with all the fashion brands '5th Avenue New York' and designed the Texas area to look like a ranch, complete with a barbecue, horses and cowboys," said Slim, describing but two of the many American-themed areas that spread across the Beirut campus on the night of May 29.



Graphic design students take the packaging industry by storm

LAU was the clear winner of the Lebanon Student StarPack Award competition that gathered 200 students from leading Lebanese universities last June. The design contest — which challenges young talents to find innovative ways to package marketed goods — ended with LAU receiving both the first three prizes of the Structural Award and the Creative Design Award.

"Out of eight prizes, four were awarded to LAU," said Associate Professor Randa Abdel Baki, who mentored the participating students. "They started the project by proposing ideas they thought were impossible to make. Then they realized that they could not only do it, but could even win."

Graphic design student Noura Nassar — winner of the Creative Design Award — got the attention of the food and beverages company Goodies, which is interested in launching her idea on the market. "As a designer, you feel like you have fulfilled your purpose, which is creating something that is useful to the community," Nassar said.



Community Engagement



Volunteer students bring fun and laughter to refugee children

Twenty-two LAU student volunteers spent a day at the Kettermaya refugee camp last June alleviating the suffering of its displaced residents. "The atmosphere in the camp changed. It was filled with joy and laughter as the LAU students reached out to refugee families who have endured indescribable hardship," said Hermine Schellen, secretary general of the Lebanon chapter of Universal Peace Federation (UPF). "They played games with the children, painted their faces and danced with them. The interaction between the children and the students was beautiful," she added. UPF is an organization that has for many years worked on development projects in the country and, more recently, provided much-needed aid to Syrian refugee families. The children's festival in Kettermaya was the latest in a number of volunteer-based activities organized by UPF in cooperation with Alan Kairouz, senior program coordinator at the LAU Byblos Office of the Dean of Students.

Conferences & Workshops



AACSB

LAU has once again acted as the welcoming host to a workshop organized by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB), which provides first-class accreditation to business schools worldwide. In June, the deans of some of the most prominent business schools in Lebanon and the Middle East came to LAU to discuss a common strategy to advance the quality of their academic offerings.

Timothy Mescon — who volunteered with the AACSB for 25 years before becoming the agency's senior vice president and chief officer for the EMEA region — travelled all the way from Amsterdam to brief his audience on effective academic advancement strategies. What the MENA needs, according to Mescon, is “an affinity group that will gather at our conferences and discuss the issues relevant to the region.”

By hosting the event for the third time, LAU has shown its dedication to facilitating this process. “We are committed to sharing everything with you,” said President Joseph G. Jabbara, referring to both the institution's facilities and its expertise. “This is a matter of regional interest, and the advancement of business education is part of our mission,” he added.

Serving society through continuing education

In line with its commitment to promoting education beyond its campuses, LAU signed in June a memorandum of agreement with the General Union of Arab Chambers. The agreement allows the university's Continuing Education Program (CEP) to provide training and workshops to the members of chambers in Arab countries.

“We will provide young professionals with executive training programs in a bid to build their capacities,” said CEP Director Michel Majdalani during the signing ceremony held at the Adnan Kassab Edifice for Arab Economy. Majdalani went on to explain that the agreement will also be of great benefit to LAU. “The agreement will make it easier for LAU to offer its professional trainings, because the university will get the chance to use logistics facilities available at the chambers,” he said. In the meantime, members of Arab chambers will benefit from the latest methods that LAU's CEP can provide.



A hub for peace-building and dialogue

“I have never experienced something like this before,” said Makram Ouass, assistant professor of political science and international affairs at LAU, referring to a conference that took place at LAU Byblos under the iconic title “Remembering to Move Forward.”

Sitting shoulder-to-shoulder on one side of the conference room were top fighters who had battled each other during the civil war, as well as representatives of civil society. Opposite to them sat a group of selected students that was given the opportunity to interrogate the panelists on the bloodstained period.

The speakers included Ziad Saab, a former commander of the Lebanese Communist Party more recently involved in the Permanent Peace Movement, as well as Assad Chaftari, who served as a senior intelligence official in the Lebanese Forces and is currently coordinating Wahdatouna Khalasouna (Arabic for “Our Unity is Our Salvation”), a union of 29 NGOs. According to Saab, the dialogue was enriched by the presence of journalists and historians who also contributed with their own narrative of the events. It was also well-served by the participation of Wadad Halawani, president of the Committee of the Families of the Kidnapped and Disappeared and one of the many wives who are still seeking to know the truth regarding the fate of their husbands.

Sports

LAU Byblos continues to reign over Uni-League championship

In a thrilling and decisive basketball title contest, LAU Byblos defeated Université Saint Esprit de Kaslik to win the Lebanese University League Championship. The basketball team's victory — which came after an incredibly close 74-70 game at the American University of Beirut in April — brought LAU the championship title for the fifth time in a row, a historic achievement.

Nine universities in the University Sports Conference League heatedly dribbled and dunked it out against each other during the tournament. According to Joe Moujaes, director of Athletics on the Byblos campus, the team's success is vivid proof of LAU's successful basketball program, which includes intense workouts that give the team the competitive edge necessary to consistently perform at their best. Moujaes also underlined the importance of the captains' sense of unity. “We believe in each other and together we will prevail,” he said.



Women's Issues



Women's rights in times of war

In June approximately 100 people sat in suspense in the auditorium of LAU's Adnan Kassab School of Business, listening intently to acclaimed Egyptian author and activist Nawal El-Saadawi. "We cannot liberate ourselves unless we promote ourselves and unveil our minds," she said to her audience. "We need to be better organized in order to move on and start liberating ourselves." Her impassioned keynote address served as an energizing start to LAU's four-day conference focusing on contemporary women's issues in the Middle East. Titled "Upholding Gendered Peace at a Time of War," the conference took place in June as the result of collaboration between LAU's Institute for Women's Studies in the Arab World (IWSAW) and several other organizations bringing together academics and activists from around the region and the globe. IWSAW's partner organizations included Women in War (France), Beit Al-Hanane (Lebanon), the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (Germany), The Danish Centre for Research and Information on Gender, Equality and Diversity (KVINFO Denmark), and the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (France).

Improving Life-Saving Skills

A mutual sense of giving

LAU's academic collaboration and partnership with the Lebanese NGO Makhzoumi Foundation was sealed in May with the signing of a contractual agreement. Students from the LAU Gilbert and Rose-Marie Chagoury School of Medicine will benefit from the facilities, equipment, services, and personnel of the outpatient healthcare provider, offering care to its patients and gaining experience necessary to complete their education. Thanking May and Fouad Makhzoumi for their "indefatigable support" of the university, LAU President Joseph G. Jabbara declared that the best gift in life is the gift of giving to others so that they may have life. "This is something that goes to the core of our university, and this partnership gives our students the opportunity to get the training they need to go out and make the world a better place for all of us, especially in the area of healthcare and its delivery," he said.



Rigorous training in organ donation and transplantation protocol

30 Lebanese health professionals came a step closer to attaining a postgraduate certificate from Universitat de Barcelona in early July, after attending an international assessment seminar hosted by LAU on the Byblos campus. Led by local and international experts, the participants — 15 from LAU's affiliated hospital (LAUMC-RH) and the university's medical and nursing schools and an additional 15 from the University of Balamand — were assessed for the competencies they had gained during the year they had spent enrolled in the European Mediterranean Program in Organ Donation and Transplantation (EMPODaT). "The EMPODaT training program mustn't stop here," said Clinical Professor of Nephrology at LAU Antoine Stephan. "We must encourage the participants to apply all they have learned in their daily work at the hospital so we can alleviate the great shortage of organ donations Lebanon suffers from." Stephan conducted a training session about kidney transplantation during the one-week seminar as part of the overall EMPODaT program.

Activists and students gather for the empowerment of women

LAU's University Enterprise Office (UEO) runs the LAU-MEPI Tomorrow's Leaders scholarship program (MEPI-TL), which has enabled dozens of young scholars from across the Arab world to study at LAU. In July, UEO gathered 54 MEPI-TL students to attend a conference about women leaders, organized in collaboration with the university's Institute for Women's Studies in the Arab World. The MEPI-TL participants had the opportunity to listen to the many young and veteran women's rights activists who gathered in Beirut from the MENA region and beyond to share their stories of oppression and resistance. The diversity of the speakers and topics covered was much appreciated by the students and alumni, whose passion and experience are among the reasons they were selected to join the MEPI-TL program. "It's more than just a scholarship. It's about making a change and being leaders of our countries," said Bahraini student Dana Mudara.



A future doctor and politician

By Reem Maghribi

Former LAU MEPI-TL scholar Ghid Amhaz is hell bent on reforming the health sector.

"My goals relate to causing the change I want to see in my country."

—Ghid Amhaz, final year LAU medical student

"Leadership is something you take ... Ghid took it ... She showed stamina in the face of much resistance and when she's ready [to run for parliament], we're ready to ... champion her all the way."

So says Walid Touma — director of the University Enterprise Office that manages the MEPI Tomorrow's Leaders program at LAU — of Ghid Amhaz, a former MEPI-TL scholar currently enrolled in the final year of the university's M.D. program.

Amhaz's decision to study medicine was cemented both by her father's illness that included the descent into a decade-long coma and by her uncle's death from exhaust inhalation. "This career is about helping people and having witnessed what my father went through I was further motivated," she says.

If Amhaz's uncle had had access to oxygen and heart resuscitation, he would have survived, but the nearest hospital was a 40-minute drive from his hometown of Nabha, where the local clinic had been shut down two decades earlier.

Seeking to bring positive change through this tragedy, Amhaz partnered with her fellow medical students to reopen the clinic. Two long years of fundraising, coordination and diplomacy culminated in the facility's grand opening this summer. "The first things we bought for the clinic were an oxygen tank and a defibrillator," she points out.

"She faced resistance within her male dominated and divided home town, but she made the clinic a reality. She kept pushing and she won," says Touma, listing this as one of many reasons he believes Amhaz has what it takes to run for office and win.



"My political aspirations grew from my desire to effect change," says Amhaz, who first won an elected post while studying for her undergraduate degree. "I was elected as student representative for the MEPI-TL scholars two years in a row," she says, recalling the time she began to visualize herself in the Lebanese parliament.

Amhaz recently returned from five months in the U.S., where she rotated at different hospitals, an experience that will help her choose the field of medicine she intends to specialize in. "I will specialize in the States but will definitely return to work in Lebanon, because my goals relate to causing the change I want to see in my country."

Her priorities relate to reforming the health sector in Lebanon, from within hospitals as a medic and from within parliament as a politician. "For change to happen, it must come from within," Amhaz stresses.



HISTORICAL SNAPSHOT OF LAU

This timeline reflects the university's development from its foundation as a small private college to the vibrant expansive institution that it is today. With two main campuses (one in Beirut and another in Byblos) complemented by the establishment of its New York Headquarters and Academic Center, the acquisition of the LAU Medical Center–Rizk Hospital and an executive center in Beirut Central District, LAU continues on its journey of perpetual improvement and progress.

“Construction, renovations and other development projects are intended to strengthen a setting that facilitates paramount outcomes for the community. Nowadays, sustainability is finding its ways into the new facilities, whereby recently-designed buildings are becoming more energy-efficient, less resource-consuming and provide better indoor environmental quality,” points out Assistant Vice President for Facilities Management, Georges Harmouche.

Assessing the campus environment through different lenses, members of LAU's community share their views about some of its architectural milestones.



Sage Hall

“I have spent more time in Sage Hall than in any other building, including my home. I have been its ‘loyal occupant’ for over 40 years and truly believe that the old building and I have become inseparable. It reminds me of the generations of students I have taught within its walls. I have always preferred to teach in Sage Hall, because of its acoustics and the level of natural lighting — best appreciated on gloomy. Historically Sage Hall embodies the continuity of the institution, architecturally the culture of the region and educationally the excellence that LAU strives to achieve.”

—Krikoris Bogharian, recently retired professor of biology

1933 Architectural pioneer Youssef Aftimus designed and oversaw the construction Sage Hall on a newly purchased plot of land in Beirut.



Sage Hall
Beirut



Nicol Hall
Beirut

'33

'37

'88

'91

'95 '96

'05

Wadad Said Khoury Student Center, former Learning Resource Center (LRC)
Beirut



Tohme-Rizk Building
Byblos



Architecture Hall
Byblos



Architecture Hall, on the Byblos campus, celebrated its inauguration the same year that the university introduced postgraduate programs and changed its name from BUC to LAU.

Zakhem Engineering Hall
Byblos



Bassil Hall
Byblos



Adnan Kassar School of Business
Beirut



Riyad Nassar Library
Beirut



During the university's history, its library has been housed in Sage Hall, Irwin Hall and the Wadad Said Khoury Student Center. In 2005, it moved to a specially-built six-story building designed by Atelier Pagnamenta Torriani and Samir Khairallah & Partners and named in honor of former president Riyad Nassar.

2000

Science Building
Byblos



Soon after the Byblos campus was opened in 1991, LAU celebrated the inauguration of the Science Building designed by Samir Khairallah & Partners, the firm behind a number of university's buildings, including Orme-Grey, the original Fine Arts Building and the Architecture Hall.

Science Building

“The Science building holds a very special place in my heart. At the time I started my career in 1991, the Byblos campus consisted of only two buildings: The Tohme Rizk and the Science buildings. The latter housed the classrooms and labs, as well as the central administration offices and as an instructor, I was in charge of all the labs. My best academic memories took place in that building, as my office used to be in the chemistry lab on the fifth floor. Between my lab work and office hours, I would spend more than ten hours a day there.”

—Constantine Daher, assistant dean of the School of Arts and Sciences

Architecture Hall, Byblos

“Architecture Hall has a special meaning for me. It was nearing completion when I first started to teach in the fall 1994. Part of the original nucleus out of which the entire Byblos campus sprouted, it was designed in a modern ‘regionalist’ style that had become popular around the world in the 1980s. The site plan may also have been influenced by other projects, such as Charles Moore's Kresge College in Santa Cruz. It was really amazing because the studio spaces were immense — the building seemed so large in relation to the number of faculty and students at the time.”

—Elie G. Haddad, dean of the School of Architecture and Design





Orme Gray Building

"After almost three years of living in the LAU dorms, I have found my home away from home. The best part about being in the dorms is that you can make friends easily, study in groups, share your experiences and have a social circle all at your fingertips. However, daily life can be challenging, as I live in close proximity to many people of different nationalities, points of view and values. But this is a good thing: Living under a common roof with many diverse people has truly allowed me to see the world from a whole new perspective."

— Hania Alameddine, third year pre-med student



Safadi Fine Arts Building

"People usually live in houses, but for the past 33 years I have been 'living and working' in the Drama Office of Fine Arts building. I know the building inside out. From the inside, I have flourished as an actress and singer, specifically in the Gulbenkian Amphitheater. At the same time, just above the famous Fine Arts steps I have a 'window with a view' that has kept me in the loop about everything that goes on outside the building. If only those steps could talk, their stories and memories would relay LAU's history."

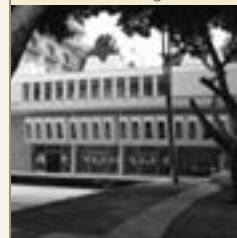
— Hala Masri, theater coordinator

Named in honor of former presidents Frances Gray and Rhoda Orme, the Orme Gray Building was built as a residence for young women moving to Beirut to study at what was then the Beirut College for Women (BCW).



Orme Gray Building
Beirut

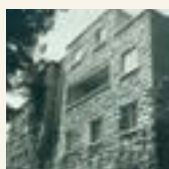
The Fine Arts Building, which houses the impressive Gulbenkian Amphitheater, was inaugurated the same year as the Gymnasium Building. An extensive sponsored renovation saw it inaugurated as the Safadi Fine Arts Building in 2004.



Safadi Fine Arts Building
Beirut



Irwin Hall
Beirut



Shannon Hall
Beirut



University Services Building,
(Former Faculty Apartments)
Beirut

'47

'54 '55

'65

'70

'09 '10

'12 '13

LAU Medical Center
- Rizk Hospital
Beirut



Frem Civic Center
Byblos



Gezairi Building
Beirut



New York
Headquarters
and Academic
Center
New York



LAU Executive
Center @ Beirut
Central District
Beirut



Gilbert & Rose-Marie
Chagoury Health
Sciences Center
Byblos



A donation of \$13.5 million led to the erection of a high-tech Gilbert & Rose-Marie Chagoury Health Sciences Center on the Byblos campus designed by Associate Consulting Engineers ACE S.A.L.



Riyad Nassar Library

"When I moved to the Riyad Nassar Library in 2006, I immediately felt at home. I was, and still am, thrilled to be working in such a state-of-the-art library — unlike any other in Lebanon — with its bright and homey in space dedicated to students. I also appreciate the comfort of the workspace provided for staff. This has ensured an environment conducive to both learning and teaching. The facility provides the students with a place where they can socialize, study individually or work in groups. The library keeps me young and challenged, much like the students that populate it."

— Cenderella Habre, university librarian



The Gilbert & Rose-Marie Chagoury Health Sciences Center

"Home to the Gilbert & Rose-Marie Chagoury School of Medicine, the Alice Ramez Chagoury School of Nursing and the School of Pharmacy, the center serves as an education and research facility. It encourages inter-professional interaction through one of the Arab world's finest clinical skills and simulation centers. The building's well-thought-out office and classroom space not only enables active learning but also facilitates interactions between faculty and students. It was designed to support opportunities for collaboration among scholars and students across disciplines. An important but less talked about feature, however, is the common space for relaxation and socialization."

— Imad Btaiche, dean of the School of Pharmacy

Alumni update

May

Heartfelt

For the fourth time this year, LAU alumni gathered to listen to an animated talk as part of the “Keep Learning” alumni lecture series. Given on May 22, the talk by Tanya Awad Ghorra was titled “Communicating from the Heart” and centered around communication in an ever-evolving connected world. Ghorra used a technique called non-violent communication to explore conflicts, language and the question of whether we are really all communicating with each other.



Something for everyone

The South Lebanon Chapter organized a fun-packed family day at Salhiyeh in southern Lebanon on May 10. Both old and young took part in the many planned activities and enjoyed quality time together.



Alumni jump shots

On May 8, the LAU Alumni joined in a basketball game against the university's Varsity Team at the Great Basketball Challenge, which was organized by the Alumni Relations Office and the Athletics Department at LAU Beirut.

June

Picnic in the forest

The Paris Alumni Chapter reunited at a picnic at the Jardin du Pré-Catelan in the Bois de Boulogne on June 7 under the Parisian sun.



Reconnecting

The Beirut Alumni Chapter held its Annual Brunch on June 6 at Mandaloun café, Achrafieh. Over 100 alumni gathered and reconnected over a lovely spread.



Celebrating Ramadan

The Bahrain Alumni Chapter also hosted its own reunion, holding a Ramadan Ghabqa on June 25 at the Gulf Hotel in Manama. More than 100 alumni and friends gathered for an exquisite feast during the holy month.



And sometimes it rains

The international alumni reunions continued with the Toronto Alumni Chapter enjoying their “Annual Breakfast in the Park” on June 14. The participants were surprised by a little rain, but, according to one of the alumni present, “It did not stop us from having a wonderful breakfast in great company!”

July

According to the Executive Director of Alumni Relations Abdallah Al Khal, "Only the university can fulfill the role of keeping alumni connected." At this year's reunion, which kicked off on July 21, the goal had clearly been achieved. Former classmates, still recognizable from the yearbook pictures on display despite the years gone by, hugged the older versions of each other in disbelief.

In his welcome speech, President Joseph G. Jabbara greeted the alumni and reminded them of the responsibility and the privilege that comes with being part of the LAU family. "Serving others so that they have better opportunities has been LAU's mission," he said. "And as former students, you are an eternal part of this endeavor."



Alumni receive awards at homecoming dinner

This year's Alumni Dinner brought together over 400 alumni and friends for a party at Music Hall, Starco on July 21. At the party, the Annual Alumni Recognition Award was presented to LAU Advisory Board Member and long-time supporter Maha Kaddoura ('70). Born and raised in Lebanon, Kaddoura founded and heads the Kaddoura Association for Philanthropy, which caters to educational needs, in particular to those of challenged children. She has also built a nursing home for the elderly. Kaddoura received her B.A. in political science from LAU and her M.B.A. from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. She is a member of the Board of Trustees at Tufts University, where she helped create the Middle East Studies Program. She is also

a member of the Dean's Council of Harvard Kennedy School of Government and sits on the Advisory Board of the Institute for Historical Justice and Reconciliation.

The Annual Alumni Achievement Award was presented to Joumana Dammous Salamé ('92), founder of the HORECA Exhibitions in Lebanon, Jordan, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, the Beirut Garden Show & Spring Festival, the Beirut Cooking Festival, Salon du Chocolat of Lebanon and the Beirut Capital of Taste initiative. In addition to organizing large-scale annual exhibitions, Salamé publishes three regional magazines — *Hospitality News Middle East*, *Taste & Flavors* and *Lebanon Traveler* — and offers event planning through her company Hospitality Services.

A trip down memory lane

The Byblos Reunion took place on July 23, as graduates toured their beloved campus. They reveled in old memories and explored the new buildings that are part of LAU's expansion. The event was followed by a charming Salsa performance by Flaco & Anna.



Alumni update

Meet and greet

The Beirut Reunion followed the next day, on July 24. Alumni from all generations attended to celebrate and reconnect, followed by a cocktail reception and live musical performance. The Beirut Chapter also hosted a hilarious comedy show by Chady & Gaby, adding laughter to the already happy occasion.



The best brunch in town

As part of the homecoming week, the Alumni Relations Office also organized its Annual President's Forum Brunch on July 25. Alumni took the opportunity to meet and socialize with LAU President Joseph G. Jabbara, during an exquisite breakfast at Casper & Gambini's on Abdel Aziz Street.



Now down to more serious business

To wrap up the homecoming week, the presidents and/or representatives of all alumni chapters around the world who happened to be present in Lebanon at the time gathered for the Alumni Association Board Meeting. The meeting took place at LAU Beirut on July 28 and was followed by a superb lunch at Im Sharif, Ashrafieh. Here's to another successful alumni year!



September



New Student Orientation Program 2015

At the beginning of each semester the Alumni Relations Office comes out in force to introduce the Alumni Association and how it will benefit the new students after graduation. During this year's New Students Orientation Program — which took place on August 31 and September 1 in Byblos and Beirut — the university's newcomers were presented with a souvenir and a comprehensive brochure about the association.

On the road with Abdallah and Ed

Sometimes you need to get out of your office and hit the open road. From September 13–19, Executive Director of Alumni Relations Abdallah Al Khal and Director of Alumni and Special Events Ed Shiner embarked on an alumni chapter tour of Eastern Canada and New England. Their trip was aimed both at re-connecting existing alumni and at infusing the chapters with new names and faces.



Toronto

The tour started in Toronto — Canada's largest city — with a family picnic at Adams Park that drew a mix of alumni from all generations and their families. Cold temperatures coupled with steady rain kept a few people away but did not deter the 60 or so alumni who turned out for the festive picnic and dined on hot dogs, burgers and kabobs. A raffle was held to raise money for LAU scholarships, and one lucky boy rode away with a new bicycle!



Ottawa

The next stop was Canada's capital, Ottawa, where Abdallah and Ed brought alumni together for a dinner at East Side Mario's restaurant. Most attendees met each other for the first time. "I came to Ottawa for graduate school, and I didn't know anyone here. As a newcomer to Canada, I was so happy to meet the alumni — it felt like family," said Fouad Olayan ('06), who is studying engineering management at the University of Ottawa. "I'm excited to get more involved in the chapter once I settle down."



Montreal

In Montreal, alumni gathered downtown at Vargas Restaurant for happy hour and tapas. Chapter President Rami Zein ('12) took on the task of mobilizing new members. He was so successful that almost all present were first-time participants. In fact, the group had so much fun that they stayed well past happy hour, talking and networking into the night.



Video game producer and class of 2001 graduate Joe Khoury has been in Montreal for 12 years but had never attended an alumni chapter event. "I assumed there was a chapter, but I never knew who was in it, how to join, or how to meet people from there," he shared. "Rami got hold of me via LinkedIn, and it was really nice to mingle with people of my generation, and younger than me."



Boston

Robert Shafie ('84) and his wife Varsenig Yapoudjian ('74) graciously hosted the Boston Alumni Chapter gathering at Byblos Restaurant in Norwood, Massachusetts. Chapter President Rand Ghayat ('06) welcomed the group, which included graduates from 1958 to 2015. "It was great to meet with others from the LAU community, across disciplines and age groups," said Ramzi Naja ('13), currently a student at the Harvard Graduate School of Design. "It is always good to be reminded of the sense of belonging LAU offers," he added. All of those present shared fond memories of their BCW, BUC or LAU days over kebbeh and tabbouleh.

New York/New Jersey

The tour's final act was a New York/New Jersey Chapter event that entailed sunset cocktails on the roof of the Metropolitan Museum, followed by a one-hour tour of the Greco-Roman galleries by LAU's own Tony Faddoul ('96). Building up an appetite over stories of Greek gods and goddesses, the group then went to dinner at Trattoria Pesce Pasta. The event was graced with the presence of President Jabbra and Vice President for University Advancement Marla-Rice Evans. For William Abi Abdallah ('12), it was his first time attending an alumni event. "It was a fantastic evening and a great way to keep in contact with some of my classmates and keep up-to-date on what LAU is doing," he enthused. "The Met was culturally interesting, and the dinner gave us a chance to speak more intimately."



Strength in unity

To celebrate its fifth anniversary, the South Lebanon Alumni Chapter organized a night to remember on September 3 at the La Guava resort in Rmeileh. Alumni commemorated five beautiful years of working together as a committee. Since its inception, the chapter has organized many very successful events that also engaged the local community.

Staying connected

Hayat El Eid Bualuan left LAU in 1957 during her junior year to get married. However, she later continued her education, obtaining a Ph.D. from St. Joseph University (USJ). Hayat currently teaches cultural studies and history at Haigazian University and cultural studies at AUB. Always preoccupied with research, she has published several articles in various journals. Both her sons live abroad with their families, one in Switzerland and the other in the United States. Hayat has four grand children, three boys and a girl.



Souad Osseiran



Wafaa Ghawi Richeh

Wafa Ghawi Richeh (B.A. '61) went on to receive her master's from New York's Syracuse University. She lives in Damascus, where she is the director of the English Department at Radio Damascus. Wafa is also a very active member of a number of social and charity organizations in Syria. She divides her time between Damascus and Boston, where her daughter Alma lives with her husband and their new son Manar.



Wissam Doudar



Zahraa Suleiman Boustani



Ghia Sleiman-Haidar

Helen Travis (B.A. '73) went on to receive her master's from Sweet Briar College in Virginia. She lives in Long Island, New York, where she works as an accounting clerk but also manages a massive 200-year-old family house.

Mary-Beth Bryan Mueller (B.A. '73) went on to law school and obtained an M.Sc. in Health Education. She lives in Palm Desert, California, where she works at a Dual-Diagnosis/Rehab facility that treats patients with mental health disorders, as well as drug and alcohol addiction. Mary-Beth has two sons.

Zoubeida R. Dagher (B.S. '80) went on to obtain an M.A. in education from AUB, followed by a Ph.D. from the University of Iowa. She lives in Delaware's Newark, where she is a professor of science education at the University of Delaware.

Aouni Kawas (B.S. '84) lives in Beirut, where he is the chairman of Kawas Consulting, an executive search and headhunting firm based out of the capital and covering the MENA region.

Philippe Georgiou (M.B.A. '84) lives in Oman, where he is a marketing consultant at the Sultanate's Ministry of Tourism. Philippe has helped shape up a new long-term vision for tourism in Oman.

Roula Hussami (M.B.A. '91, B.S. '84) lives in Lebanon, where she runs an executive recruitment and management consultancy that has just partnered with the U.K. company Aston Hill Selection.

Sana Osman (B.A. '85) lives in Sidon, where she works as a designer in Artisa Association and a teacher of graphic design at CIS College. Sana previously worked as a coordinator and art teacher at Rawda High School in Beirut. She is married to engineer Ali Ballouli.

Salim Oud (B.S. '87) lives in Beirut, where he works in flight operations for Middle East Airlines and is involved with airlines safety issues. Salim is married to Rima Hamzeh and has two daughters.

Alia Hammoud Al Halabi (B.S. '88) lives in Beirut, where she is the branch manager of BankMed, Raouche. She is married to Houssam Al Halabi and has two sons, Tarek and Karim, who are both enrolled at LAU.

Wissam Doudar (B.S. '89) went on to obtain M.P.H. from AUB. He lives in Beirut, where he works in healthcare services as a field laboratory services officer for UNRWA and a health consultant for ABAAD NGO. He is also the emergency health specialist at Seraphim GLOBAL, a humanitarian NGO. His son is currently majoring in mechanical engineering at LAU.

Roger Semaan (B.S. '91) lives in Beirut, where he is the director of National News Agency's department of internet and satellite at the Ministry of Information. He is married to Rania Fehaly.

Olfat Hamza (M.B.A. '94, B.S. '90) joined Bank Audi S.A.L. after graduating. Olfat is now branch manager of the bank's Aley branch. She currently lives in Abey and has two children, Sara and Adam-Saiid.

Susan Wadi Mazboudi (B.S. '94) lives in San Jose, California, where she is assistant vice president and relationship manager at Bridge Bank N.A. Susan has 12 years of banking experience in small business lending, asset based lending and special assets. Married since 1999, she has two sons, a 14-year-old and a one-year-old.

Aline Al Rayes Maani (B.A. '95) went on to obtain her postgraduate degree from Syracuse University in New York. Aline lives in Ottawa, Canada, where she is a translator at the KSA Embassy. During her time in Beirut she worked as an information officer at UN-ESCWA.

Abeer Al Mahdi Khiami (A.A.S. '97) went on to receive several diplomas from the California Hypnosis Institute of India. Abeer lives in the UAE, where she works as an emotional coach. After working with lots of people in one-on-one sessions and



Jean Bassil



Karim Najjar



Yaman Hafez



Rabie Dbouk



Hiba Musharrafieh



Nour Harb



Jawana Sawalha



Abeer Fakih



Fouad El Haddad

transforming their view and perspective toward life and living, she is now focusing on conducting retreats and reaching schools to work with behavior in young children. She is happily married and presently has no children.

Abeer Fakih (B.S. '97) lives in Abu Dhabi's Al Ain, where she has been a toastmaster for the past two years. Abeer served as the vice-president for public relations at the Al Ain Toastmaster Club from 2014-2015 and is currently vice president for membership at the Al Ain Elite Toastmasters Club, as well as being a sponsor of this new club. She is married to Mohamed Soussan and has two daughters, 16-year-old Lana and 13-year-old Jude. Fakih was a member of LAU's Abu Dhabi alumni chapter in 1999 and 2000 and then of the Kuwait chapter in 2005.

Lara Shaaban Najjar (M.B.A. '99, B.S. '94) completed her post-graduate degree at LAU and obtained a second post-graduate degree in hotel management from Cornell-Paris (IMHI in ESSEC). Lara lives in Saudi Arabia's Al Khobar, where she works as a training and human development consultant. She is married to Karim Najjar and they have two daughters, Kenzie who is seven and Taj who is two.

Wadih Zaatar (B.E. '00) lives in Montréal, where he is the area manager

for Cisco Networking Academy in Canada. He is married to Lara and they have two children, three-year-old Alexandra and two-month-old Liam.

Camille El Hage (B.S. '01) lives in Paris, where he is a general manager at Aliston Consulting.

Mazen Fouany (B.S. '03) went on to train in general surgery and did an obstetrics and gynecology residency at George Washington University. Mazen is currently director of OBGYN at Cole Memorial Hospital, which was the top 2015 OBGYN department in Pennsylvania, where he lives with his wife Rola El Moussawi and their baby boy Gebran.

Nathalie Mansour (B.S. '03) lives in Dubai and works as a creative director. Nathalie is married and has a three-year-old daughter, Solena Valentina Auwad.

Abbas Safieddine (B.S. '05) lives in Tyre, where he is a WASH officer at UNICEF – Lebanon. He had previously worked as a WASH associate at UNHCR. Abbas is married and has a four-year-old son, Hassan.

Bilal Fadlallah (M.B.A. '05) lives in Beirut, where he works in public relations at Al-Iman TV. Bilal also tutors at AOU and USAL and hopes to eventually continue to

obtain a Ph.D. He is married to Layla and they have three boys.

Firas Abilmona (B.S. '05) lives in Lebanon, where he is an IT and field officer for UNDP/LPDC (Lebanese Palestinian Dialogue Committee).

Jean Bassil (M.B.A. '05, B.S. '94) lives in Erbil, Iraq, where he is country manager at Byblos Bank S.A.L.

Marwan Wahbi (M.B.A '05) went on to obtain a doctorate of business administration (D.B.A.) from the Grenoble École de Management, France. Marwan lives in Sidon and works as university lecturer as well as a professional trainer and business consultant. Marwan is married and has one child.

Rola Ozhables Khoury (M.S. '05) lives in the UAE, where she works in information technology service management. Rola is currently working as a senior manager in the IT Department of Dubai World Central. She is married and recently had a baby girl, Ela.

Majd El-Masri (B.S. '08) went on to obtain an M.B.A from AUB. He later succeeded in attaining a C.M.A. Majd lives in Tripoli and is the CFO, GM and owner of three startups, *Soukall.com* online store, the BUILD construction company and the

Staying connected

GIG advertising company. He is also the VP of the family business Masrico, a foreign exchange and money transfer company. He is married to Maguy Nafeh.

Rabie Dbouk (M.S. '08, B.S. '05) lives in Kuwait, where he works as a service delivery manager for Diyar United, a multi-national company based there. He is married to architect Amanda Hadi with whom he has two boys, four-year-old Shadi and two-year-old Fouad.

Sara Ismail Makki (B.A. '08) obtained her postgraduate degree in visual design from the Scuola Politecnica di Design in Milan. Sara lives in Beirut, where she is a visual and experiential graphic designer at Dar Al Handasah Shair & Partners. She branded the environment of the company's headquarters in Beirut.

Souad Osseiran (M.B.A. '08, B.S. '05) lives in Lebanon and is a senior personal banker at Audi Bank S.A.L. Souad also has her own soap business, *Sabounati*. She is married and has a nine-month-old baby girl.

Ghia Sleiman-Haidar (M.S. '09, B.S. '96) is sales manager at DYNAMESH S.A.L., a leading software company that has designed and developed RockWise ERP, an advanced series of software products for various sectors of the market.

Zahraa Boustani (B.S. '10) lives in Beirut, where she is a franchise sales data analyst at PepsiCo International. Zahraa would like to pursue a career in marketing and sales, and to obtain a postgraduate degree in consumer behavior and marketing analysis if she has the opportunity.

Ayman Mezher (B.S. '11) lives in Lebanon, where he is an officer in the market intelligence department at the Bank of Beirut and the Arab Countries (BBAC). Ayman is married to Dana Nseif.

Nader Houella (M.B.A. '12, B.A. '08) lives in Beirut, where he is a media and communication consultant to the president of the Makassad Association. Previously, Nader was a project manager at Lebanon Opportunities.

Karim Najjar (B.S. '11) obtained his master's in information system security management from Concordia University of Edmonton. Karim is COBIT 5 Foundation, Implementation and ITIL V3 certified. He lives in Edmonton, Canada, where he is the principal of IGRC Consulting Inc. and a full-time employee of Canada Post. His research focuses on business continuity and disaster recovery plans for small and medium businesses.

Omar Matraji (B.S. '12) lives in Calgary, Canada, where he is senior financial advisor for the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC).

Elise Shebaya Tauk (B. Arch '12) lives in Beit El Chaar and is an architect at SOMA Architects, which she joined soon after graduating from LAU.

Tamim Awaida (B.Arch '12) lives in Saudi Arabia, where he works as a shop drawing engineer.

Etienne Daher (B.E. '13) is a consultant engineer and spends his time between Batroun and Jeddah.

Fouad El Haddad (B.E. '13) lives in Beirut, where he is a project manager in medical gases for ProMedic Group.

Nicole Zachariades (B.S. '13) lives in Kornet El Hamra and works as a nutrition consultant at a pharmacy.

Nour Harb (B.S. '13) lives in Hamra. After graduating she began working as a sales account manager for Monty Holding, where she was promoted to business development supervisor four months ago.

Hiba Mawed Dagher (B.S. '14) works at the Emergency Department of the Keserwan Medical Center. Hiba is looking forward to pursuing her postgraduate studies but is waiting to gain some practical experience first. She is married to Marwan Dagher, a registered psychiatric nurse working with drug addicts.

Hiba Musharrafieh (B.A. '14) lives in Choueifat. Hiba is an upper and lower elementary personal social education teacher at the German School in Beirut.

She believes professional development is key to an effective classroom, where she provides students with learning techniques while fostering positive attitudes and behavior towards the principles of sustainable development and global citizenship.

Jawanna Sawalha (B.A. '14) lives in Amman, Jordan, where she is lifestyle and fashion editor at UMen magazine. Jawanna plans on pursuing a master's in the field of journalism.

Remy Hesdin (B.S. '14) lives in London, where he is group sales executive at the London Hilton.

Roba Youssef (B.A. '14) lives between Beirut and Cairo, where she works as an interior architect. She is also the CEO and owner of Lines by Roba Youssef. The company designs architecture, interior architecture and design, furniture and logos. She is working on becoming an architect and wants to move forward with her master's in Islamic architecture.

Safa Abusaba (B.A. '14) lives in Qatar, where she works as a management consultant at EY.

Loubna Hamdash El Khalil (M.B.A '15) lives in Beirut. She has previously worked as an assistant secretary general of OGERO in Bir Hassan and more recently as an administrative assistant at the President's Office at LAU Beirut.

Yaman Hafez (B.S. '15) lives in Toronto, Canada.



Mona Hatoum's (A.A.S. '72) solo show of 31 works — her biggest and most prominent exhibition yet — ran until September 28 at the Pompidou Center in Paris and will travel to the Tate Modern in London in May 2016. The nonchronological display includes quietly disturbing installations featuring cages and grids, barbed wire, domestic objects, maps and strands of the artist's hair. Her work is inspired by minimalism, surrealism and conceptual art. The show charts a career that has seen Mona shift from minor works on paper and performance pieces to increasingly large-scale installations.



Jamal Tayara-Baroudy's (B.A. '93) exhibition "Garden After" was hosted at 1971, Sharjah's new design space. Based on the spiritual symbolism associated with the Abrahamic religions' concept of paradise, "Garden After" is an immersive installation composed of a fountain, wallpaper and floor patterns that change in scale and perspective depending on how close up one views it. The installation radiates out from a central point — the river, pivotal in Quranic descriptions of the garden of paradise — in fluid linear patterns.



Rania Zaghir (B.A. '99) is the author of *Haltabees Haltabees*, which was a recipient of Germany's 2015 Extraordinary Book award. All the participants of the Berlin International Literature Festival's Children's and Young Adult Program were asked to propose a book that children, teenagers or young adults should read. The recommended books received an award and make up the Extraordinary Book Library For Young Readers which will be exhibited at this year's festival.

Lina Matta (B.A. '84) was a guest curator at the Contemporary Arab Film Festival at the Jacob Burns Film Center in New York for the third year running. She spent the last year scouring Arab film festivals, looking for the perfect mix of narratives and documentaries to provide audiences with a perspective on the Middle East that strays far from the headlines. Based in Dubai, Lina is the senior channel manager of the Middle East Broadcast Company (MBC) channels 2, 4, Max and Variety.

LAU Alumni's NEW mobile application

- Stay connected to LAU & fellow alumni
- Discover the latest LAU & alumni news
- Find out about alumni events at LAU and near you
- Search the alumni directory
- Link up with alumni chapters
- Receive event notifications

Download it now and start making contact!



WHY I GIVE BACK

Peter Taylor
(B.S. '15)



Having obtained a business degree with an emphasis in banking and finance from LAU (Byblos campus) in January of this year, Peter Taylor currently lives in both Boston and Beirut, splitting his time between the two cities. Six months ago he launched a performance drink called Vitamin 1, which he had been working on since his graduation.

Why do you give back to LAU?

I had a tremendous experience at LAU and cherished my time there. Being someone who at a young age grew up in all social classes, it is important for me to do so. Because of my positive experience at LAU, I decided to give back in the form of scholarships for qualified applicants that simply need a financial push. This fall was my first time giving back to the university.

What is your fondest memory of LAU?

My fondest memory of LAU is that of English and cultural studies lecturer George Sadaka. I took a cultural studies course with him and enjoyed his class so much that I took two additional ones with him. While many students opted for music courses and the like as free electives, I would always maneuver my schedule so that I could take a course with him. He has taught me more than any other teacher, not just by informing me about academic facts but also through his experiences in life. In my everyday life, I often find myself encountering scenarios that remind me of his lectures.

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

One message I would like to convey to current students and alumni is the importance of giving back. There are countless prospective students who are qualified for an LAU education but do not have the means to enroll. I urge people to spend money where it matters and not where it shows. Money should never stand in the way of someone receiving an education and eventually embarking on a career.

What would you like to see LAU achieve in the near future?

I would love to see LAU recruit more guest professors from other countries to teach on a larger scale. This will allow students, some of whom have never left Lebanon, to gain a different perspective of the substance in course curricula, as well as life in general. Also, I would love to see even more guest speakers who have a proven track record of success speaking to LAU students in their respective fields.

Why are you interested in supporting education, especially in Lebanon?

I am a strong believer in education equality for qualified students. No student should be deprived of a college education simply because of their financial situation. I will continue giving back to LAU as long as I am in a position to do so.



Fulfilling the Promise

LAU Campaign for Academic Excellence



✧ ANWAR JAMMAL IS FULFILLING THE PROMISE

"Ipsa scientia potestas est"/Knowledge is power

Based on his strong belief that the only way to be totally free is through education, Anwar Jammal has spent the past decade assisting low-income groups by providing financial aid to students at the Ali Jammal Social Educational Institutions, reaching 18,000 young people. He has also awarded scholarships to high achievers at numerous Lebanese schools and universities. The generous Ali Abdallah Jammal Memorial Scholarship Grant allocated yearly to a needy and deserving business student at LAU is one such award.

Anwar Jammal currently presides over Jammal Trust Bank S.A.L. (JTB), where he combines a professional leadership with business strategy. He was elected chairman/general manager in 2005, succeeding his late father Ali Jammal, the bank's founding chairman.

With more than 30 years of experience in the banking and financial sector, Anwar Jammal worked for different institutions and headed several committees before joining JTB, where he climbed the ladder assiduously and skillfully, taking incremental steps towards the highest position.

Anwar Jammal holds an M.B.A. from Westminster College (London).

He is married to May Azhari ('91), an LAU alumna, and has two daughters.



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