



# The Faculty Gazette

January - December 2006

Volume 9.1-2

--The Faculty Newsletter of the Lebanese American University--



— FOOD FOR THOUGHT —

"Keep away from people who try to belittle your ambitions. Small people always do that, but the really great make you feel that you, too, can become great." — Mark Twain

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## Conferences, Seminars, Workshops, Lectures & Exhibitions

In the context of its seminar series, the **Division of Computer Science & Mathematics** (Beirut) invited Hadi Sabaa to speak on “Toward Semantically Coherent Collaboration” on January 4. Mr. Sabaa is a 2005 LAU graduate (BSc. in Computer Science) and is currently pursuing graduate studies at the University of Arkansas on a Fulbright Scholarship; his major research interests are multi-agent systems and computer security. The next seminar speaker was Dr. Hatem Halaoui on April 13, with “Approaches for Modeling and Indexing Spatio-temporal Data.” He presented approaches to deal with databases that have continuously changing geographical data (information of buildings, land parcels, etc.) and spatial information (information relating to moving objects such as planes or even people.) Such spatio-temporal databases should be continuously updated to maintain a record of the old information, which can involve building database models, indexing structures for spatio-temporal data and algorithms for the proposed structures.

On January 23, the **Arts & Communication Division** (Beirut) organized a public screening of the documentary film “Nissa’Min Turkiyya” by renowned director and producer Olga Nakkas. The film, commissioned by Arabiyya and funded by the European Union, “enhances the commitment of Turkish women veiled and unveiled to secularism and Islam in Turkey and aims at proving that despite the tensions, there is no clash of civilizations between secularism and Islam in Turkey.” Born in Turkey, Olga Nakkas moved back to Beirut in 2005.

The **Education & Social Science Division** (Byblos) and The **International Affairs Club** (Byblos) organized an open discussion with H.E. Former Prime Minister Najib Mikati in the Selina Korban Auditorium, January 25. The topic of the well-attended discussion was “Youth 2006: Challenges and Opportunities.”

In January, the **Graduate Program in Comparative Literature** invited two professors from German universities, both specialists in Arabic literature, to lecture in Beirut. Manfred Kropp (Mainz University, and Director of the Orient Institut–Beirut spoke on “Ethiopian Motifs in the Arabic Qur’an” on January 16. The title of the lecture of Andreas Pflitsch (Ruhr University) was “You Have Your Lebanon, and I Have Mine: ‘Home’ in Trans-national Lebanese Literature,” on January 26.

The **Graduate Program in Comparative Literature** organized a lecture followed by discussion by **Samira Aghacy**, Dean of the School of Arts & Sciences (Beirut), on February 22. The topic of her talk was “Contemporary Lebanese Fiction: Modernization without Modernity.”

The **Graduate Program in Comparative Literature** at LAU, in coordination with the Orient Institut–Beirut, organized two lectures and a seminar by Professor Philip Kennedy. An Associate Professor of Middle Eastern & Islamic Studies at New York University, he is also associated with the Department of Comparative Literature there. On May 17,

<sup>1</sup>  
H.E. Former Prime Minister Najib Mikati (L) with President Joseph G. Jabbra (R)

<sup>2</sup>  
Professor Kennedy of NYU lecturing on Mahfouz



1  
L-R: Josiane Sreih, President Dr. Jabbra, Dean Shahin presiding over the IFEB Family Business Management conference



2  
Joe Astrachan (L) and Sabine Klein (R) at the IFEB conference on Family Business Management

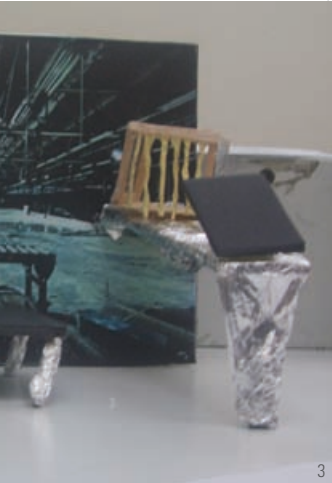


Professor Kennedy lectured on “Sons and Lovers and the Mirage: Recognition in the Fiction of Mahfouz and other Writings” in the new Business Building, Beirut, and on May 18 the subject of his talk at the Orient Institut was “Anagnorisis in the Islamic Narrative Tradition.” The seminar on May 19 in Irwin Hall conference rooms was devoted to the poetry of Abu Nuwas which happens to be also the subject of the latest of Professor Kennedy’s many publications, *Abu Nuwas: A Genius of Poetry*.

On February 23-24, the **School of Business** (Beirut) hosted the 2nd annual “Banking and Finance International Conference” on the topic of “Islamic Banking and Finance.” Twenty-two speakers from Lebanon, Africa, Asia and Europe with academic or professional backgrounds presented papers, including 11 original research papers and 11 industry technical papers. The conference was held under the auspices of Prime Minister Fouad Seniora. LAU President Dr. **Joseph Jabbra** presided over the opening ceremony which was attended by more than 110 professionals from the banking and finance industry and the Central Bank of Lebanon as well as a large contingent of media personnel and cameramen, faculty, students and alumni, and the echelon of LAU corporate officers. President **Jabbra** delineated the conference’s multi-dimensional aspects and its good timing, while emphasizing the top-notch work of the organizers and the caliber of the presenters. Next, **Tarek Mikdashi**, Dean of the **School of Business** (Beirut), acknowledged the vast efforts necessary to organize an international conference of

this scale, lauding the Conference Chair and the Organizing Committee. Then, **Michel Majdalani** reminded everyone that a conference’s success depends naturally on the synergy created when, working together, all produce much more than individuals working alone. H.E. the Minister of Economy, Mr. Sami Haddad, who represented the P.M., highlighted the economic significance of conference from a national standpoint and he acknowledged LAU’s leadership efforts in that regard. Guest of Honor Sheikh Saleh Abdullah Kamel, Chairman of Al-Baraka Banking Group and a main sponsor of the conference, addressed us with a written statement, which was followed by our keynote speaker, Dr. Ahmad Jachi, First Vice-Governor of the Central Bank of Lebanon. In the course of these two hectic days, presenters and participants tackled a multitude of topics ranging from Islamic financial systems, risk management in Islamic banks, performance efficiencies, innovations and developments. The *Proceedings* are available electronically in the Library. Seven papers were accepted for publication in a special issue of *Humanomics: International Journal of Systems and Ethics* (2008). Refer to [www.lau.edu.lb/islamicbankandfin](http://www.lau.edu.lb/islamicbankandfin)

In March, the **Institute of Family & Entrepreneurial Business** in the **School of Business** (Byblos) staged a major activity comprised of a conference day, a workshop and a two-day seminar with two world-renowned leaders on Family Business Management: Drs. Joe Astrachan and Sabine Klein. The theme of the activity was



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“Communication and Conflict in the Family Business.” Limited to family-business owners, it was well received as we had participants from Lebanon, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, Germany, Australia and the USA. The objective of the program was to help family businesses understand the importance of communication and to look closely at the family. The **Institute** provided family business owners with an ideal closed platform to discuss current family and business-related problems, to identify different types of conflict and to apply conflict-resolving techniques. LAU President Dr. **Joseph Jabbra** and Dr. **Wassim Shahin**, Dean of the **School of Business** (Byblos) addressed the participants, along with H.E. Former Minister of Economy Mr. Dimianios Kattar. The topic of “Family Dynamics and Family Communication” was addressed by Dr. Joe Astrachan, while Dr. Sabine Klein focused on “Using Constructive Conflicts to Improve Business Performance.” Mrs Adele Levinge had flown in especially from Australia to speak on her experience with the Dennis Family Corporation. **Josiane Fahed-Sreih** lectured on “Structuring Decision-Making in a Period of Conflict.” Other participants addressed such topics as conflict moderation, causes and cures of destructive family business conflicts, the importance of family businesses and the types of conflicts existing in the Middle East, how to create a fair process by communicating as well as how to avoid unhealthy conflicts, family values, the role of succession in creating strategic renewal in the organization and the role of values in family business.

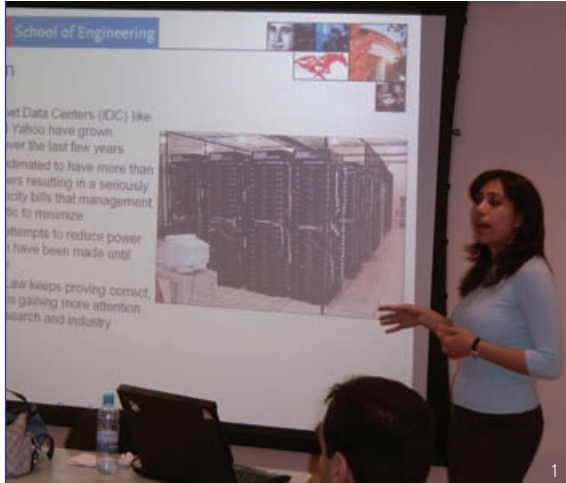
For the second consecutive year, **Nabelah Haraty**, in collaboration with the Cultural Section at the US Embassy and on behalf of the **Humanities Division** (Beirut), organized a successful one-week workshop for LAU faculty and 10 other universities in Lebanon. The theme of the workshop was “Argumentation: What Makes a Good Argument in Both Written and Spoken English?” The presenter was Dr. Elizabeth O’Dowd-Parker from St. Michael’s College, Vermont, who also lectured to Oral Communication students and faculty members from several disciplines on “How to Speak with Confidence in the Second Language.” In keeping with the LAU spirit of extending its services to the community and other educational institutions, Ms **Haraty** also coordinated with Amideast and the US Embassy Cultural Section to host 25 teachers from rural areas all over Lebanon at a weekend workshop also by Dr. O’Dowd-Parker. All concerned were highly pleased with the outcome.

The **Arts & Communication Division** (Beirut) sponsored a “Scenography” workshop, March 2-4 in the Gulbenkian theater; visual artist Hassan Choubassi (an LAU graduate) gave three sessions for 13 students. Another of our graduates, Ghina Sibaii, an interior and jewellery designer, conducted four sessions of a “Props” workshop” in the Gulbenkian theater, April 27-30 for 15 students.

Hassan El Geretly is an Egyptian stage director and the director of El Warsha Theater Troupe in Cairo. At the invitation of the **Arts & Communication Division** (Beirut), he gave a lecture on “Being a

3-4  
Scenography workshop

5  
Dean Wassim Shahin (R) and participants at the Economics & Finance-MENA conference (see p.6)



1  
Manal Houry addressing the Division of Computer Science and Mathematics

2  
Calling attention to NAPHASS

## STEPS TO A HEALTHIER YOU



Come Play, Learn & Win With  
Diabetes Awareness Day  
Organized by NAPHASS  
School of Pharmacy

Date: Monday May 22 - 2006  
Visit our Booths between 10-12 under the bridge  
Lecture by Lina Farhat, PharmD. at 12 pm in Eng. 406

Director" on April 12 in the Gulbenkian theater, followed by a discussion with students.

The **School of Business** at the Byblos campus held its "8th International Conference" on May 22–24. The conference theme was "Economics and Finance of the Middle East and North Africa," and the event featured speakers from the US, the UK, France, Switzerland, Iran, Tunisia, Egypt and Lebanon. About 11 speakers including academicians, economists and financial experts presented papers outlining patterns and policies adopted by countries of the MENA region and discussed their implications on growth and economic revival. Specific topics included exchange rate regimes and trade with implications for MENA countries; the evolution of trade policy in MENA countries since the 1960s; issues related to monetary policies, social capital and governance, trade, finance and financial markets, as well as structure and growth of MENA economies. On the sidelines of the conference, a public policy session on the Lebanese Government's "Beirut I Proposal for Reform" was held with the participation of former Finance Minister George Corm, MP Farid El Khazen and Finance Ministry Consultant Saadeh El Chami. The roundtable discussion tackled the current economic situation in Lebanon and the problem of public deficit with its negative impact on economic activity and investment. (photo p.5)

On May 24, The **Institute for Women's Studies in the Arab World (IWSAW)** and the **Education & Social Science Division** (Beirut) brought to the

Irwin conference rooms Mrs. Samar Fatany, a journalist at Radio Jeddah. Mrs. Fatany is a distinguished media personality who has put much effort in women's issues especially with relevance to the KSA. Thus the topic of her talk did not come as a surprise: "Women and the Media: The Challenges to Empowerment in Saudi Arabia."

NAPHASS (No Apathy Health Awareness Student Society) in coordination with the **School of Pharmacy** organized a "Diabetes Awareness Day" on May 22 at the Byblos campus. Everybody could get a free blood glucose test, participate in games and maybe win valuable prizes, and in general, learn about diabetes in a variety of ways. **Lina Farhat**, Pharm D., gave a lecture on the latest updates in diabetes research, which was followed by a demonstration on the use of new technology for administering insulin, i.e., "insulin pens."

And a few days later, May 26, the **School of Pharmacy** organized a lecture on "Drug Abuse: Is there a cure? Where to go? What to do?" at the Byblos campus. Speaker was Nadya Mikdashi, Prevention Coordinator at Skoun, Lebanese Addiction Center.

Surely, the **Division of Computer Science & Mathematics** was very active organizing seminars in the first half of 2006. **Abbas Tarhini** spoke on "Testing Component-based Real Time Systems" (February 28). "Borderline Behavior for 2x2 Iterative Systems" was discussed by **Samer Habre** (March



3

23). April especially was replete with interesting talks. Mr. Muhie Shaaban from Microsoft talked about “Visual Studio 2005” on April 3; Dr. Hatem Halaoui spoke to an interested audience on “Approaches for Modeling and Indexing Spatio-Temporal Data” on April 13, while Dr. Rached Zantout addressed the timely topic of “Machine Translation From and Into Arabic: A Strategic Choice for Lebanon” on April 27. A week later, “ASP.NET” was the subject of a presentation by Mr. Samer Shidiak from Microsoft, on May 5. And to conclude this spring series, “Document Management and Workflow Software” was presented by Ms. Dania Houry and Mr. Ramzi Aynati from Netways on May 18. Two seminars took place in the fall semester: “Efficient Scalable Alternative to Reorder Buffers in Multicore Processors,” by Dr. Haitham Akkary from Intel Corporation on November 21, and “Power Consumption in Data Centers: Challenges and Opportunities” by Ms. Manal Houry from Southern Methodist University on December 21. (photo p.6)

Beginning language courses in German and Spanish are being offered at LAU’s Byblos campus since fall 2006. In the spirit of Spanish culture, a lecture on the cultural background and the development of the flamenco dance was held on December 21. The event was organized by instructors of Spanish **Gulnar Nader** and **Andyara Nobrega**. Students enjoyed interacting with the lecture, participating in part of the dance performance and tasting genuine Spanish cuisine after the lecture.



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Mr. Shidiak from Microsoft presenting on ASP.NET



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4-5  
Spanish event in Byblos



1  
Scene from THE DEAD SEA

2-3  
Scenes from JEHA

Because of the excellent experience and work of our **Communication Arts** students in the context of the Middle East Broadcasters convention which was held in Lebanon in Fall 2006, the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) invited six LAU students to participate in their international convention in Las Vegas, April 24-27, under supervision of Mr. **Tony Farjallah, Communication Arts** Instructor in Byblos. This convention is in fact the world's largest electronic media show. NAB hosted our students while LAU helped sponsor their airfare. Byblos Campus was represented by Tina Afif, Dina Jumaa and Ranine Kantar, whereas Shirine Nassrallah, Maria Moukadem and Montaser Bayoud went for Beirut. After months of preparation, our students had the opportunity in Las Vegas to work with cutting edge technologies, and they learned the latest production techniques for creating television programs as reporters, camera operators and editors. These programs were televised internationally at the convention. Our students were reported to have produced among the best projects. Congratulations to our **Communication Arts** students and their faculty coaches.

The fall major theater production offered by the **Arts & Communication Division** (Beirut) was "*THE DEAD SEA*," a collective creation directed by **Nagy Souraty** and inspired by texts written by Plato, Etel Adnan, Philippe Ducros, Nasri El Sayegh, Mohamed Kacimi and Walid Mouaness. It was performed January 14-22 in the Gulbenkian theater. **Hala Masri** was Production Manager, and **Mona Knio**

was Technical Director and Lighting Designer. According to Mr. **Souraty**, "*THE DEAD SEA*" is an experimental performance. It is not based on a specific script. It does not have a specific plot. We started exploring ideas. Texts came in later in the process of creation. The ideas we explored are the Dead Sea, survival, humanity, evolution, time, space, happiness...." The cast consisted of 21 actors and around 40 crewmembers from the "Acting," "Theater in Performance," "Technical Stagecraft," "Play Production" and "Art of Theater" classes.

The spring major Arabic theater production of the **Arts & Communication Division** (Beirut) was (*JEHA*), adapted & directed by **Lina Abyad** (May 12-21 in the Gulbenkian theater). In the words of Mrs. **Abyad**: "Everyone knows one or two Jeha tales; stories read or heard. The character of Nasreddine Hodja travelled through the centuries. Legend has it that he was born around 1209 and died in 1284. He was known from Armenia to Mongolia, from the Arab World to some parts of Europe under Islamic rule. My starting point was several books: Jean Louis Maunoury, Jihad Darwish, Leonardo Sciascia, Idries Shah, Jean Dejeux, Inea Bushnaq. Of hundreds of tales, I had to make a choice. First, I selected around 100 and then narrowed down to 30. The production was modelled on the commedia dell arte: Each tale of Nasreddine was considered a synopsis that actors developed through improvisations. The next task was to find a structure in which these diverse tales could hold their own in a logical and credible way. The scenography represents a space



freely inspired by Islamic-Arab architecture. The Oriental costumes are of both North African and Middle Eastern inspiration. The play begins as Jeha wanders about at night searching for his favourite sweets – the halva. Then it continues throughout the day, unfolding as does his own life, at the end of which, he passes on, just like any other mortal. But his legend lives on. The show is a double tribute: one to this character who is facetious, naïve and a philosopher whose subversive spirit stood up to the Tartar invader Timur Lenk, and another to two great comedians whose characters are reminiscent of Jeha: Chouchou and Nabih Abou El Hosn.” The artistic team was led by Director **Lina Abyad** and Production Manager **Hala Masri**. The cast consisted of 26 actors and around 50 student crewmembers.

**Dima Dabbous-Sensenig** published a chapter (Arabic and English versions) entitled “Rule of Law: Media in Lebanon,” in *The Media in Arab Countries: Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, and Egypt*. The volume is edited by IFES and ACRLI (the Arab Center For the Rule of Law and Integrity) (Beirut, 2006). Dr. **Dabbous-Sensenig** also had a chapter entitled “Ahead of the Bandwagon: Lebanon’s Free Media Market” in the book *Trading Culture: Exploring the ‘Indigenous’ and the ‘Exportable’ in Film and Television Culture* (London, 2006).

**Dima Dabbous-Sensenig** published an article in the special issue on “Media and Religion” of *The Westminster Papers for Communication and Culture* (WPCC) 3 (2) 2006, 60-85. This journal is published by

the University of Westminster (London). In her article, “To Veil or not to Veil: Gender and Religion on Al-Jazeera’s ‘Islamic Law and Life’,” Dr. **Dabbous-Sensenig** studies the limits of Muslim religious interpretations of women’s issues on Al-Jazeera’s talk shows, applying a linguistic approach (Halliday’s systematic-functional grammar and critical discourse analysis) to the study of media texts.

In the first half of the year, **Dima Dabbous-Sensenig** presented several papers at local conferences: “GATS, Deregulation and Diversity: Is Media Privatization Promoting Cultural Pluralism in the Arab World?” at the Heinrich Boll Foundation conference on “Negotiating Diversity: Challenges for Cultural Expression and Policies in the Corporate Era” (Beirut, May 11-13); “Higher Education and the Political Empowerment of Women” at the conference on “How to Empower Women in Politics” organized by the Committee for Involving Women in National Decision Making at the UNESCO Palace (Beirut, May 23-24 and “A Space for Dissent? Gender in Al-Jazeera’s Religious Programming” at the panel on “Gender & Religious Communities” during the “2nd World Congress for Middle Eastern Studies (WOCMES)” (June 11-16).

During the summer war, the BBC World Service interviewed Dr. **Dabbous-Sensenig** for its “News Hour” radio program on July 31. She discussed Lebanese media coverage of the war and especially the ways in which Lebanese coverage differed from Western and Israeli media coverage.

4  
Dima Dabbous-Sensenig  
(R) at the Orient  
Institut–Beirut



1-2  
Acting workshop

Most recently, Dr. **Dabbous-Sensenig** presented her paper “The Parameters of the Possible: Cultural Limits of Criticism Within Religious Programming in the Arab Media” at the conference on “Public Opinion and the Media between Europe and the Middle East” at the Orient Institut–Beirut, November 15-17.

Under the direction of **Ruth Maalouf**, coordinator of **Graphic Design** (Byblos), eight Graphic Design students participated in the Kitabat Conference held at the American University in Dubai. We proudly announce that two of our students’ projects were selected among international entries to be exhibited during the conference: Tony Mounayer’s piece “East Meets West” (supervised by **Ruth Maalouf**) and **Hiba Boudai**’s work on Arabic calligraphy (supervised by **Randa el Baki**). Bravo for the students and their professors!

The **Arts & Communication Division** (Beirut) sponsored two multi-session workshops for its students during the month of December. Visual artist Jan Ackenhausen conducted a scenography workshop in Sheikh Zayed Gallery. And Fulbright scholar Hadi Tabbal directed an acting workshop entitled “Workshop in Acting, How to Approach Monologue or Scene Work” in Irwin theater.



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## Education & Social Science

**Fawwaz Traboulsi** was invited to lecture on “Sectarianism, Mobilization and Elite Formation” by the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences at AUB, on January 5.

**Irma-Kaarina Ghosn** delivered her paper “Young Learners Developing Foreign Language Literacy: Voices from the Classroom” at the annual conference of the International Association of Teachers of English as a Foreign Language (IATEFL) which was held in Harrogate, UK (*Proceedings* in press). Dr. **Ghosn** also published a chapter, “The Power of Words in Transforming Conflict,” in *Additional Peace Lessons from around the World*, The Hague Appeal for Peace. <http://www.haguepeace.org>

**Irma-Kaarina Ghosn** published a chapter entitled “Output like Input: Influence of Children’s Literature on Young L2 Learners’ Written Expression,” in *Language Acquisition and Development* (ed. B. Tomlinson; London, 2006). Dr. **Ghosn** also presented her paper “Young Learners Developing Foreign Language Literacy: Voices from the Classroom” at the “International Annual IATEFL Conference” in Harrogate, UK (April).

**Hassan Hammoud** was invited by the UN/NGO Committee to participate in the celebration of the “16th Annual United Nations International Day of Older Persons (IDOP)” (New York, October 5). The theme was “Improving the Quality of Life for Older Persons: Advancing UN Global Strategies. Dr. **Hammoud** represented the Arab region. Unable to address the audience at the UN Headquarters in person, he delegated his daughter Maya Hammoud (LAU alumna, 2005) to

deliver his paper to 400 UN experts and local NGOs representatives. The paper dealt with the recent achievements of Arab countries in the implementation of the international strategy for older persons and the challenges they face, and concluded with a set of priorities that need to be adopted for the implementation of the Arab Plan of Action on Ageing to the year 2012, and the International Plan of Action on Ageing 2020.

**Huda Ayyash-Abdo** published the entry “Adolescence in Lebanon” in the *Routledge International Encyclopedia of Adolescence* (vol. II, 583-590). Dr. **Ayyash-Abdo** was also invited to participate in the “Global Congress on Mental Health,” which took place in New Delhi (October) and which was sponsored by the National Board of Certified Counselors-International, on whose board Dr. **Ayyash-Abdo** has been serving for the past two years.

In an effort to gauge current political developments in Lebanon, students of a “Research Methodology and Political Analysis” class conducted an opinion survey among 300 Lebanese citizens, of all major sects, throughout December 2006 and January 2007. The survey was supervised by **Imad Salamey** and **Paul Tabar** and sponsored by the **Department of Political Science and International Affairs**. Students received training prior to the interviews. They processed the collected information and executed statistical analyses. The results were published in *An-Nahar* in a three-part series, each examining a topic pertaining to the current political impasse in the country. Afterward, students were presented with an Achievement Award in a graduation ceremony.

3  
Huda Ayyash-Abdo in India

4  
Huda Ayyash-Abdo and Mrs. Fulbright

5  
Paul Tabar (m) handing out an Achievement Award



1 Nabila Haraty (2<sup>nd</sup> row, M) with English faculty



2 Bassam Lahoud (L) and Sun Jia Zheng, Minister of Culture of the PRC



3 The opening of the Arab Arts Festival with the Lebanese folk dance group of Fahd El Abdallah and their Chinese colleagues.

## Humanities

**Nabelah Haraty** had the innovative idea of introducing proper debating techniques to her “Fundamentals of Oral Communication” classes last fall semester. Via her contacts in England, including the English Speaking Union in London, she managed to bring two young but highly qualified debaters to the **Humanities Division** (Beirut), January 16-20. Ushman Ahmed is former President of the British Debating Union and a high-scoring participant in national and international debating championships. Fraser Campbell, who studied law in Oxford, Leiden and London, was President of the Oxford Union, a European Debating Champion and a first prize-winner in the national Times Law Awards before graduation. He has represented both the English Speaking Union and Oxford University on debating tours around the world. And these high-caliber role-models worked for several days with around 175 students from the **Humanities Division** and with 22 students from the **Education Division!** Not surprisingly, our students were very enthusiastic and participated appreciatively.

**Nabelah Haraty, Humanities Division** (Beirut), also prepped six Oral Communication students in order to participate in the national Speech Competition that was held at Balamand University, April 1, on the theme “Mapping the Global Future.” Ultimately, Nour Jaber and Dana El Zein were selected to represent LAU.

Mozart’s 250th birthday was celebrated at the **School of Arts & Sciences** (Byblos) in collaboration with the Lebanese National Higher Conservatory of Music on March 31 in a concert organized by **Joseph F. Khalife**. The large audience of music-lovers included President

**Joseph Jabbra**, Dean **Fuad Hashwa**, and Dr. Walid Gholmieh, President of the Lebanese National Higher Conservatory of Music. Zsolt Szigeti (clarinet), Ondin Brezeanu (violin 1), Anna Kharazyan (violin 2), Timea Szeles (viola), Roman Storojeco (cello), Olga Bolun (piano) and soloist Ghada Ghanem performed, among other works, “Pamina’s Aria” from *The Magic Flute*, “Cherubino’s Aria” and the “Contessa Aria” from *Nozze di Figaro*, “AveVerum Corpus,” “Exultate” and “Jubilate.”

**Bassam Lahoud** was invited by the Embassy of the People’s Republic of China and its Ministry of Culture to attend the forum of Arab and Chinese Ministers of Culture during the festival of the Arabic Arts held in Beijing and Nanjing, June 21-30.

**Bassam Lahoud** was nominated for the 4th consecutive year to chair the ESCWA Arts Council at the UN for 2007.

Said Akl was honored with an evening of music and dance at LAU Byblos on June 27. The event was organized by **Joseph F. Khalife**. President **Joseph Jabbra**, Dean **Fuad Hashwa**, and Mr. **Henri Zgheib**, master of ceremonies, welcomed an enthusiastic audience. Musical selections of Mr. Elias Rahbani, the Rahbani Brothers, **Joseph F. Khalife** and Mansour Labaki as well as some successful choreographic numbers (choreography by Ms. **Nadra Assaf**) delighted the audience, and not in the least Mr. Akl himself.

**Victor Khachan** read his paper “Information Loss in



Diglossic Interpreting in the Lebanese Courtroom” at the “International Conference on Forensic Linguistics, Computational Linguistics and Law: Law, Language and Society” which was organized by the Institute of Linguistics at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan (September 27-29, 2006).

**Jay Gupta**’s article “Humanism, Islamism, and Nietzsche’s Critique of Reason” was accepted for publication in *Telos: A Quarterly Journal of Critical Thought*. And on December 29, Dr. **Gupta** presented a commentary responsive to Kenley Royce Dove’s paper “The Plot of Hegel’s *Phenomenology of Spirit*” to the Society for Systematic Philosophy in the context of the “Eastern Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association,” which was held at the Marriott Hotel in Washington, DC. Dr. **Gupta**’s intervention was entitled “Hegel’s *Phenomenology*: Tragedy or Theater of the Absurd?”

**Richard Khuri** travelled to Istanbul for a conference on civilizations and world order, May 12-14. His paper, called “Towards a Sustainable World Order: Outline of a Philosophy of Religious Pluralism and Tolerance” will be published in a forthcoming book. Dr. **Khuri** also travelled to Salt Lake City for the annual MECA (Middle East Central Asia) conference, September 8-10. He gave two presentations in Utah: “The Psychological and Metaphysical Dimensions of the Confrontation between Israel and Lebanese Shi’ites,” and “Actual and Creative Conceptual Evolution in Relation to State and Society in Islam.” On October 5, Dr. **Khuri** read a paper at the Catholic University of America, Washington, DC,

entitled “Syncretism and Exclusivism in Relation to the Historical and Metaphysical Ground for Cultural and Religious Pluralism” (publication forthcoming). In November he represented LAU on World Philosophy Day (UN sponsored, through UNESCO) at the Bristol Hotel in Beirut. Last but not least, Dr. **Khuri** accepted an invitation by the Templeton Foundation’s local representatives to become involved in their Middle East Initiative for the promotion of dialogue between science and religion as part of a worldwide project by the TF to promote such dialogue.

Christmas was celebrated by a magical evening of music and dance at LAU Byblos on December 18. The event was organized by **Joseph F. Khalife** and **Nadra Assaf**. Officials, faculty and staff from LAU and the community shared the spirit of Christmas which came alive with the talented performers which included a children’s choir.

Choir master **Leila Dabaghi** and the LAU Beirut Choir staged two major performances in 2006. The spring concert took place May 23 and 24 in Irwin Auditorium, featuring works by Haydn, Mozart, Schubert, Brahms, Gershwin and others. For the annual Christmas concert, December 16-21, Irwin Auditorium was decked in the traditional red and green. A varied program including works by Praetorius, Händel, J.S. Bach and Mendelssohn as well as more recent songs and traditionals from various cultures delighted the audience.

<sup>4</sup> Said Akl (L) and LAU President Dr. Jabbra (R)

<sup>5</sup> Leila Dabaghi directing the Beirut Christmas choir

**Sanaa Sharafeddine** published "Optimal IP Network Dimensioning for Stream-Type Traffic Using Probabilistic Delay Constraints" in *Elsevier International Journal of Electronics and Communications* 60 (1) 2006 and "Dimensioning Token Bucket Policers for Various Voice-over-IP Applications Using Real-Scenario Measurements" in the *International Journal of Computers and Applications* 28 (4) 2006.

**Chadi Nour** had two articles "Semigeodesics and the Minimal Time Function" in *ESAIM: Control, Optimisation and Calculus of Variations* 12 (January 2006), 120-138, and "The Bilateral Minimal Time Function" in *Journal of Convex Analysis* 3 (1) 2006, 61-80.

Dr. **Chadi Nour** was also active on the conference and workshop circuit with "Applications of Mathematics in Computer Science: Examples" in the National Workshop "Vers un Masters en Mathématiques et Applications" (May 27 at the Tripoli branch of the Lebanese University), and with "The H-J Equation of the Minimal Time Function: the Constant Dynamic Case" in the "Louisiana Workshop on Mathematical Control Theory (MCT'06)", in Baton-Rouge, May 16-25. Shortly thereafter, Dr. **Nour** presented two papers in Europe: "Existence of Solution to a Global Eikonal Equation" at the "Conference on Geometric Control and Non-smooth Analysis, on the Occasion of the 73rd Birthday of H. Hermes and of the 71st Birthday of R.T. Rockafellar" in Rome, June 5-9, followed by "The H-J Equation of the Minimal Time Function: the Constant Dynamic Case" at the "AIMS 6th International Conference on Dynamic Systems, Differential Equations and Applications" held in Poitiers June 25 – 28.

**Faisal Abu-Khzam**, co-published "Scalable Parallel Algorithms for FPT Problems" in *Algorithmica* 45 (2006) 269-284. He participated in several conferences in Lebanon, Europe and the USA. In February, he participated in the "12th SIAM Conference on Parallel Processing for Scientific Computing" in San Francisco with the co-authored paper "Scalable Graph-Theoretical Approaches to Biological Network Analysis."

On May 12, **Faisal Abu-Khzam** spoke on "The Power of Pre-processing and Re-Pre-processing in Fixed-Parameter Algorithms" at the workshop on "Research Topics in Computer Science" at Notre Dame University (Shouf), a lengthier version of which was accepted for publication by *Theory of Computing Systems*. Finally, Dr. **Abu-Khzam** participated in the "Cologne-Twente Workshop on Graphs

and Combinatorial Optimization (CTW)" in Cologne (June) with the paper "Parameterized Algorithms for Finding Small Independent Dominating Sets in Planar Graphs" (*Proceedings*) and also published in *Electronic Notes in Discrete Mathematics* 25 (2006) 1–6.

Following the summer, **Faisal Abu-Khzam** participated with the paper "Kernels: Annotated, Proper and Induced" in the "2nd International Workshop on Parameterized and Exact Computations (IWPEC 2006)" in Zürich (September 13-15). (*Lecture Notes in Computer Science* [LNCS 4169] [Springer 2006, 264-275]).

Finally, Dr. **Abu-Khzam** participated in a grant proposal that was approved by the FY2007 Laboratory Directed Research and Development (LDRD) at Oak Ridge National Lab (ORNL). The project title is: "Modeling Cellular Mechanisms for Efficient Bioethanol Production through Petascale Comparative Analysis of Biological Networks."

Throughout 2006, **Iman Osta** was a member of the scientific organizing committee of the international conference "EMF 2006," which took place in Sherbrooke, Canada, in May. Dr. **Osta** also presented a paper at this conference: «Représentations d'enseignants du complémentaire sur une réforme du curriculum de mathématiques: Réflexion en vue du développement professionnel» (in the *Proceedings*). In March, Dr. **Osta** presented two workshops for mathematics teachers in the context of the yearly workshops organized by the **Teacher Training Institute** at LAU.

Dr. **Osta** also participated in the "15th Educational Conference for the Private Schools' Cultural and Educational Council," in Amman, May 5-7, with a lecture entitled "Strategies for Enhancing Mathematical Understanding" and with two workshops for math teachers.

**Danielle Azar** was second co-author of the paper "Belief Selection in Point-based Planning Algorithms for POMDPs," given at the "Canadian Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AI06)" in Quebec (June 2006) (*Proceedings*).

**Samer Habre** co-authored the paper "Student's Dependence on Calculators in a Freshman Level Basic Mathematics Course," which was presented at the "3rd International Conference on the Teaching of Mathematics" (June 30 – July 5) in Istanbul. (*Proceedings*).

During the first quarter of the year 2006, **Samer Habre** was hired by the publishing firm Prentice Hall to perform an accuracy check of text, examples, exercises, and solutions for the book *Differential Equations and Linear Algebra*, second edition, by Farlow, Hall, McDill, and West.

**May Hamdan's** paper "Equivalent Structures on Sets: Equivalence Classes, Partitions, and Fiber Structures of Functions" was published in *Educational Studies in Mathematics* 62 (2006) 127-147.

**Nashat Mansour** co-published "Testing Web Applications" in *Information and Software Technology* 48 (1) 2006, 31-42 and "Weblins: A Scalable WWW Cluster-based Server" in *Advances in Engineering Software* 37 (1) 11-19. Dr. **Mansour** also co-authored "Regression Testing Web Services based Applications" at the international ACS/IEEE conference on "Computer Systems and Applications" in Sharjah, March 8-11. Furthermore, Dr. **Mansour** served on the scientific committees of two major conferences in March, in Lisbon and Dubai. Dr. **Mansour** was invited to join the UN-ESCWA Consultative Committee on Scientific and Technological Development and Technological Innovation and was elected President of the Arab Computer Society for 2006-2008. In August-September, Dr. **Mansour** was a visiting researcher at the School of Information Technology at Sydney University.

Dr. **Mansour** refereed for the journals *Information and Software Technology* and *International Journal on Very Large Databases* and for several international conferences (Lisbon, March) and Tunisia, December). He also received a grant from the National Council for Scientific Research to conduct research work on "Evolutionary algorithm for scheduling final exams."

**Haidar Harmanani** co-authored "Power-Constrained System-on-a-Chip Test Scheduling Using a Genetic Algorithm" in *Journal of Circuits, Systems and Computers* 15 (3) 2006. Dr. **Harmanani** also co-published "A Rule-Based Extensible Stemmer for Information Retrieval with Application to Arabic" in *The International Arab Journal of Information Technology* 2 (3) 2006. **Haidar Harmanani** co-presented "A Method for the Minimum Coloring Problem Using Genetic Algorithms" at the "17th IASTED International Conference on Modeling and Simulation", in Montreal, May 24-26 (in the *Proceedings*) and "On Power-Constrained System-On-Chip Test Scheduling Using

Precedence Relationships" at the "4th IEEE NEWCAS Conference 3 (NEWCAS 2006)" in Ottawa (in the *Proceedings*).

**Ramzi Haraty** published "Towards A Temporal Multilevel Secure Relational Model" in the *Journal of Computer Science* 2 (1); "A Comparative Study of RSA-based Digital Signature Algorithms" in the *Journal of Mathematics and Statistics* 2 (1); "Regression Test Selection for Trusted Database Applications" in *International Arab Journal of Information Technology* 3 (4); and "A Temporal Multilevel Secure Relational Model" in *Journal of Computer Science* 2 (1). Dr. **Haraty** also published a chapter "Kernelized Database Systems Security" in the *Encyclopedia of Database Technologies and Applications* (Idea Group Publishing, 2006).

In February, Dr. **Haraty** travelled to Innsbruck to present "Towards a New Visual Language for GIS" at the "IASTED Database Applications" conference. In Paphos he read his paper "An Evaluation of a Visual Query Language for Information Systems" at the "International Conference on Enterprise Information Systems (ICEIS 2006)" in May (*Proceedings*). In July, Dr. **Haraty** presented at three different conferences in Budapest the following papers: "SDDSR: Sequence Driven Dynamic Source Routing for Ad Hoc Mobile Networks", "Improving the Secure Socket Layer by Modifying its Authentication Function" and "A Comparative Study of El Gamal Based Digital Signature Algorithms." November saw Dr. **Haraty** in Las Vegas, where he presented "Securing Wireless Networks with Enhanced WEP" at the "19th International Conference on Computer Applications in Industry and Engineering" (in the *Proceedings*). At the same conference, Dr. **Haraty's** student Hamzeh Al-Shaar presented their co-authored paper "Three Poled Model for Web Applications" (in the *Proceedings*.)

**Ramzi Haraty** also served in 2006 as a member of a large number of program committees and editorial boards including the *International Arab Journal of Information Technology*, the Program Committee of the International Business Information Management Association and the Program Committee of the *Encyclopedia of Database Technologies and Applications*. He received a research grant for "A Policy-Driven Security Protocol for Safeguarding Transactional and Fixed-Content Entities in the Banking and Healthcare Sectors" from the Lebanese NCSR.



1  
Ramzi Haraty in Las Vegas



## Natural Science

1  
Ahmad inside the Larderello geothermal power station

2  
Ahmad at the Larderello geothermal site

**Samira I. Korfali** and **M. Jurdi** published the article "Variation of metals in bed sediments of Qaraaoun Reservoir, Lebanon" in *Environmental Monitoring and Assessment* 115 (2006) 307-319.

Dr. **Korfali** also traveled to Bratislava in the Slovak Republic to present a paper entitled "Domestic Water Supplies: Quality due to External and Internal Factors" at the "24th European Conference of the Society for Environmental Geochemistry and Health" which was devoted to the theme "Geological Survey of Slovak Republic" (April 24-26). While in Bratislava, she profited from her stay to participate in a field-workshop on April 25, including a visit to the Gabčicovo dam and the Gabčicovo hydropower plant on the Danube River. Some of the problems studied were how the Danube river was modified in the Slovak Republic to overcome flooding and to promote navigability, water quality enhancement and the ecological protection of the surrounding area.

Dr. **Korfali** was selected by several international journals to review submitted manuscripts, namely "Assessment of the Chemical Components of Famenin Groundwater, Western Iran" for *Environmental Geochemistry and Health Journal* (Springer Publishers) and "Remediation of the Old Sharjah Landfill: A Case Study" for *Journal of Environmental Management* (Elsevier Publishers).

**George Baroody** as advisor and the Byblos **Biology** Labs scored a hit when LAU MSc. Graduate Mark Karam passed his oral Ph.D. exams with high honors

in a collaborative arrangement with the University of Surrey, February 10. The title of Dr. Karam's thesis is "The Role of Cytokines in Regulation of Hyperalgesia and Disease Progression in Lishmania Major Infection." The external examiner, Professor J. Alexander, was especially impressed with the part of the research done at the LAU **Biology** Labs. In fact, a chapter of the thesis had already been accepted for publication in January in the *Journal of Experimental Parasitology*.

Dr. **Georges Baroody**, with M. Karam and others, published the paper "Interleukin-10 reduces hyperalgesia and the level of Interleukin-1B in Balb/c mice infected with Leishmania major...." in the *Journal of Neuroimmunology* 183 (2007) 43-49.

**Ahmad Kabbani** published in the *Bulletin of Electrochemistry and Thermodynamics* 22 (2) 2006, 81-96, an article entitled "Electrochemical decomposition of some azo dyes-kinetics." Dr **Kabbani** also had a paper accepted for publication in the *Chemical and Pharmaceutical Bulletin*, entitled "Preparation and Antibacterial Activity of Copper and Cobalt Complexes of 4-chloro-3-nitrobenzoate with a Nitrogen Donor Ligand."

**Ahmad Hour**i was the author of the following journal papers: "Solar Water Heating in Lebanon: Current Status and Future Prospects" in *Renewable Energy* (31) 2006, 663-675; "Prospects and Challenges of Using Hydropower for Electricity Generation in Lebanon" in *Renewable Energy* 31(11) 2006, 1686-



3



4

1697; "Factors Affecting Environmental Knowledge and Attitudes among Lebanese College Students" (with **Ahmad Oweini**) in *Applied Environmental Education and Communication* 5(2) 2006, 95-105; and "Behavior Patterns of the Pine Processionary Moth *Thaumetopoea wilkinsoni*, Tams; Lepidoptera: Thaumetopoeidae" (with Dany Doughan) in *American Journal of Agriculture and Biological Sciences* 1 (1) 2006, 1-5.

Dr. **Houri** served on the international advisory committee of the "World Renewable Energy and Environment Conference WREEC2006" that took place January 22-24 in Tripoli, Lybia.

Dr. **Houri** participated in the "National Workshop on Energy and Global Change" organized by Green Line on June 3 at the Sea Rock Hotel, Beirut. He also presented the paper "Wind Energy Global Status and Potential Applications in Lebanon" at the "2nd Energy Week: Energy Savings and Renewable Energy" conference organized by the Order of Engineers, June 13-15, in Beirut.

August 19-25 saw Dr. **Houri** in Florence, where he participated in the "World Renewable Energy Congress IX" with his paper "Impact of Rising Fossil Fuel Prices on the Use of Solar Thermal Collectors in Lebanon" (in the *Proceedings*, p. 221). He served on the Solar Thermal Technical Committee of this conference. Dr. **Houri** made use of his Italian trip to visit the most important geothermal site for generating electricity in the world, in Larderello. In Beirut, November

7-8, Dr. **Houri** was an invited guest of honor to "The Annual Arab Banking Conference 2006" on the theme: "Reconstruction of Lebanon: Investment in the Future of the Arab World" (Phoenicia Intercontinental Hotel). Finally, **Ahmad Hour** was first co-author, with Hussein Abbas and Abbas Abdallah, of the paper "The Role of Natural Reserves in Awareness Raising and Biodiversity Conservation" that was presented by Mr. Abdallah at the "International Conference on Environment 2006 (ICENV2006)" in Penang, Malaysia, November 13-15 (in the *Proceedings*, p. 85).

3  
Ahmad Hour in Florence

4  
Overlooking Florence and the Po river



## School of Business

**Mona Khalaf** was appointed in July 2006 to the Advisory Committee of the Gender Economic Research and Policy Analysis (GERPA) Initiative. Dr. M. Nabli from the World Bank wrote in this context that "This new initiative has been launched by the World Bank with the objective to broaden the coverage and the quality of policy-based research that affects gender-related issues in the Middle East and North Africa. The outcome of the research is mainly targeted toward decision-makers who need to be better informed about the impact of economic reform on gender equality and women's empowerment." It is worth mentioning that two of Mrs. **Khalaf's** colleagues on this committee are Nobel prize laureates! Consequent to her appointment, Mrs. **Khalaf** attended the "Economic Research Forum Conference" held in Kuwait (December 16-18) and in parallel the Advisory Board meeting of the Gender Economic Research and Policy Analysis Initiative (GERPA).

In the fall, **Mona Khalaf** travelled twice to New York for international roundtables. On October 12-13, the purpose of the roundtable "Re-Imagining Women's Security" at the United Nations University was to present the results of a comparative study carried out in South Africa, Northern Ireland and Lebanon (three countries that had witnessed civil strife). She presented a paper entitled "Women's Empowerment and Peace Agreements: the Lebanese Case." November 10 marked the 60th anniversary of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). The roundtable at the United Nations headquarters was chaired by the President of the UN General Assembly H.E. Sheikha

Haya Rashed Al Khalifa, with an opening statement by UN Secretary General Mr Kofi Anan. The title of Mrs. **Khalaf's** intervention was "The Role of Academic Institutions in the Implementation of the CSW's Resolutions."

**Renee Ghattas** presented two papers during 2006. In July, she travelled to England to participate in the "5th Global Conference on Business and Economics" at Cambridge University with a paper entitled "The Role of Higher Education in Lebanon in Bridging the Divide between the Middle East and the West: Framework for Curriculum Management." And in October, she presented her paper "Father, Daughter and Grandchildren: The Growth and Survival of a Family Business" at the "6th Global Conference on Business and Economics," which took place this time at Harvard University, Boston.

**Silva Karkoulian** and **Leila Halawi** co-authored the paper "Assessing Knowledge Management Implementation at two Major Lebanese American Universities," which Ms. **Karkoulian** presented at the "7th European Conference on Knowledge Management" at Corvinus University, Budapest (4-5 September; in the *Proceedings* 720-725).

**Leila Halawi** and **Silva Karkoulian** published their paper entitled "Ethical Attitudes of Business Information Systems Students: An Empirical Investigation" in *Issues in Information Systems* 1 (1) 2006, 175-178. And with MBA graduate assistant Yasmine Osman, **Silva Karkoulian** co-authored the

<sup>1</sup> Dr. Gary Becker, Nobel Laureate in Economics of 1992 with Mona Khalaf during the Kuwait meeting

<sup>2</sup> Conference on "Re-Imagining Women's Security," held at the United Nations University (Mona Khalaf, sitting L)



paper “The Effect of French and Raven Power on Knowledge Acquisition, Knowledge Creation and Knowledge Sharing: An Empirical Investigation in Lebanese Organizations,” which she presented at the “6th Global Conference on Business and Economics” held at Harvard University, Boston (October 15-17; in the online *Proceedings*).

At the invitation of the Union of Arab Banks, **Michel Majdalani** presented a four-day investment banking seminar in Kuwait City in November. His “Wealth Management Seminar” was attended by 15 banking professionals from the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Sudan, Qatar and Kuwait.



3  
Mona Khalaf at the UN

4  
Michel Majdalani (M) in Kuwait

5  
Silva Karkouljian (R) enjoying the conference in Budapest

6  
(L-R) Silva Karkouljian, Renee Ghattas and an MB graduate student at Harvard University

7  
Silva Karkouljian at the Gibran Khalil Gibran monument in Boston



## School of Engineering & Architecture

1  
Tony Lahoud in Firenze

2  
The Vitra museum in  
Wheil am Rhein

3  
LAU architecture and  
design students in front  
of the renowned  
Bauhaus, Dessau

The **Department of Architecture & Design**, in cooperation with El-Mina Municipality, organized an exhibition of Research and Urban Design students's projects 2004-2005 at Beit El-Fan (El-Mina). The exhibition ran from April 1 to April 7. **Maroun El-Daccache**, Chairperson of the Department, wrote that "in the face of the new trend of cultural globalization and internationalism, which is occurring in all Lebanese cities as well as elsewhere on the Mediterranean coast, and in front of the urbanization of the cities and the break between the different urban components and functions, we believe that the collaboration between the academic research and the municipalities becomes more essential for the development of urban research and our cities." The projects exhibited combined economic, cultural and social functions, including a fish market, a youth hostel, cemeteries and a harbor station.

**George E. Nasr, Ghassan Dibeh and Mazen Abdallah** participated with their paper "Modelling Exchange Rates during Currency Crisis using Neural Networks" in the "IASTED International Conference on Applied Simulation and Modelling – ASM 2006," which was held in Rhodes in June (in the *Proceedings*).

**Samer S. Saab**, with Zaher Kassas, published "Power Matching Approach for GPS Coverage Extension" in the *IEEE Transactions on Intelligent Transportation Systems* 7 (2) 2006, 156-166. Another article by Dr. **Saab**, "Optimality of First Order ILC among Higher Order ILC," appeared in the *IEEE*

*Transactions on Automatic Control* 51 (8) 2006.

In 2006, Dr. **Saab** served as associate editor for the 2006 American Control Conference and as associate editor of the journal *IEEE Transactions on Control Systems Technology*. He is also a member of the *IEEE Control Systems Society Conference* editorial board.

**Camille Issa**, with Anthony Sfeir, participated in the "Structural Faults and Repair 2006 Conference" which was held in Edinburgh, June 13-15, with the paper "An Experimental Study of CFRP Strengthening of Plain Concrete Beams." Dr. **Issa**, with Antoine Nasr, also published the article "Experimental Study of Welded Splices for Reinforcing Bars" in *Journal of Building and Environment* 41 (10) 2006, 1394-1405..

**Ghassan Dibeh** published the paper "Target zone dynamics where the fundamental follows a SDE with periodic forcing" in *Physica A: Statistical Mechanics and its Applications* 363 (2) 2006, 437-445.

Dr. **Dibeh** presented "Designing Stable Global Financial Architectures" at the "ANND/UNDP Workshop on Financing for Equity and Development" in Beirut, March 12. Later in the semester, Dr. **Dibeh** travelled to Europe to deliver several papers. He presented the paper "Foreign Aid and Economic Development in Post-war Lebanon" at the "UNU-WIDER Conference on Aid: Principles, Policies and Performance" which was held June 16-17 in Helsinki. From Finland, he took off to Italy to lecture on "Contagion Effects in a Chartist-Fundamentalist



Model with Time Delays” at the “5th International Conference on Applications of Physics in Financial Analysis” (APFA5), June 29-July 1, in Turin. Dr.

**Dibeh**'s European tour ended in Germany, where he gave a seminar entitled “Noisy Systems in Financial Modeling” at the Max Planck Institut for the Physics of Complex Systems in Dresden on July 5. The seminar was part of an invitation for participation in a workshop on “Constructive Role of Noise in Complex Systems,” held July 3-8 at the Max Planck Institut.

It is worth mentioning that Dr. **Dibeh** chaired the scientific committee of the “8th International Conference on the Economics and Finance of the Middle East and North Africa” which was held at LAU, May 22-24. (p.6).

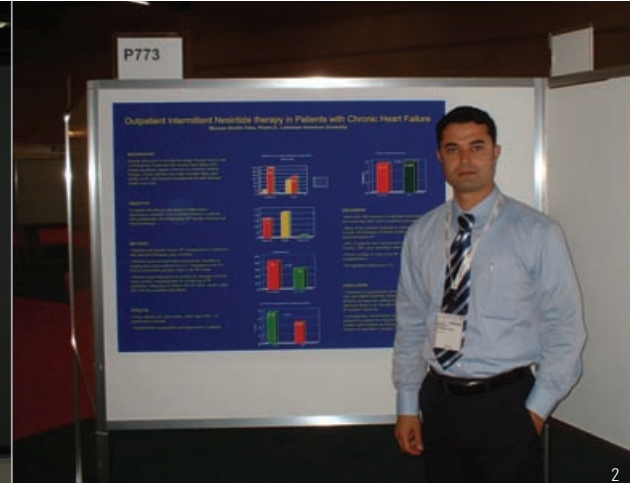
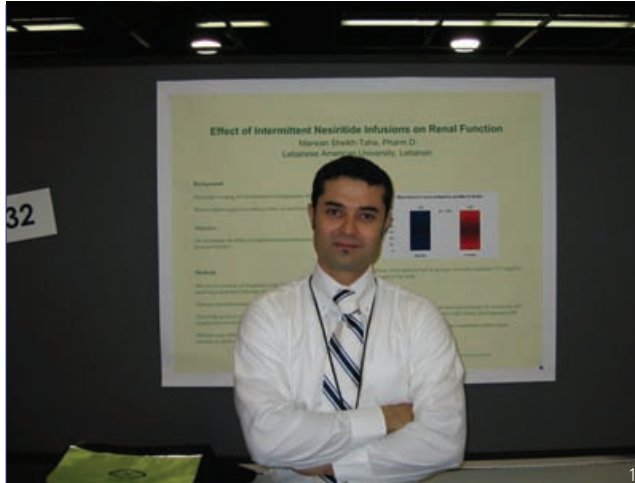
**Tony Lahoud** participated in the “11th International Seminar of Forum UNESCO - University & Heritage” that took place at Universita di Firenze on Sep. 11-15. Mr. **Lahoud** presented a paper entitled “City Growth and History Conflict” under the thematic area: “Documentation for Sustainable Conservation of Built Heritage.”

In September, **Elie Haddad** led a group of architecture and design students on a study tour throughout Germany, from Frankfurt to Berlin. The activity was sponsored by DAAD, the German academic cultural service. In Frankfurt, students toured the city and visited Ernst May’s Workers Housing of the 1920’s. Then on to Stuttgart where the Weissenhof Siedlung still stands as a prime example of a “housing experiment”

in addition to more contemporary works such as the new Mercedes Benz museum. In Wheil am Rhein, students visited the Vitra design company, and then travelled to Dessau for Gropius’ masterpiece, the recently renovated Bauhaus. The trip concluded in Berlin which boasts many magnificent examples of contemporary architecture. The group visited for example the Addition to the Berlin Museum by Daniel Libeskind and the new parliament by Norman Foster.

4  
A bold example of contemporary architecture in Stuttgart

5  
Visiting the Reichstag, Berlin



## School of Pharmacy

1  
Marwan Taha at the ASHP conference in California

**Marwan Taha** participated in the “10th International Conference for Thalassaemia and Haemoglobinopathies” and the 12th International TIF Conference for Thalassaemia Patients & Parents” in Dubai in January with the study “Hydroxyurea Use in b-Thalassaemia Intermediate Lebanese Patients.” At the same conference, he presented his paper “Isolated thrombocytopenia associated with hydroxyurea/deferiprone (L1) therapy in a sickle beta thalassaemia patient.” The latter paper, with S. Koussa and **A. Taher**, has since been published in *Haematologica* 91 (6 Suppl): ECR25 (2006).

At the “National Pharmacy Day: Our Health is Our Priority” conference organized by the Lebanese Order of Pharmacists in February in the Habtoor Hotel in Sin El-Fil, **Oussayma Moukhachin** presented the paper “Role of the Pharmacist in the Prevention and Follow-up of Dyslipidemia.” On the same occasion, **Sarah Dedeyan** presented her paper “Role of the Pharmacist in the Prevention and Follow-up of Diabetic Patients.”

On the occasion of World Health Day, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Lebanese Order of Pharmacists organized the conference “Working together for Health” on June 17. **Oussayma Moukhachin, Sarah Dedeyan** and **Shereen Nabhani** prepared the blueprint for the role of the clinical pharmacist as it should be in Lebanon, “Recommendations for Education Standards for Pharmacy Education in Lebanon.” This was presented at the conference by Dr. **Nabhani**. The WHO repre-

sentatives attending the conference pledged to adopt the recommendations offered. Dr. **Moukhachin** also presented a paper at the conference.

**Marwan Taha** gave a poster presentation on “Safety and Efficacy of Six-month Out-patient Intermittent Nesiritide Infusions” at the “The Heart Failure Congress” organized by the European Society of Cardiology in Helsinki, in June.

On June 28, **Shereen Nabhani** gave a lecture on “Substance Abuse - What is our Role as Pharmacists?” for the Lebanese Order of Pharmacists in the context of the continuing education program for pharmacists.

Dr. **Taha** was invited by Huntsville Hospital in Alabama from July to September for a joint research project on “Bivalirudin Use in Patients undergoing Percutaneous Coronary Intervention.”

**Farid Sadek** and **Shereen Nabhani** attended the annual conference of the American Academy of Colleges of Pharmacists (AACCP) in San Diego, July 8-12. On the closing day of the conference, during the House of Delegates meeting, the **LAU School of Pharmacy** officially received institutional membership in AACCP!

**Abeer Zeitoun** was very active in the relief efforts during the 2006 summer war, in collaboration with teams from the American University Hospital. Several students worked with her, including Samir Sharif,

2  
Marwan Taha presenting in Helsinki



3



4

Rana Abdallah, Mounir Hafi and Rana Ansari. They created the pharmacy seen in the photo (p.24), organized it in a way easy to locate, and prepared essential medication for the mobile clinic. They also visited more than 12 schools to dispense medication and counsel. All this was done under the supervision of Drs. **Hasan Al-Amin** and **Ghassan Hemadah**.

**Hani Chaar**, too, was involved in helping displaced people with medications worth more than \$20,000, in collaboration with the Social Movement, SAMIDUN, and AUB medical personnel. This was made possible by generous contributions from Mr. Halabi, Mr. Tabesh and many others.

In August, **Shereen Nabhani** gave a series of 6 lectures in oncology to Deaconess Medical Center hospital pharmacists (Washington State) as part of the continuing education program.

**Hani Chaar** was second co-author of the paper "Efficacy and safety of rabeprazole, amoxicillin, and gatifloxacin after treatment failure of initial *helicobacter pylori* eradication" in the journal *Helicobacter* 11 (4) 2006, 231-36. Dr. **Chaar's** research paper on "A Randomized Double-Blind Placebo-Controlled Trial of Imipramine in Patients with the Irritable Bowel Syndrome" was selected for the annual meeting of the American College of Gastroenterology in Las Vegas in October 2006. Dr. **Chaar** has already received the ACG/Novartis Motility Abstract Award for this paper.

**Marwan Taha** and **Shereen Nabhani** became board-certified pharmacists after passing the exam in October. Dr. **Taha** is now board-certified in pharmacotherapy (BCPS) and Dr. **Nabhani** in oncology pharmacy (BCOP). Congratulations!

On October 28, Dr. **Nabhani** was invited to give a lecture on "The Role of the Hospital Pharmacist in the Care of Cancer Patients" during "Oncology Day" organized by the international drug company Sanofi-Aventis in Mzaar Intercontinental Hotel.

Research co-authored by **Ali Taher** and **Marwan Taha** was published in the *Journal of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology* 28 (2) 107 (February) under the title "Hydroxyurea Use in Lebanese Patients with [beta]-Thalassemia Intermedia."

In November, the Lebanese Order of Pharmacists organized its 14th annual conference in the Habtoor Grand Hotel. On that occasion, **Oussayma Moukhachin** gave a lecture entitled "Poison for Food, Thoughts for Pharmacists." **Sarah Dedeyan** spoke on "The Role of the Pharmacist in Smoking Cessation." **Shereen Nabhani** presented her research on "Use and Abuse of Anabolic Steroids in Lebanon."

**Shereen Nabhani** and **Sarah Dedeyan** along with NAPHASS students participated in Wellbeing week at Standard Chartered Bank (globally organized in all SC banks in 56 countries), November 26-December 1. Students supervised by the faculty took blood pres-

3  
The LAU Pharmacy delegation at ASHP

4  
Raffi and Yussef at ASHP



1  
The complete LAU delegation at ASHP



2  
The Pharmacy School contributing to relief efforts during the 2006 summer war

sure, blood sugar, cholesterol, triglyceride, weight and body fat composition measurements of all staff members of the Bank and counselled them accordingly. Moreover, lung carbon monoxide measurements were done and staff members were counselled on smoking cessation.

LAU's **School of Pharmacy** was well represented at the Health-System Pharmacists mid-year conference that took place in December in California. Four faculty members and five PharmD students attended, along with 12 LAU graduates. Raffi Vartanian and Yussef Sakr, who represented LAU at the international level competing against 82 other Schools of Pharmacy, won the "local clinical skills" competition. They were coached and accompanied by competition coordinator **Shereen Nabhani**. The other 3 students attended the conference and interviewed with potential employers. As for the faculty, **Marwan Taha** presented two posters on "The Effect of Intermittant Nesiritide Infusions on Renal Function" and "Assessment of the Appropriate Use of Unfractionated Heparin in two Lebanese Hospitals." **Cynthia Abou Jaoude** presented a poster on "Hormone Replacement Therapy: A survey of Lebanese women's awareness and attitudes after the new evidence." **Sarah Dedeyan** presented a poster on "Evaluation of a Collaborative Pharmacist Physician Practice Agreement in Diabetes Management." Finally, **Shereen Nabhani** presented a poster on "Attitudes of the General Public to the Role of the Pharmacist in Lebanon: A National Survey;" she also gave a lecture on "Initiating a

Pharmaceutical Service at an Outreach Clinic in Lebanon." To round off the conference, a reunion dinner brought all attending LAU graduates together. University Programs Manager **Ed Shiner** from LAU's New York office flew in to attend the dinner and meet the alumni.



## Flashes from Centers and Institutes

The **Riyad Nassar Library** was inaugurated on the Beirut Campus in 2006. Our Beirut library has moved several times since its creation in 1934: from the 3rd floor of Sage Hall to an entire upper story in Irwin Hall in the 1960s, to more spacious premises in the Learning Resources Center building in 1997, and finally to the newly constructed **Riyad Nassar Library** in 2006. The new library offers a floor area of 8,000 sq. m.; user-friendly facilities for physically challenged users; a capacity of 350,000 books; 124 computers of which 86 for student use; Online Public Access Catalog (Webview); Federated Search Engine – (ZPortal); furniture that is totally network connected; an electronic Information Classroom; open stacks; all-over ergonomic seating; a wireless environment; four conference rooms; group study areas; and an audiovisual room. Every day, no fewer than 94 staff members are on the job to serve the daily average of 1,500 users: 22 full-time library staff (including 10 professional librarians), 12 part-time staff, and 60 student assistants (employment and financial aid). LAU's collection now includes 224,000 books and other information records in Beirut alone and another 124,000 in Byblos; 1,600 journals and magazines in Beirut and 847 in Byblos; and 76 databases (for both campuses). The **Riyad Nassar Library** furthermore houses five special collections: the Women's Studies Collection: (5,808 books + 3,000 documents), the Children's Book Collection (originally the first children's library in Lebanon) with 11,491 books; the Practice Teaching collection for students majoring in education (4,610 books); the Audio/Visual collection to support instructional activities on campus (4,524

items); and a new collection on Islamic Art and Architecture (with so far 517 books and a number of Islamic artifacts dating back to the 17th century). The library also provides special services such as daily inter-campus borrowing between Beirut and Byblos libraries, interlibrary loans and document delivery services (procuring books, articles and documents not found in Lebanon from anywhere in the world), and tailored and general end-user education sessions.

**Irma-Kaarina Ghosn**, Director of the **Institute for Peace & Justice Education**, was one of six participants from Lebanon invited to Qatar in March for the "Human Rights Culture Conference," which was organized and co-sponsored by the office of the UN High Commissioner of Human Rights, UNDP and the Qatari Government. And in June, Dr. **Ghosn** delivered a workshop on "Human Rights Education in School and University Curricula" for the United States Institute of Peace in Beirut. Professors from Iraqi universities and a representative of the Iraqi Ministry of Education participated in the workshop.

The **Institute for Banking & Finance** offered its 10th summer seminar to business professionals from Lebanon and Jordan on the Byblos campus, June 29-July 6. This year's sessions focused on assets and liability management, strategy-focused organization, effective leadership, and team-building. 80 participants representing banks and corporations as well as many EMBA students attended the seminars directed by Peter Speak (London) and Andy Klein (Chicago). (photos p.26)

3  
Joseph G. Jabbara, Riyad F. Nassar, Tarek Mitri cut the ribbon of the Riyad Nassar Library

4  
Riyad Nassar Library



<sup>1</sup> Peter Speak at the IBAF Summer Seminar



<sup>2</sup> Andy Klein at the IBAF Summer Seminar

**Magda Abu-Fadil** published a chapter entitled "Lebanese Youth and the Media: Social and Political Influences" in *Yearbook 2005/2006: In the Service of Young People? Studies and Reflections on Media in the Digital Age*, edited by Ulla Carlsson and Cecilia von Feilitzen and published by The International Clearinghouse on Children, Youth and Media, Nordicom, at Goteborg University, Sweden.

**Magda Abu-Fadil**, Director of LAU's **Institute for Professional Journalists**, promoted press freedom and called for changes in outdated and unfair Lebanese media laws at a seminar organized by the Lebanese University. She raised questions about freedom to a capacity audience of students, professors and journalists at LU's Faculty of Information & Documentation in Beirut on February 21.

Participants at an investigative journalism workshop at Al Jazeera in Qatar conducted by **IPJ** Director **Magda Abu-Fadil** were briefed on their duties and responsibilities, definitions of that genre of reporting, fact-checking, constraints, ideas to develop into investigative projects, how to obtain documents, case studies, computer-assisted research and reporting, the use of background, and the adding of sound, video, photos and graphics to the mix. The five-day course March 19-23, 2006 involved Al Jazeera bureau chiefs, editors and reporters from across the Arab world and was conducted at the network's Media Training and Development Center in Doha.

Journalists, professors and students across Morocco

attended lectures and workshops on media ethics, press freedom, investigative journalism and computer-assisted research and reporting that featured **IPJ** Director **Abu-Fadil** in April 2006. The tour took off in the Moroccan capital at the Institut Supérieur de l'Information et de la Communication. **Abu-Fadil** also met with print, broadcast and news agency journalists to discuss covering news in a restricted environment. The tour further involved a lecture/presentation on media ethics at Fez University and an online journalism workshop for regional reporters and editors at the city's ETEC institute. The fourth leg of the visit took her to the mountain region of Ifran where she conducted a workshop in investigative journalism for reporters and editors at Al Akhawayn University. Finally, the **IPJ** Director conducted a workshop in investigative journalism for reporters in the Meknes region and returned to Rabat to participate in a conference entitled "La Presse en Débat" at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes de Management.

Nine junior editors/reporters of the Kuwait News Agency's English service underwent tough training in news writing and reporting during a five-day workshop at KUNA headquarters in May, courtesy of LAU's **Institute for Professional Journalists**. They learned about news values, tools of the trade, story structure, grammar and punctuation, feature writing for news agencies, computer-assisted reporting, media ethics, attribution, accuracy and balance. In addition, 10 editors/reporters of the Kuwait News Agency's Arabic service were put through the mill during an **IPJ** organized workshop in Beirut in June. UPI



Middle East bureau chief Dalal Saoud, LBCI TV senior correspondent Tania Mehanna, AFP correspondent Nayla Razzouk and *An-Nahar* columnist/editor Sahar Baasiri trained the journalists alongside **IPJ** Director **Abu-Fadil** and Dr. **Mahmoud Tarabay** (LAU/LU). The editors visited LBCI TV headquarters in Adma, north of Beirut, and toured Lebanon’s key Arabic-language daily, *An-Nahar*.

**IPJ** Director **Magda Abu-Fadil** gave a presentation on "Online Journalism" to 55 Arab high school students participating in a Beirut workshop on "Media & Youth" focusing on UNESCO partnership with young people. The event, organized by UNESCO and Lebanon’s National UNESCO Committee took place on May 12-13; it featured journalists and media figures, academicians, politicians and members of NGOs. **Abu-Fadil** also conducted three workshops at *An-Nahar* newspaper.

**Magda Abu-Fadil** Speaks on Capitol Hill! The Director of LAU’s **Institute for Professional Journalists** addressed members of Congress, legislative staffers, federal government officials and Arab-American leaders in September, urging them to help Lebanon rebuild following Israel’s 33-day summer onslaught on the country. She spoke about being evacuated in July from Lebanon during Israel’s war with Hezbollah before a capacity audience on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. The testimony of several evacuees was part of the Arab-American Institute Foundation’s National Leadership Conference entitled "Healing the Nation: An Arab-American Agenda for



Security, Liberty and Peace." The conference grouped Arab-American national leaders with political and policy experts and served as a forum for Arab-American action in the November 2006 elections.

The **Institute for Professional Journalists** resumed its work following the summer war hiatus in Lebanon with a workshop for editors of the Kuwait News Agency’s (KUNA) English service. The week-long November course conducted by **IPJ** director **Magda Abu-Fadil** in Kuwait focused on writing, editing, spelling, quotes, photos, captions, ethics and headlines. Editors were also told about easily confused words in English, misspelling and mistranslation of names from one language to another, easily missed grammatical errors and the traps of using clichés in writing.

More details of the **Institute for Professional Journalists’** activities are available at <http://ipj.lau.edu.lb>.

3 Magda Abu-Fadil lecturing at Capitol Hill

4 Magda Abu-Fadil at Al-Jazeera newsroom in Qatar



1  
Abu-Fadil at Al  
Akhawayn University

2  
Abu-Fadil at UNESCO-  
Youth

