



The Faculty Gazette

August - December 2004

Volume 7.2

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

It was proven again in the second half of 2004 that LAU Faculty are serious about profiling the University as a research institution and an international and regional venue of intellectual, scientific and professional exchange. On the international level, LAU hosted a "Summer School on Conflict Prevention and Transformation" in collaboration with the UN; the 7th International University Theatre Festival; IWSAW's 5th International Film Festival; a "Power System Simulator for Engineering" presentation seminar that is still unique in the Middle East; IWSAW's seminar on "Gender Mainstreaming and Millenium Development Goals" in collaboration with the World Bank; and the annual Finance and Accounting International Conference.



In addition, distinguished speakers and professionals in the fields of literature, education, political science, architecture and computer science came from Europe and the USA to share their expertise with faculty and students.

LAU faculty members participated in twenty-eight international conferences and five regional ones, in seven local and international seminars and six workshops, and in five international and local exhibits, thus representing the University in more than thirty cities in four continents. Among them, they published four chapters in internationally edited books besides over twenty articles in international journals and again over twenty papers in conference proceedings.

Faculty also participated in regional workshops and gave lectures locally and in the region.

In the next issue, the Faculty Gazette would like to chronicle also the non-strictly research activity of the LAU Faculty. For outstanding examples of such activity, please turn to the School of Pharmacy section (p.17).

(The information presented in the Faculty Gazette is compiled solely on the basis of information submitted by the Faculty; it may not reflect all the activities of all members of the Faculty.)

The Faculty Gazette

The Faculty Newsletter of the Lebanese American University

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The Lebanese American University is an American institution chartered by the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York and operating in Lebanon.



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Conferences, Seminars, Lectures & Exhibits

In August, the **Institute for Peace and Justice Education** organized a two-week “Summer School on Conflict Prevention and Transformation” in collaboration with the UN. This residential program brought together thirty university students from several Lebanese universities as well as three universities in the USA. Academics from Lebanon, the USA, the UK, Canada, Italy and Germany provided students with knowledge about the nature of conflict, root causes of violent conflict and challenges of post-war reconstruction. Participants explored causes of the Lebanese civil war, ethnicity and communal polarization. They also heard personal testimonials of reconciliation. During hands-on training-sessions, students developed skills of interpersonal conflict resolution, negotiation and mediation. The program was sponsored by the UN, LAU, the Swiss Embassy, the Royal Norwegian Embassy, Banca di Roma and Sohat. The **Centre for Strategic Development** provided logistical support to the **Institute for Peace and Justice Education**.

On October 13, the two-week Photography Exhibit [Celebrating Black & White](#) was opened at Sheikh Zayed Gallery in the recently rededicated Safadi Fine Arts Building (Beirut) in the presence of President **Joseph Jabbra**, Deans **Samira Aghacy** and **Tarek Na’was**, **Arts and Communication** Chair (Beirut) **Mona Knio**, photography instructor **Albert Saikaly**, and students and guests. The exhibit included works of students from last year’s Photography I/II classes.

On November 24, the **Division of Electrical and**

Computer Engineering (School of Engineering and Architecture, Byblos) held a presentation seminar to announce the implementation of a new software system called “Power System Simulator for Engineering” (PSS/E). This system is the most widely used tool for electric transmission system planning and operation: it is used by more than 90% of electric utilities worldwide. Through the efforts of Dr. **Raymond Ghajar**, five licenses of the software valued at approximately \$150,000 were donated by Power Technology Inc. (PTI) of Schenectady, New York to LAU to train students and help them find better jobs. LAU is currently the only university in the Middle East to have this software which will be used in power engineering courses. The presentation was attended by President **Joseph Jabbra**, VPAA **Abdallah Sfeir** and the faculty of the **School of Engineering and Architecture**. Two PTI executives were in attendance: the donor Mr. Elie Nasr, Head of Business Development (USA office), and Mr. George Rizopoulos, Head of Consulting Services (UK office). Mr. Elie Nasr, whose wife and sister are both LAU alumni, indicated that he made this gift to Lebanese students to help them get a better education and to encourage them to stay in Lebanon for professional fulfillment.

On December 3-4, the **School of Business** (Beirut) held its annual [Finance and Accounting International Conference \(FAIC 2004\)](#) on the timely issue of “Managing Securitization for Lebanon and the MENA Region” in Irwin Hall Auditorium, Beirut (www.lau.edu.lb/securitization). This theme-focused

1
A session in progress at the Summer School on Conflict Prevention and Transformation

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From L to R: Samira Aghacy, President Jabbra, Mona Knio and Albert Saikaly at “Celebrating Black & White” exhibit.

3
Students at the “Celebrating Black & White” exhibit.



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1
The launching of the PSS/E system at LAU. From L to R: Raymond Ghajar, Mr. George Rizopoulos, Elie Badr, VPAA Abdallah Sfeir, and Mr. Elie Nasr.

2
The registration desk at FAIC 2004.

3
Dean Tarek Mikdashi's opening address at FAIC 2004.

event acted as a symbiosis between the Business School's academic teaching and industry practice in finance, bridging the gap between the two for the benefit of all. On December 3, after opening statements by Dr. **Michel Majdalani** (Co-chair of the [FAIC 2004](#) Organizing Committee), Dr. **Abdallah Sfeir** (VPAA) and Dr. **Tarek Mikdashi** (Dean of the Business School in Beirut), the floor was given to two distinguished keynote speakers: Dr. Ahmad Jachi (First Vice-Governor of the Central Bank of Lebanon) and Dr. Nasser Saidi (former Minister of Economy). The December 4 session was opened by Mrs. **Janine Zacca** (Co-chair of the [FAIC 2004](#) Organizing Committee). Speakers represented the IMF, the World Bank, the University of Georgia, The Royal Bank of Scotland, Orrick International, Cambridge University, HEC Lausanne, Moody's, Citibank, Banque Audi, BSEC, and the Lebanese Ministry of Finance. Ninety-eight attendees from the institutional sector (among whom the representatives of more than twenty local and regional banking institutions and finance houses) actively participated in the conference along with LAU faculty, students and alumni. A gala-dinner in the Bristol Hotel, Beirut, was held in honor of the guest speakers, event sponsors, faculty members and

participating professionals on December 3. [FAIC 2004](#) was covered by the news media in more than a dozen local and regional newspapers and magazines, positioning LAU's **School of Business** as one of the leading academic institutions with such synergistic capabilities. In addition, six industry magazines sponsored the conference, thus enhancing LAU's public relations' image in the field. Organizers **Michel Majdalani** and **Janine Zacca** were able not only to self-fund this conference but also to contribute to the University's main funds by raising more than \$14,500 in institutional money.

The **Humanities Division** (Beirut) initiated the new academic year with two well attended lectures in the context of the [Role of Literature in Contemporary Society Lectures Series](#). On November 9, in collaboration with the British Council, seasoned British novelist Lawrence Norfolk (winner of the prestigious Somerset Maugham Award) gave a talk titled "Holding up the Mirror, While Standing on One's Head". Mr. Norfolk's witty presentation drew many probing questions on the writer's role, inspiration and responsibility from an interested audience composed of faculty and creative writing students.



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On December 16, Lebanese novelist Rashid al-Daif was the second guest of the **Humanities Division** (Beirut) in the conference rooms of Irwin Hall. The title of his talk (in Arabic) was “For Whom I Write.” A professor at the Literature Faculty of the Lebanese University (1st Branch) with numerous scholarly articles to his credit, Rashid al-Daif has authored eleven novels, three volumes of poetry, and a book of tales. His work has been translated into nine languages. His most recent novel, *Mabud yanjah fi Baghdad* (Mabud Makes the Grade in Bagdad) is now on sale. (Mr. al-Daif was featured with a photograph in the previous issue of the *Faculty Gazette*.)

Dr. Hugh Busher of Leicester University, UK is the principal supervisor abroad of LAU’s **Doctorate Program in Education**. He was the guest of the **Education and Social Science Division** (Beirut) on November 24 in Irwin Auditorium. Dr. Busher’s lecture entitled “Leaders, Values, and Social Justice: Improving Teaching” was attended by an audience of more than 250, including LAU faculty as well as Lebanese School Principals.

On December 9, the **Education and Social**

Science Division (Beirut) hosted Professor Walter Russell Mead, Kissinger Senior Fellow in US Foreign Policy at the Council on Foreign Relations. Professor Mead is a leading expert on US foreign policy and on the role of the USA in world politics, with many publications in the field to his credit. The topic of his talk was “Power, Terror, Peace and War: America’s Grand Strategy in a World at Risk.”

In the context of the Contemporary Scandinavian Architects Lecture Series, the **Department of Architecture & Design** (School of Engineering & Architecture, Byblos) offered two talks by leading Danish architects. Jorgen Sondermark from the firm 3xNielsen (www.3xn.dk) lectured on November 30 in Irwin Auditorium, Beirut, and Louis Becker from the firm Henning-Larsens-Tegnestue (www.hlt.dk) spoke on December 2. Both firms are at the cutting edge of innovative Scandinavian design, having created concert halls, schools and educational facilities, office buildings and residential projects in Europe, Asia and elsewhere in the world. The lectures were attended by faculty, students, graduates of LAU and other schools, as well as by professionals from the various design fields.

4 Standing for the national anthem, from L to R: Michel Majdalani, H.E. Nasser Saidi, VPAA Abdallah Sfeir, H.E. Ahmad Jachi, Dean Tarek Mikdashi.

5 Michel Majdalani addressing the participants.

6 British novelist Lawrence Norfolk.



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Arts & Communication

School of Arts & Sciences

1
London doors open to welcome LAU's Graphic Design students

2
Graphic Design in London

3
The Yale Whiffenpoofs A Capella Group at the 7th International University Theatre Festival, Irwin Auditorium (Beirut)

4
"Al Hasheem" representing Oman at the 7th International University Theatre Festival

Joseph F. Khalife, professor and music coordinator in Byblos, composed and organized three concerts in the 2nd half of 2004: a welcoming concert in October, a Fall concert in November and the Christmas concert in December. In Beirut, Ms. **Leila Dabaghi** organized the musical setting of the Commencement exercise as well as the annual Christmas concert. It merits special mention that for several years now, the **LAU Choir** (Beirut), directed by Ms. **Dabaghi**, has participated in the "Talented Friends of the Al Bustan Festival in Concert" program. For example, in the September 2004 version, the LAU Choir presented, to great applause, "The Prologue" and "The Capulet's Ball" from Gounod's

Romeo and Juliet as well as four other works by European composers.

Dima Dabbous-Sensenig gave a paper entitled "Arab Cultural Policies and the Protection of Cultural Diversity in WTO Negotiations" at the conference on Global Broadcasting, Cultural Diversity and Regulation which was held in Barcelona, Spain as part of the UNESCO sponsored Universal Forum of Cultures (May-September).

During the summer vacation, **Ruth Maalouf** and **Tarek Khoury** (**Graphic Design**, Byblos) organized a study trip to London for twenty graphic design students.

Besides museum visits and theatre productions, the program included visits to major exhibitions and five major graduation shows of British graphic design students, namely at the Royal College of Art, Camberwell College of Art, Surrey College of Art, Central School St. Martin's, and London University. Students described the experience as "really great" and "a discovery of incredible design." On December 20-24, the Byblos **Graphic Design Division** launched an exhibition to share the London experience with fellow students, friends, faculty and family. The exhibition, which included photography, video footage and poster design, showed how students moved from one environ-



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ment to another, and in this transition the viewer can see the relationship and the diversity between their home country and the foreign city. The Division intends to schedule another trip in Summer 2005.

The 7th International University Theatre Festival took place in Irwin and Gulbenkian theatres and outdoors at the Beirut campus, July 22-29. It hosted 48 participants from Yale University (USA), Sultan Qaboos University (Oman), the High Institute for Theatre Arts (Kuwait), King Fahd University for Petroleum and Minerals (Saudi Arabia) and the High Institute for Theatre Art (Tunisia), along with other universities in Lebanon. LAU-Beirut students gave four produc-

tions, while LAU-Byblos students performed musical skits. The A Capella singing group "Whiffenpoofs" from Yale University presented two performances in collaboration with LAU and the US Embassy, and the LAU Music Club gave three concerts ("After 12," Arabic music, and Jazz). Ziad Sahhab played the oud, and Zei Khauli gave a solo dance performance. Students from the Lebanese University (1st Branch) gave a solo dance and a short mime performance. A seminar on "Prospects for a Future Theatre" brought together Drs. Ahmad Sakhsoukh (Cairo), Rida Bou Qaddida (Tunisia), and, from Lebanon, Jean Daoud, Mashour Moustapha and Najat Tawil. This

varied and successful festival was directed by Drama professor **Maurice Maalouf** (Byblos) and drew a total audience of approximately 2000.

On October 25, cineast Ziad Douairy met with **Communication Arts** students (Beirut) to discuss issues related to cinema in Lebanon and to their field of study. Mr. Douairy shared with the students his professional experience in a discussion about the difficulties of film-making.

In December, Mr. Nabil Ammash, Head of the Make-up Department at Future TV, conducted four stage make-up workshops for a total of 22 Drama students in Beirut.

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"Issa's Daughter"
from Kuwait

6
"4x4" representing
Tunisia

7
Ziad Douairy with
Communication Arts
students in
Gulbenkian Theatre.

8
Ziad Douairy at
work

9
Nabil Ammash's
stage make-up
workshop



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Education & Social Science

1
Huda Ayyash-Abdo speaking at Oxford University

2
...and enjoying an outing with her colleagues.

3
Mona Nabhani (second row, fourth from L) at the Workshop of the Arab Women Organization, Cairo.

On August 10, **Huda Ayyash-Abdo** gave a presentation at Brasenose College, Oxford University, UK in the context of the [Oxford Symposium for School-based Family Counseling](#). The topic of her paper (to be published in the [Proceedings](#)) was “Reality and Opportunity: School-based Family Counseling in Lebanon.”

On September 22, **Ketty Sarouphim** presented her paper “Diversity in Education: Crisis or Opportunity?” at the [1st Conference of International Consultants](#) organized by the Trinity Institute for Christianity and Culture, London.

Sami Baroudi gave a paper entitled “Lebanon’s Maronites’ Many Voices: The Divergent Perspectives of President Camille Chamoun and Patriarch Paul Meouchi during the 1958 Lebanese Crisis” at the [Annual Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association \(MESA\)](#) which was held in San Francisco, California (November 20-22). Dr. **Baroudi** presented his paper in a panel on “Lebanon in the Sectarian Imagination.”

Mona Nabhani was selected by the National Commission for Lebanese Women to participate in a workshop offered by the Arab Women Organization in Cairo in

preparation of a national survey related to women in the fields of education, media, economics and health. No fewer than twelve Arab countries participate in this project, and four Lebanese professionals representing as many fields were invited. In the field of education, Dr. **Nabhani** will conduct a survey of all projects and studies done in Lebanon between 1995 and 2005 by all types of organizations (academic, governmental, NGOs, civil societies, religious groups, international organizations) concerning women on such subjects as life skills, literacy, technology and continuing education. Following the survey, Dr. **Nabhani** will select the most successful projects, analyze them, and present recommendations for implementing similar projects in the other eleven Arab countries at a meeting scheduled to be held in Cairo in April 2005.

Erratum. The previous issue of the [Faculty Gazette](#) covered in detail the successful Teacher Training Workshops held under the auspices of the **Teacher Training Institute** (Beirut) during the Spring semester of 2004. We listed each and every LAU teacher-trainer...but we forgot to give credit to the vital soul of the Workshops, Dr. **Mona Nabhani**, Director of the **Teacher Training**

Institute. Our apologies! Please wait for the next issue of the [Faculty Gazette](#) for news on the next line-up of Teacher Training Workshops, Spring 2005.

Irma Ghosn’s paper “Story as culturally appropriate content and social context for young English language learners: A look at Lebanese primary school classes” was published in [Language, Culture and Curriculum](#) 17 (2) 2004, 109-26. Also, Dr. Ghosn’s article “Four good reasons to use literature in the primary school ELT” (published previously in [ELT Journal](#) 56 (2) 2002) was included in the [Year of the Young Learner Special Collection](#) issue of [ELT Journal](#), edited by Gail Ellis and Keith Morrow (Oxford University Press, 2004). The collection is a selection of articles and features from the last 25 years of [ELT Journal](#) and was commissioned by the British Council in the context of the Year of the Young Learner.

Elie A. Samia participated in an intensive seminar on [Training of Trainers in Commercial Negotiations](#) that was held in Tunis (December 12-19). The seminar was co-organized by the World Trade Organization and l’Agence intergouvernementale de la Francophonie.



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As announced in the previous issue of the *Gazette*, **Ibrahim Hussari** participated in the University of the Middle East Project on Institute in Sustainable Development that was hosted by the Universidad de Castilla-La Mancha in Toledo, Spain (June 27-August 1). His research paper on “Sustainable Development and Education” is accessible on the website of the University of the Middle East. Dr. **Hussari** was nominated by a majority of participants to the Project to deliver the closing ceremony speech on August 30.

Loulou Akl Khoury’s paper on “Culture and Translation in ESL Discourse,” which she read at the 2003 2nd Regional English Conference at LAU-Beirut, is published in the LAU magazine Language and Change (2005), edited by Drs. **Nahla Bacha** and **Rima Bahous**.

Rima Bahous and **Nahla Bacha** co-authored the chapter “Materials Development for ESL-EFL Classes” in the volume ELT Materials: Theory and Practice, edited by Shameem Rafik-Galea (Kuala Lumpur, 2004), 67-83.

Nuwar Diab published a chapter titled “Ameen Rihani’s Vision of Globalization: A Matrimony, Not Hegemony” in the book Ameen

Rihani: Bridging East and West. A Pioneer Call for Arab-American Understanding, eds. N. Funk and B. Sitka (Baltimore: University Press of America, 2004) 93-101.

Ken Seigneurie gave a paper entitled “The British in Egypt: D.J. Enright and the Solution of Irresolution” at the convention of the Modernist Studies Association which was held in Vancouver in October.

Paul Tabar participated in a roundtable conference on Migration and Politics in the Middle East: Migration Policies, Nation Building and International Relations on December 12 in Amman. The conference was organized by the French Institute for the Near East (IFPO). Dr. **Tabar** presented an in-progress paper on “The Transformation of the Maronite Church Identity: Immigration and Diasporic Identity of the Maronite Community.” Other participants hailed from France, Kuwait, Palestine, Ramallah and Jordan.

The Public Affairs Office at the US Embassy in Beirut, the English Language Programs at the State Department (Washington DC) and the American English Institute (AEI) selected **Mona Shahine** to participate in an on-line E-Teacher course

on “Critical Thinking Skills” at the University of Oregon. The course was ten weeks long running from September 20 till November 26. It had twenty-two participants from the Middle East and Asia connecting on-line, building a chain of discussions and commenting on required weekly reading assignments. The goals of the course were to identify and compare elements of critical thinking and applying this knowledge to classroom teaching and materials development; to design, develop and implement critical thinking instructional units and activities to reach course goals; to analyze teaching techniques and materials for evidence of critical thinking teaching and student learning; and to identify relevant resources for developing and incorporating critical thinking activities in their respective teaching environment.

Bassam Lahoud’s photography exhibit “Man and Heritage in Lebanon” was on show at 3 locations in Bulgaria: the National Museum of Fine Arts in Sofia (July 1-8), the Museum Zlatu Boyadjiev in Kyustendil (July 9-23) and the International Festival of Photography in Plovdiv (October 15-31). In early August, Mr. **Lahoud** participated as a speaker and a distinguished jury member in the 14th Seminario e premio di architettura e cultura urbana

Humanities

4
The Training of Trainers in Commercial Negotiations seminar, Tunis.

5
Ibrahim Hussari addressing the UME Project in Toledo.

6
Dr. Hussari (R) with Prof. Diego Hidalgo, sponsor of the Project.



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1-2
From the old souk to the modern mall, illustrating Bassam Lahoud's lecture in Camerino

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From L to R: Jean-Claude Hache, Director of the Lille Forum, Bassam Lahoud, and Pierre Mauroy, former French Prime Minister and President of the Region Nord, France.

(International Seminar on Architecture and Urban Design), which was held at the University of Camerino, Italy. The event is an architecture contest for professionals and students of architecture in three categories: realized projects, projects and research, and restoration. His lecture (in Italian) was entitled "From the Old Souk to the Modern Mall." "Verso un nuovo design urbano. La città-villaggio," the lecture he gave in Summer 2003 was published with photographs in the book *Verso un nuovo urbanismo* (Camerino, 2004) 42-43. In September, **Bassam Lahoud** was the only non-Western participant in the prestigious forum *Regards et vision* in Lille, France. In Lille, Mr. **Lahoud** gave a lecture entitled "Le Pouvoir de sélection du regard" (The Gaze's Power of Selection), participated in a round-table discussion on "Regard, Vision et Art," and had a photography exhibit on the same topic.

From 21 to 24 October, **Bassam Lahoud's** photography exhibit "Our Sea" ("on the beauty of pollution or

the pollution of beauty") was on show at the United Nations Headquarters, New York as part of the "ESCWA At Work With Graphics & Arts" exhibit. While at the United Nations, he was reappointed Chair of the ESCWA Arts Council in Beirut for the year 2005. On December 14, Mr. **Lahoud** was interviewed live on NBN Television on his in-home (Amchit) photography exhibition entitled "Of the Father and the Son." (Note: Mr. **Lahoud** is with the **Humanities Division** in Beirut and with the **Arts & Communication Division** in Byblos.)

In Fall 2004, **Habib Malik** became a founding member in Lebanon of the Local Societies Initiative (LSI) of the Metanexus Institute based in Philadelphia, which is funded by the Templeton Foundation. LSI aims to promote dialogue between science and religion. In addition to taking part in regular discussion sessions within the local LSI branch with scientists, theologians, philosophers and historians of ideas Dr. **Malik** is involved in producing a television series of discussions in English

about the science-religion debate, starting February 2005 on TéléLumière satellite television. A first introductory roundtable discussion included Eric Weislogel of the Metanexus Institute, Edward Alam (NDU) and **Richard Khuri** (LAU). Dr. **Malik** also already hosted two hour-long episodes on the general topic of astronomy and religion, and specifically on the implications of astronomical discoveries for theology and the Christian faith; in the first of these episodes he hosts **Richard Khuri**, a philosopher of science, and in the second **Yousef El Hage**, a physicist and member of the Pontifical Council for Inter-religious dialogue.

Dr. **Latif Zeitouni** presented a paper « Experimentation and creativity in the Arab novel » at the Conference "Le roman arabe: les possibles narratifs" which took place, December 11-13, at the Sheraton Hotel in Kuwait. Dr. **Zeitouni's** topic was "la part de l'emprunt dans le roman arabe et trace des voies possibles pour un nouveau roman arabe."



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Ramzi Haraty and **Abbass Al-Sharif** are proud to announce that an LAU Chapter of the Association of Computing Machinery (ACM) has been officially chartered. Founded in 1947, ACM is both the oldest and the largest international scientific and educational computer society in the industry, dedicated to advancing the arts, sciences and applications of information technology. The LAU Chapter aims at promoting knowledge and interest in all aspects of modern computing from design to application, through distinguished faculty presentations, workshops, formal and informal sessions with leading industry representatives, and social gatherings. All ACM activities are open to the entire LAU community, and anyone with an interest in computing is welcome!

In November, the **Computer Science and Mathematics Division** (Byblos) welcomed Dr. Danielle Azar. Dr. Azar received her BS and MS in Computer Science from LAU in 1992 and 1996 respectively and her PhD in Computer

Science from McGill University, Montréal in October 2004. Dr. Azar's research area is "genetic algorithms in building and optimizing software quality estimation models."

In December, **Ramzi Haraty** participated in the [International Conference on Computer Science, Software Engineering, Information Technology, e-Business and Applications \(CSITeA'04\)](#) which was held in Cairo, with four papers (all published in the [Proceedings](#)): "Al-Monakkeb – A Superior Indexer for Arabic Texts," "Rabin Public Key Cryptosystem in Rings of Polynomials over Finite Fields," "Ternary and Quaternary Decision Diagrams," and "Modified RSA in the Domain of Gaussian Integers."

May Hamdan's paper "Promoting Building a Definition: The Case of a Vector Space" appeared in the [International Journal of Applied Mathematics](#) 14 (4) 2003, 317-24.

Faisal N. Abu-Khzam's paper "Kernelization Algorithms for the

Vertex Cover Problem: Theory and Experiments," with R.L. Collins, M.R. Fellows, M.A. Langston, W.H. Suters and C.T. Symons, which was presented at the [6th Workshop on Algorithm Engineering and Experiments](#) and the [1st Workshop on Analytic Algorithmics and Combinatorics](#) in New Orleans, in January. The paper was published in the [Proceedings](#) (July 2004), 62-69. Dr. **Abu-Khzam** wrote another paper, with M.A. Langston, entitled "A Direct Algorithm for the Parameterized Face Cover Problem," which he presented at the [1st International Workshop on Parameterized and Exact Computation \(IWPEC 2004\)](#) in Norway and which was published in the [Proceedings](#) (Lecture Notes in Computer Science Series. Berlin; Heidelberg: Springer, 2004), 213-22.

Haidar Harmanani, with **Pierrette Zouein** and **Aouni Hajjar**, published the article "A Parallel Genetic Algorithm for the Geometrically Constrained Site Layout Problem with Unequal-Size Facilities" in the [International](#)

4
Bassam Lahoud at the UN Headquarters.

5
Bassam Lahoud in front of the photograph of Charles Malek at the UN

6
Ramzi Haraty and Abbass Al-Sharif.



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1
Ahmad Houry at the Energy Efficiency Expo 2004, London

2-3
Dr. Houry with international participants at the Renewable Energy Seminar, Brighton

4
and receiving the participation certificate

Journal of Computational Intelligence and Applications 4 (4) 2004. With Aouni Hajjar as co-author, Dr. **Harmanani** gave a paper entitled “Concurrent BIST Synthesis and Test Scheduling Using Genetic Algorithms” at the 8th IASTED International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Soft Computing (ASC 2004) in September in Marbella, Spain (published in the Proceedings, 410-15). Dr. **Harmanani** was first co-author of a paper (with W. Keirouz and S. Raheel) entitled “A Rule-Based Extensible Stemmer for Information Retrieval With Application to Arabic,” also given at the Marbella conference (published in the Proceedings, 35-40).

Nashat Mansour published with M. Timany the article “Stochastic Search Algorithms for Exam

Scheduling” in the International Journal of Computer Research 13 (4) 2004. In September, Dr. **Mansour** gave a seminar presentation, “Research issues in mining multimedia data,” at the Université de Lyon-2, France and in December, he presented a paper with H. Salem entitled “Ripple Effect in Object Oriented Programs” at the International Conference on Computer Science, Software Engineering, Information Technology, e-Business, and Applications (CSITeA’04), which was held in Cairo (published in the Proceedings). Dr. Mansour continued his functions as editorial board member of the Journal of the Association for Software Testing. In addition, he was appointed a member of the National Advisory Committee for preparing Lebanon’s contribution to the World Summit on Information Society 2005, as well

as of the Information and Communications Technology Committee established by the Executive Board of the Order of Engineers. **Nashat Mansour** furthermore served on the scientific committees of the 3rd International Internet Education Conference (ICT) (Cairo/October), the International Research Conference on Innovations in Information Technology (Dubai/October), and CSITeA’04 (Cairo/ December).

The **Computer Science and Mathematics Division** (Byblos) recently signed a cooperation agreement with the Ecole Polytechnique de Montréal (EPM). Based on the agreement, faculty can cooperate in terms of teaching, training and research. LAU students can enrol for the Summer semester at EPM for a minimal tuition fee.

R. Al-Khudary, Fouad Hashwa and **Mohamad Mroueh** published the article "Extremely Thermostable Lipase Activity Form of an Olive Oil Degrading" in *Thermoctinomyces sp. Eng. Life Science* 4 (1) 2004, 1-5. With **S. Tokajian**, Dr. **Hashwa** published four articles: "Microbiological Quality and Genotypic Speciation of Heterotrophic Bacteria Isolated from Potable Water Stored in Household Tanks" in *Water Quality Research Journal* 39 (1) 2004, 64-73; "Incidence of Antibiotic Resistance in Coliforms from Drinking Water and their Identification Using the Biolog and the API Identification Systems" in *Journal of Chemotherapy* 16 (1) 2004, 104-109; "Phenotypic and Genotypic identification of *Aeromonas* spp. Isolated from a Chlorinated Intermittent Water Distribution System in Lebanon" in *Journal of Water and Health* 2 (2004) 115-122; and "Phylogenetic Assessment of Heterotrophic Bacteria from a Water Distribution System using 16S DNA Sequencing" (accepted for publication in the *Canadian Journal of Microbiology*, 2005). **Fouad Hashwa**, with **S. Tokajian**, was the author of the chapter "Intermittent Water Supply and Domestic Water Quality in the Middle East" in the book *Water in the Middle East and in North Africa*, edited by F. Zereini and W. Jaeschke (Springer, 2004).

Samira Korfali, with B.E. Davies, published an article entitled "The relationship of metals in river sediments (Nahr-Ibrahim, Lebanon) and adjacent flood plain soils" in *Agricultural Engineering International of Scientific*

Research and Development, Ms LW04010 (6) 2004. (<http://cigr-ejournal.tamu.edu>) Dr. **Korfali** also continued to serve as international reviewer for several manuscripts submitted for consideration for publication in prestigious European scientific journals.

Ahmad Hour presented his paper "Biomass Potential in Offsetting Energy Needs in Lebanon" at the 8th World Renewable Energy Congress (WREC VIII) which took place in Denver, Colorado on August 28-September 3 (published in the *Proceedings*). September 7-10, he participated in the Steering Committee meeting for "Regional Collaboration for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Technology" which was organized by the Energy Research Group at AUB. October was a busy month for Dr. **Hour**. Locally, he participated in the international conference *Teaching of Science at Universities: Present Status and Future Challenges* organized by the Lebanese National Commission for UNESCO at the Bristol Hotel, Beirut and in the *Symposium on Challenges Facing Water Resources Management in Arid and Semi-arid Regions* held at AUB. And internationally, Dr. **Hour** was active in Brighton, England where he presented the paper "Lebanese Renewable Energy Profile" in the context of the *International Seminars in Britain (0064): Renewable Energy Policy, Security, Innovation, Industry and Sustainability*. He profited from his October trip to England to participate in the *Sustainable Energy and Energy Efficiency Expo 2004* and the *International Business*

Development Workshop hosted by the Department of Trade and Industry at the Olympia International Exhibition Centre, London.

Georges Baroody was invited to serve as a member of a Ph.D. Thesis defence committee at the University of Surrey (UOS) in Guildford, UK. The candidate was Najib Haddad (M.Sc.), an LAU graduate, who did all his Ph.D. research at the biology laboratories of Byblos campus under Dr. **Baroody's** supervision under a collaborative agreement between LAU and UOS. Mr. Haddad passed his defence and is currently preparing three papers for publication. The topic of his research is "The effect of Leptin upon insulin secretion by the ex-vivo perfused pancreas of the rat."

Ahmad Kabbani published a paper entitled "Supramolecular structure of tetrakis(4-chloro-3-nitrobenzoate)-bis(methanol)dycoper(II)" in the *Journal of Chemical Crystallography* 34 (11) 2004, 751-58. Dr. **Kabbani** had another paper, "Moment of inertia of the nucleus 6Li in frame of the translation invariant shell model, the single particle Shrodinger fluid model and the nuclear super-fluidity model," published in the *International Journal of Applied Mathematics* 15 (15) 2004, 315-28.

Costantine Daher, with Carmen Khoury and Camille Nassar, published a paper entitled "Effect of theophylline on L-alanine absorption in the rat jejunum" in the international journal *Food and Chemical Toxicology* 42 (2004), 1971-76.



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School of Business

1
Michel Soto Chalhouh at the conference for Iraqi business leaders.

Wassim Shahin authored an article entitled "De-Listing from NCCTs and Money Laundering Control Measures: A Banking Regulation Perspective" accepted for publication in the [Journal of Money Laundering Control](#) (forthcoming soon).

Elias Raad was second co-author of the article titled "The Performance of Banks in Post-War Lebanon" published in the [International Journal of Business](#) (Summer 2004). Co-authors were former LAU professor David Peters and Joseph F. Sinkey, Jr.

In July, **Renee Ghattas** presented a paper, "Leadership and Institutional Adaptation in Turbulent Times," at the [7th International BELMAS Research Conference](#) at St. Catherine's College, Oxford University. Her paper was selected among the six best papers given at the Conference and was accepted for publication in the BELMAS professional journal.

Throughout the year 2004, **Michel Soto Chalhouh** presented a series of papers in developmental management workshops addressing "E-Government and E-

Municipalities: Change Management and Capacity Building." Mayors, municipal managers, business leaders from across Lebanon, and participants from other countries attended these workshops to discuss best practices and modern techniques in managing public service in Lebanon. Dr. **Chalhouh** also presented a paper entitled "Corporate Strategy and Risk Management in Transitioning Economies" to a group of Iraqi business leaders in the financial services industry. This event was sponsored by the US Centre for International Private Enterprise (US Chamber of Commerce) and hosted by the Union of Arab Banks on October 10-11 in the Radisson SAS Hotel, Beirut. Participants learned about and debated means of setting strategies and revitalizing the Iraqi banking sector as part of rebuilding the country's vital industries.

Ghassan Dibeh presented the paper "Speculative dynamics in a time-delay model of asset prices" at the [1st Bonzenfreies Colloquium on Market Dynamics](#), which was held in Alessandria, Italy (September 9-10).

With **George E. Nasr** as co-

author, **Ghassan Dibeh** published the paper "Testing for Nonlinearities in Exchange Rates: An Application to Currency Crisis" in [Intelligent Engineering Systems Through Artificial Neural Networks](#) 14, 735-40 (New York: ASME Press, 2004). The paper was presented at the [ANNIE 2004 Conference](#) in St. Louis, Missouri in November.

Gishan Dissanaikie and **Armen V. Papazian** are the authors of the paper "Management Turnover in Stock Market Winners and Losers: A Clinical Investigation", one of six papers selected for the second round in the [ECGI 2004 Clinical Paper Competition](#) in Sweden and published in ECGI's [Finance Working Paper](#) series. The competition was established by ECGI to encourage the writing and publication of empirical research papers on corporate governance cases in Europe, in collaboration with the [Journal of Financial Economics](#) and the [Swedish Center for Business and Policy Studies](#). The authors presented their paper in front of a jury of distinguished European and US academics and were subsequently invited to attend the Nobel Prize award ceremony in Stockholm, December 10.



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School of Engineering & Architecture

Joseph M. Kiprianos recently received his Ph.D. in Architecture in South Africa, from the University of Kwazulu-Natal, Durban under the supervision of D. Radford and W. Peters. His doctoral dissertation was on "The Sacredness of Space and its Values in the Maronite Church in Lebanon – A Fusion between Liturgy and Place."

George E. Nasr, with Carla Joun and Wadih Zaatar, presented a paper (published in the [Proceedings](#)) at the [7th Seminar on Neural Network Applications in Electrical Engineering \(NEUREL 2004\)](#) held in September in Belgrade, Serbia & Montenegro.

Antoine Lahoud travelled to Argentina to participate in the [9th Seminar of Forum UNESCO](#), which was held at the Universidad Politecnica de Valencia, Buenos Aires (October 11-15). In his paper "In Search of a New Soul – Role of Universities," he discussed the role of universities in protecting heritage, and he specifically highlighted how the LAU curriculum involves students in heritage knowledge through the "service learning" component related to heritage restoration. Mr. **Lahoud**

made use of the occasion to show LAU students' work in Argentina.

Samer S. Saab published an article entitled "A Heuristic Kalman Filter for a Class of Nonlinear Systems" in the [IEEE Transactions on Automatic Control](#) 49 (12) 2261-65. Furthermore, Dr. Saab was appointed by the Board of Governors of the IEEE Control Systems Society as Associate Editor of their highly prestigious journal [IEEE Transactions on Control Systems Technology](#). His appointment will take effect in 2005. Dr. Saab will also be an Editorial Board Member of the [Control Systems Society Conference](#).

Elie A. Badr's article "Strain Relaxation Slotting Method at a Cross-bore: Simulation and Experimentation" was published in the journal [Experimental Techniques](#) 28 (6) 2004.

S.A. Haidar, **Samer S. Saab**, D.M. Issa and A.A. Zein co-authored the paper "Real-Time GPS Differentiation Through the 2.5G/3G Mobile Communication Media: A Case Study Using GPRS" presented at the [60th Annual Meeting of the Institute of](#)

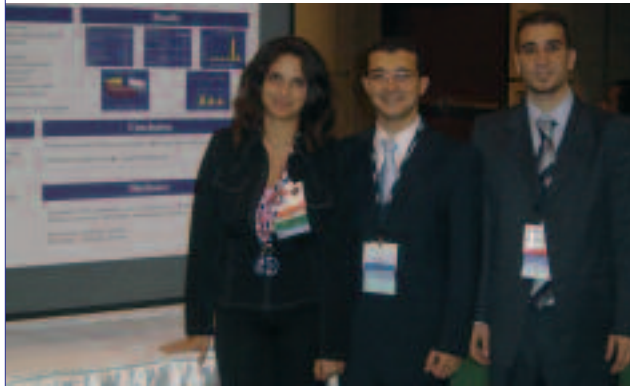
[Navigation](#) in Dayton, Ohio (June 7-9). The paper by Dr. **Saab** and his students was published in the [Proceedings](#).

Camille Issa and **Gebran Karam** presented a paper entitled "Compressive Strength of Concrete Cylinders with Variable Widths CFRP Wraps" at the [4th International Conference on Advanced Composite Materials in Bridges and Structures](#), which was held July 20-23 in Calgary, Canada (published in the [Proceedings](#)). A few days later (July 26-29), Dr. **Issa** was in Albuquerque, New Mexico where he presented with Pierre Kassaa the paper "Tacoma Narrows Bridge: A Case Study" at the [9th ASCE Specialty Conference on Probabilistic Mechanics and Structural Reliability \(PMC 2004\)](#) (published in the [Proceedings](#)). **Camille Issa**, with Abdo Abou Jouadeh, also published the article "CFRP Strengthening of Reinforced Concrete Beams: Experimental Study" in the [Journal of Architectural Engineering](#) 10 (4) 2004, 120-25. It must be mentioned that Dr. **Issa** was recently appointed a member on the Technical Committee "Structural Condition Assessment and Rehabilitation of Buildings" of the

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The hooding of Dr. Kiprianos.

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Antoine Lahoud in Buenos Aires.

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H.E. Dr. Hicham Hamdan, Lebanese Ambassador to Argentine (R) held a reception in honor of LAU, represented by Antoine Lahoud (L)

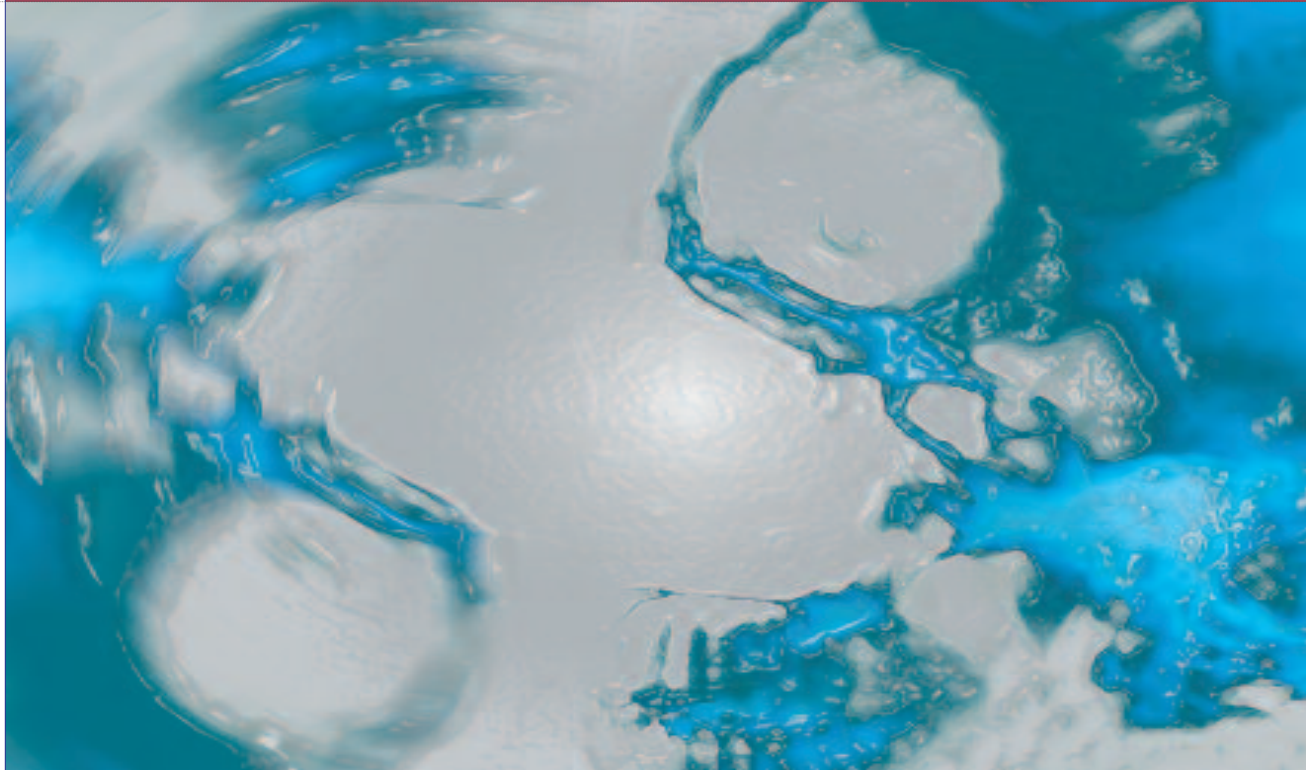


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Shereen Nabhani and the two LAU Pharmacy student-winners in Orlando.

2
An educational session guided by LAU Pharmacy faculty and students at Makassed General Hospital.



American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE).

Raymond Ghajar read a paper entitled "Risk Analysis of an Automatic Meter Reading System for Electricité du Liban" at the [International Conference on Power and Energy Systems](#) which was organized by the International Association of Science and

Technology for Development (IAST-ED) at Clearwater Beach, Florida (November 28-December 1). The paper was published in the [Proceedings](#), 228-233.

Jean Chatila, with **M. Tabbara**, published the article "Computational Modeling of Flow over an Ogee Spillway" in [Computers and Structures Journal](#)

82 (22) 2004, 1805-12. Dr. Chatila had two other articles published: "Reclaimed Wastewater in Some Middle Eastern Countries: Pricing and Perspective" in [Canadian Journal of Development Studies](#) 25 (3) 2004, and with B. Jurdi, "Stepped Spillway as an Energy Dissipator" in [Canadian Water Resources Journal](#) 29 (3) 2004.



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School of Pharmacy

Soula Kyriacos Boustani addressed the 12th Congress of the Lebanese Order of Pharmacists (November 20-21) with a presentation entitled “Novel Drug Delivery Systems.” In December, she spoke on “Generics: Similar but not Identical” at Rizk Hospital (Ashrafieh).

The American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) is one of the largest clinical pharmacist organizations in the world. Its annual conference attracts over 30,000 pharmacists from all over the world. It encompasses lectures, seminars, workshops, competitions, research presentations and showcases for residencies, universities and job vacancies. The clinical skills competition it organizes is team-based and designed to increase pharmacy students’ awareness of the importance of the pharmacist’s role in direct patient care. Its most recent conference was held in Orlando, Florida in December. LAU’s **School of Pharmacy** was excellently represented. It was the first time that a participating school from outside the US was involved, thus the 2004 ASHP meeting was its first international one. Dr. **Shereen Nabhani** was the LAU-coordinator of the clinical skills-competition that sent our student-winners Wael Chaar and Rony Zeeny to Orlando, where they competed against winners representing 82 US Schools of Pharmacy. Three other LAU **School of Pharmacy** faculty members (**Oussayma Moukhachen, Marwan Taha, Josette Berberi**) as well as close to twenty students and alumni travelled to Orlando to present the various research projects that they conducted over the past year in the poster presentation session.

It is worth pointing out that the **School of Pharmacy** is equally active on the home front. For example, Dr. **Shereen Nabhani** supervised and guided four LAU PharmD. students in a series of educational sessions at Makassed General Hospital (MGH) intended for its nursing staff, medical interns and residents. The objective was to increase awareness and education about cancer and chemotherapy.

Every Saturday, volunteers from the **Volunteer Outreach Clinic (VOC)** diagnose, treat and counsel underprivileged patients in the Health Community Centre of the Palestinian Shatila camp. Volunteers include LAU **School of Pharmacy** students and faculty as well as AUB staff, medical students, residents, dieticians and physicians. VOC members **Shereen Nabhani** and several of her students advise the camp’s medical team on appropriate medications, doses and corresponding side effects, and they dispense medications and counsel patients.

On a less formal note, the **School of Pharmacy** faculty organized a successful reunion for its graduates in Byblos in December. Dinner and games got all eighty attendees in a competitive and fun atmosphere. The evening was planned mainly to get graduates together after more than two years of separation, but also to answer their concerns and to plan future activities together. In collaboration with the **Office of Development and Alumni Affairs**, the **School of Pharmacy** in fact plans on starting an Alumni Association that would increase LAU’s visibility in the community and sustain open communication between the Alumni and their alma mater.

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At the Volunteer Outreach Clinic in Shatila Camp.

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The School of Pharmacy reunion dinner.



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Flashes from Centres and Institutes

1
Mona Khalaf and H.E. Zahira Kamal, Palestinian Minister for Women's Affairs, at the @NGED meeting in Tunis.

2
Mona Khalaf, IWSAW Director, surrounded by the research team of the [New Security Challenges Program](#) at the University of Ulster, Belfast.

3
H.E. Gertrude Mongella, Ambassador, President of the Pan-African Parliament, African Union (L) and Mona Khalaf (R) at the international conference on "Women Defending Peace" in Geneva.

Representing the **Institute for Peace and Justice**, **Irma Ghosn** was invited to speak at a conference organized by Women's Initiative for Peace (WINPEACE) and the Greek Centre for Research and Action on Peace (KEDE) in Athens, on October 16. The conference topic was [Integrating peace education in the Greek school system: Changing attitudes, behavior and structures conducive to violence](#). Dr. **Ghosn**, one of five international experts invited, spoke specifically on "Children's literature in peace education and language teaching" (www.winpeace.net). From Athens, Dr. **Ghosn** travelled to Tirana where she participated in the conference organized by The Hague Appeal for Peace Global Campaign for Peace Education

(October 20-24) on [Developing Democracy through Peace Education: Educating towards a World without Violence](#). She moderated a panel discussion between representatives of Ministries of Education from countries in Africa, the Middle East and South East Asia as well as UN representatives and peace educators on the full implementation of the UNESCO Integrated Framework of Action for Peace, Human Rights and Democracy. A member of the International Advisory Committee of the GCPE, Dr. **Ghosn** helped to draw up the "Tirana Call for Peace Education" (www.haguepeace.org).

The Institute for Women's Studies in the Arab World

(IWSAW), in consultancy with Beirut-DC, held its [5th Annual Film Festival](#) (June 28-30). The program included short films by students from various universities in Lebanon that tackled issues such as premarital sex, body image and relationships. The festival also screened two documentaries that openly address topics such as the killing of female prostitutes in Iran and the AIDS virus in South Africa. Last but not least, four feature films from Egypt, Tunisia and Spain were screened. The films and documentaries selected were by renowned directors such as Pedro Almodovar, Moufida Tlatli and Reja Amari, to mention a few.

On December 6, 9 and 15, The World Bank Institute organized a



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seminar/distance-learning course entitled Gender Mainstreaming and MDGs – the role of universities. The **Institute for Women’s Studies in the Arab World (IWSAW)** coordinated the event. The December 6 session was held at the Irwin Hall conference rooms (Beirut), and the other two at the World Bank offices in the UN Building (Beirut). The sessions included students from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Lebanon, Pakistan, Palestine and Saudi Arabia. The Lebanese delegation included students from LAU, AUB and Haigazian University. The objective of the sessions was to provide university students with an opportunity to exchange opinions and ideas on MDGs (Millenium Development

Goals) and to discuss the role they could play in achieving these goals.

Mona Khalaf, Director of **IWSAW**, attended an assessment meeting of the European Project for Inter-religious Learning (EPIL), which was held September 16-20 in Switzerland. A week later, she attended the 3rd Annual Meeting of the Arab Network for Gender and Development (@NGED on the topic “From Studies to Policies: Best Practices and Strategies.” The conference was organized by CAWTAR, the World Bank and the EU in Tunis. November 10-13, Mrs. **Khalaf** attended a workshop on “Reimagining Women’s Security in Societies in Transition” as part of the New Security Challenges

Program at the University of Ulster in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

In Geneva, November 22-24, **Mona Khalaf** participated in an international conference on “Women Defending Peace” organized by The Suzanne Mubarak Women’s International Peace Movement, in cooperation with the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. She presented a paper in the panel on “Success Stories.” Finally, Mrs. **Khalaf** participated in the meeting of the Expert Group of DAW (the UN Division for the Advancement of Women) on “The role of national mechanisms in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women: Achievements and challenges to the future.” The meeting

4 Prof. Nabil Dajani of AUB (standing) with IPJ director Magda Abu-Fadil visiting Tim Genius, director/executive producer at Danish Broadcasting Corporation in Copenhagen.

5 Egypt’s Nile TV president Hala Hashish with IPJ director at Berlin’s Brandenburg gate.

6 Abu-Fadil in Al Jazeera TV’s newsroom, Doha.



Flashes from Centres and Institutes (Continued)

Above

L-R: Anders Jerichow, columnist for *Politiken* daily of Denmark; Jesper Hojberg, Executive Director of IMS; Lars Kabel, professor at Danish School of Journalism; LAU alumna and workshop translator Hanan Nasser; Pia Thordsen, board member of Danish Association of Investigative Journalism; and Pernille Brix, IMS consultant at IPJ's January 2005 investigative journalism workshop.

was held in Rome, November 29-December 2, and Mrs.

Khalaf presented a paper on "The Lebanese National Women Machinery: Where does it stand?"

The **Institute for Professional Journalists' Media Ethics Conference** in June 2004, sponsored by the German Heinrich Boll Foundation came out as *Proceedings* in summer and is available online at <http://ipj.lau.edu.lb/events/20040609/index.php>.

In August, **Magda Abu-Fadil**, Director of the **Institute for Professional Journalists**, was invited to Copenhagen, by Danish-based International Media Support as one among experts planning investigative journalism projects and looking into media and children's issues. Mrs. **Abu-Fadil** also visited key-officials at Danish radio, TV and newspapers. These meetings were followed-up by a second- and third-round in Beirut and Damascus to plan a three-day investigative journalism workshop at LAU ini-

tially grouping twelve reporters from Lebanon, Syria and Jordan. Details will follow in the next issue of the *Faculty Gazette*; meanwhile, check out

<http://ipj.lau.edu.lb/out-reach/20040800/denmark.php>. In November, Mrs. **Abu-Fadil** was invited by the Institute for Foreign Cultural Relations, under the auspices of the German Foreign Ministry, to speak at a conference on *German-Arab Media Dialogue* in Berlin. Her paper addressed the issue of "Lebanese Youth and the Media: Social and Political Influences." She also visited the offices and studios of Telephone FM (Radio Baghdad) and Deutsche Welle TV in the German capital. The Arabic paper is available as a PDF file at

<http://ipj.lau.edu.lb/out-reach/20041129/berlin.php>. **Magda Abu-Fadil** also contributed a chapter entitled "Straddling Cultures: Arab Women Journalists at Home and Abroad" to the book *Women and Media in the Middle East*, ed. I.B. Tauris (New York; London: Palgrave

Macmillan, 2004). Her chapter features such noted international media figures from Arab backgrounds as BUC alumna Octavia Nasr (senior editor for Arab affairs at CNN; BUC alumna Samia Nakhoul (Gulf bureau chief for Reuters; Diana Moukalled (Future Television editor and senior correspondent); Raghida Dergham (*Al-Hayat* pan-Arab daily newspaper senior correspondent, and others.

In December, UNESCO's International Program for the Development of Communication (IPDC) organized a media experts meeting for the Arab region in Doha, Qatar. **Magda Abu-Fadil**, IPJ Director, was invited to discuss development priorities in the region and assess project proposals submitted to the IPDC by beneficiary organizations. She participated in the meetings, visited the Media Department at Qatar University as well as Al-Jazeera's studios and state-of-the-art-training centre, and spoke at a seminar on the future of Arab media.

