Word of the VPAA

In the mid-1990s, LAU saw a great increase in the number of new full-time faculty. At the same time, LAU began to promote and invest significantly in research, with the result that more and more faculty members began to publish articles and travel locally, regionally and internationally in order to present papers at conferences. Prof. Ghassan Dibeh had the idea of highlighting this increasingly diverse research performance by soliciting news from the researchers themselves. He organised the information and sent it out for layout and design and then printing. The first issue of the Faculty Gazette came out in February 1998. In the course of the years, Dr. Dibeh widened the scope of the Gazette by publishing interviews or various news items of interest to the faculty. In 1999, Prof. Elie Badr joined forces with Dr. Dibeh, to help the latter cope with the afflux of material to his desk. After five annual volumes of two issues each, the co-editors decided it was time to hand over the job. In January 2004, after a publication hiatus of more than a year, Prof. Kristiaan Aercke accepted to serve as editor and the LAU Publications Office was assigned the production.

I wish to extend my warmest thanks to Ghassan Dibeh and Elie Badr for their devotion to the Gazette and I wish Kristiaan Aercke much success. The LAU Faculty Gazette has done much to promote what the faculty is doing at LAU and, indeed, throughout the world, regarding research. I hope it will continue to do so for many years to come.

Dr. Abdallah Sfeir
VPAA
3 Conferences & Seminars organized at LAU

5 School of Arts & Sciences
- Arts & Communication
8 - Computer Science & Mathematics
10 - Education & Social Science
11 - Humanities
13 - Natural Science

15 School of Business
16 School of Engineering & Architecture
17 School of Pharmacy

18 Further Flashes from the Institutes

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In September 2002, the Institute for Peace and Justice Education hosted a regional conference for university-based peace education consortia to launch a regional peace education project. The project aims to reach 500 teachers in the region within 3 years and is part of the “The Hague Appeal for Peace – Global Campaign for Peace Education.” Betty Reardon gave the keynote address, and participants came from Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey and the USA. The Cleveland Dodge Foundation supported the conference.

The School of Business-Byblos, held on May 29-30, 2003 its 5th International Conference on the “Economics and Finance of the MENA Region.” The conference attracted economists from the USA, Turkey, Tunisia, the UK, Canada, France, Morocco and Lebanon. The conference also included a round table forum on “Middle East Economic and Political Conditions in the Aftermath of the Iraq War.” The panel featured MP Fares Soueid, Dr. Fadi Osseiran and Dr. Kahter Abi Habib.

The Institute of Water Resources and Environmental Technology (WRET; director Jean G. Chatila) organised two one-day conferences at LAU-Byblos. Five Director Generals, in addition to Dr. Chatila, presented papers at the conference on “Newly Formed Water Authorities in Lebanon: Status and Further Expectations” (April 16, 2003). The second conference took place on July 7, 2003, on the subject of “Water Resources and Environmental Technology.” Speakers included, besides Dr. Chatila, H.E. Mr. Fares Boueiz (Minister of the Environment); H.E.Dr. Ayoub Hemayed (Minister of Energy and Water); H.E. Ms. Bahiya Hariri, Chair of the Parliamentary Committee for Education; H.E. Akram Chehayeb, Chair of the Parliamentary Committee for the Environment; Mr. Sobhi Bsat, President of the Lebanese Order of Engineers; Dr. Berj Hatjian, DG of the Ministry of Environment; and Mr. Bassam Jaber, Director of LWPP-DAI-USAID. The audience included MPs, professionals from the Ministry of Energy and Water, Water Authorities, Ministry of Environment, the private sector, NGOs, UN-ESCWA staff, and Municipal Board members.

The Natural Science Division-Beirut organised the 2nd International Conference on Trends in Mathematics Education (ICTME) on June 23-25, 2003. The organisation committee included Samer Habre and May Abboud (Co-Chairs), Ahmad Kabbani, Kamal Khuri-Makdisi (AUB) and Badrié Kojok (USJ). The conference provided a forum for educators, researchers and developers of educational software to share their experience on innovative methods for teaching mathematics at the university level as well as the last two years of secondary school. It also allowed practitioners and researchers from developed and developing countries to exchange ideas on the use of various trends in the teaching of mathematics. Ninety educators participated of whom 23 gave short presentations. Keynote speakers included Professors Michelle Artigue (U Denis Diderot, France), Neil Challis (Sheffield Hallam U, UK), Elias Deeba (U of Houston Downton, Texas), Jean Marie McDill (California Polytechnic State U, California) and Thomas Rishel (Weill Cornell Medical College, Qatar). In addition, Professor Deane Arganbright (U of Tennessee-Martin, Tennessee) offered a workshop on “Mathematical Modeling and Visualization Using Excel.” Professor Thomas Gawlick (U of Landau, Germany) gave a workshop “Learning
Geometry with Dynamic Geometry Software.” The conference brought together scholars from Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, UAE, Qatar, France, Italy, the UK, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, and the USA. Financial support for the conference was offered by Muhanna & Co (Actuarial Services), Key Curriculum Press, Springer Verlag, and the Goethe Institut (Beirut). (http://ictme.lau.edu.lb).

For the seventh year, the Institute for Banking & Finance successfully offered from June 26 to July 5, 2003 five seminars covering five topics. The first seminar was on “International Financial Markets;” it was delivered by Mr. Roger Roberts, an expert and trainer in treasury risk management, foreign exchange and money markets. The other four seminars were on “Branch Manager’s Workshop – Advanced;” “The Impact of the New USA Patriot Act on Foreign Banks Operating In & Outside the USA;” “How to Select and Keep the Best Financial Services Personnel in Your Marketplace;” and “Business Development for Bankers – Advanced.” These four seminars were conducted by Mr. Roger Morin, President of Morin & Associates, Inc., America’s leader training & consulting firm for the financial services industry. In addition, the Institute for Banking & Finance and the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA)-Lebanon Chapter jointly organised two seminars during the period of September 11-13, 2003, i.e., “Risk-Based Auditing” and “Best Practices Bank Internal Audit.” The seminars were conducted by Mr. Keith Wade (MA, CPFA, FIIA) from London. Mr. Wade is a consultant and trainer in the fields of internal audit, business control and corporate governance.

In December 2003, the Humanities Division-Beirut & Byblos hosted the 2nd English “Language and Change” Regional Conference. The event was organised by Nola Nahla Bacha and Rima Bahous in collaboration with the British Council (directed by Mr. Ken Churchill), Librairie du Liban Publishers, and Pearson Education in Lebanon (directed by Mr. Habib Sayegh). The aim of the conference was to provide a forum for teachers, researchers, practitioners and administrators at the secondary and university levels to discuss and share ideas on how the teaching and learning of English can be made to meet the challenges of local and global society. There were four sub-themes: “Sociolinguistics,” “Computer Assisted Language Learning (CALL),” “English Language Teaching and Learning,” and “Management and Leadership.” VPAA Abdallah Sfeir and Deans Samira Aghacy and Fuad Hashwa gave opening addresses. Keynote speakers included Professor Ann Johns (San Diego U, USA), Professor Michael Hoey (U of Liverpool, UK), Dr. David Graddol (The English Company, UK) and Mr. Nick Dawson (Pearson Education, UK). Approximately 40 papers were read, 10 of which by LAU faculty. For example, Loulou Akl Khoury read “Culture and Translation in ESL Discourse” and Rima Bahous read “Revisiting the Language Lab for Better Student Motivation.” Nuwar Diab presented “Students’ Response to Teachers’ Feedback: What’s Hot and What’s Not” while Renee Ghattas spoke on “Business Education: A Liberal Arts Tradition or Other Educational Paradigm?” And Layla Harmoush lectured on “Leadership and Management of Teaching and Learning in a Time of Rapid Change.” There were about 200 participants from Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Turkey, Egypt, Algeria, China, Sweden, UK, and the USA.
Two faculty members recently received significant appointments. **Bassam Lahoud** was named chair of the ESCWA Arts Council at the UN. His responsibilities include organizing exhibits and cultural events in 13 West-Asian countries. And **Dima Dabbous-Sensenig** was appointed academic director of the EU-funded project “Media Literacy, Decoding the Stereotyping of Arabs and Muslims in Media Targeting Children and Youth.” With a budget of EUR 490,000, this project develops training material (a toolkit in English, French, German, and possibly Arabic) for European and Middle Eastern schools, youth groups and community centres. Begun in September 2002, it will be completed in 2004. In preparation for this project, **Dabbous-Sensenig** (who is a board member of the Austrian Diversity Centre, Salzburg) carried out a two-day “train the trainer” workshop at the European Parliament in Strasbourg (October 2002).

**Dr. Dabbous-Sensenig** was also selected by the UN Division for the Advancement of Women to participate as expert/observer in a four-day workshop and expert group meeting on “Participation and access of women to the media and its impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women” (September 2002). Experts from 15 countries drafted a report with recommendations concerning policy-making, IT, and the advancement of women. The meeting was held at ESCWA, Beirut (November 2002), and the report was presented at the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) in Geneva, Switzerland (December 2003).

Everybody has heard of, and hopefully seen, the feature film When Maryam Spoke Out (lamma hikyit maryam), the feature debut of writer/director **Assad Fouladkar** (2001). The film was shown in movie theaters in Beirut for 20 weeks (as well as in Australia, Dubai and Bahrain) and in the non-commercial festival circuit in the region, but also in Europe and the USA. To date, When Maryam Spoke Out has already collected 20 awards internationally. For example, at the Muscat Film Festival in Oman (January 2003) Mr. Fouladkar went to the podium three times, to pick up “the Golden Dagger” (for best film), the “best actress’ honors” (for Bernadette Hodeib), and “the critics’ award.” The jury was headed by Egyptian star Hussein Fahmy. Mr. Fouladkar’s film ended ahead of German (second) and French films (third).

**Mona Jabbour** had two personal art shows in 2003. In May, she displayed abstract paintings at Zico House, Beirut, and in September she showed work combining abstraction and realism (using various painting media) at Rizk Plaza, Broumana. Ms. Jabbour also had her work displayed in several collective exhibits: “Artsud,” at BIEL; “Concours jaune et l’oeuil du nuit,” in Paris, France; “Journée des Peintres,” Deir; and the “Salon d’Automne,” Musée Sursock.

The Arts & Communication Division sponsored a series of theatre workshops organised by **Mona Knio**. An “Acting Workshop” in collaboration with the British Council and the Ministry of Culture in Syria, and with the British Council in Lebanon, was held in November 2002; it was conducted by a member of the “Kneehigh Theatre Company” and brought together Syrian and Lebanese professionals and graduating students. In May 2003, choreographer and dancer...
Omar Rajeh conducted the “Laban Movement Workshop.” Also in May, Nabil Ammash, head of the make-up department at Future TV, gave a “Stage and TV Make-up Workshop” while actor and stage-director Issam Boukhaled conducted a “Mime Workshop.” In the summer of 2003, the Arts & Communication Division held three theatre workshops in Gulbenkian and Irwin theatres, in collaboration with the Arab Theatre Training Centre and the British Council. The topics were “The Drama of Sound” conducted by Nancy Evans; “Voice” conducted by Yvonne Morley; and “Lighting Design” conducted by Judith Greenwood. The 52 participants in these three workshops were theatre practitioners and graduates from universities in Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Egypt. Finally, Danish actor and stage-director Hasan Preisler conducted an “Acting Method” workshop in December 2003.

Maurice Maalouf directed the 5th Annual University Theatre Festival, which was held in July 2002 at LAU-Beirut. It hosted 60 participants from LAU and other universities in Lebanon and from Egypt, Jordan, Bahrain and Syria. In July 2003, Mr. Maalouf directed the 6th Annual University Theatre Festival, with 9 participants from LAU and other Lebanese universities and from the U of Bahrein.

In January 2003, the Major Theatre production “This Is Not Terrorism,” inspired by Etel Adnan’s poem, drew a huge audience of 2,500. The one-night, outdoors experimental performance on the Beirut campus was a collective creation. Nagy Souraty was the director. Hala Masri was production manager, and Mona Knio was technical director and lighting designer.

On April 11, 2003 the Arts and Communication Division organised a round-table discussion on “Woman Facing War” in Irwin Hall as part of an ongoing joint project with the International Red Cross. The Institute for Women’s Studies in the Arab World participated in the informal event. The aim was to help students prepare posters, documentaries and other video productions for the “Woman Facing War” Exhibit in Downtown Beirut (June 2003). Eight student posters were selected for the Exhibit, of which five won awards distributed by Her Majesty Queen Rania of Jordan.

In collaboration with the British Council, Yasmine Taan and Ruth Maalouf organised an exhibit “Magic Pencil: Children’s Books Illustration” and a workshop given by Leo Duff (illustrator; Kingston U, UK) (October 15-17, 2003). This event was followed by Ms. Duff’s much appreciated presentation on October 20th. Following the success of the Beirut campus workshop, the workshop was repeated on Byblos campus (January 8-11, 2004). The Graphic Design faculty expressed their interest in organising more such events.

In December 2003, the Graphic Design Program - Beirut organised an Arabic Typography Show in Sheikh Zayed Gallery, Beirut. The show included 80 innovative and creative solutions for Modern Arabic digital typefaces. The jury consisted of Professor Samir Sayegh (calligrapher and lecturer at AUB) and Professor Huda Abi Fares (author of Introduction to Arabic Typography and coordinator of the Graphic Design Program, American U, Dubai). Both professors were impressed by the creativity and achievements of the students.

Yasmine Taan presented a paper titled “Arabic Type Vernacular in Beirut” at the conference of the Association Typographique Internationale (ATYPI) in Vancouver, Canada (September 2003). Her presentation was followed by animations and Arabic type development projects recently designed by LAU graphic design students. The 300 professionals from approximately 45 countries who attended the conference were impressed by the quality of the work displayed (www.atypi.org). Zeina El Abed, a faculty member of the Graphic Design Program-Beirut, attended the conference as well.

Also in September 2003, Ms. Taan attended a conference to evaluate the “Children’s Books Illustration” workshop organised by the UNESCO in Paris, France. The UNESCO coordinator proposed to organise workshops in Beirut to develop children’s books illustration in the Arab world (www.unesco.org/culture/). Nathalie Fallaha and Zeina El Abed attended the meeting of the International Council for Graphic Art and Design Association (ICOGRADA) in Nagoya, Japan (October 2003). They distributed around 40 LAU Graphic Design students’ catalogues to professionals and graphic design faculty from around the world (www.icograda.org).

And Bassam Lahoud gave a lecture on “The Evolution of Architecture in Lebanon and its Contemporary Revival” at an international seminar held at Camerino, Italy (July/August 2003). The text of Mr. Lahoud’s lecture, illustrated with his personal photographs, was published in the book Paesaggi d’architettura mediterranea (Camerino: Agora Edizioni, 2003) 58-62.
Four faculty members published papers in international journals.

In 2003, Nashat Mansour was elected VP of the “Arab Computer Society.” He was also appointed a member of “Lebanon’s International Telecommunications Union Committee” as well as a member of the “National Task Force for Developing Science, Technology and Innovation Policy” which is led by the National Council for Scientific Research in co-operation with UNESCO and ESCWA.


In February 2003, Ramzi Haraty, Nashat Mansour, and Walid Daher read “An Arabic Auto-Indexing System for Information Retrieval” at the JASTED International Conference on Applied Informatics in Innsbruck, Austria (Proceedings 1221-26). Ramzi Haraty presented “Multilevel Secure Technologies” at a seminar held at U of Florida-Gainesville (May 2003); the seminar discussed ways to perform security engineering while integrating certified and uncertified products. Ramzi Haraty also presented two papers at the 2003 ACS/IEEE International Conference on Computer Systems and Applications in Tunis, Tunisia: “ADD: Arabic Duplicate Detector - A Duplicate Detection Data Cleansing...”

Nashat Mansour, Abbass Tarhini, and V. Ishakian braved the heat of July to present “Three-phase Simulated Annealing Algorithms for Exam Scheduling” at the ACS/IEEE International Conference on Computer Systems and Applications in Tunis, Tunisia (published in the Proceedings). At the same conference, Dr. Mansour was second author of the paper “Comparative Evaluation of Object Request Broker Technologies.” In September 2003, May Hamdan presented her paper “Alternatives for Teaching Linear Algebra: The Case of Representation” at the Undergraduate Mathematics Teaching Conference (UMTC) held in Birmingham, UK. At the same conference, Dr. Hamdan also participated in a working group entitled “Mathematicians as Educational Co-Researchers.” Haidar Harmanani, J. Hannouche and N. Khoury presented “A Neutral Networks Algorithm for the Minimum Coloring Problem Using FPGAs” at the IASTED International Conference on Applied Simulation and Modeling (ASM 2003) in Marbella, Spain (September 2003; Proceedings 152-56). May Abboud and Samer Habre both attended the 6th International Conference on Technology in Mathematics Teaching (ICTMT6) which was held in Volos, Greece (October 2003). Dr. Abboud read her paper “Integrating Several Methodologies in the Teaching of Numerical Analysis: A Case Study” (Proceedings 284-290), and Dr. Habre spoke on “Understanding the Derivative in a Reformed Calculus Course” (Proceedings 328-334).

To end the year 2003, Joe Syriani and Nashat Mansour travelled to Antalya, Turkey in November to speak on “SDL Modelling for Web Systems” at the International Symposium on Computer and Information Sciences (Proceedings 1019-26). At the same conference, Dr. Mansour was second author (with Rabih Zeineddin) of the paper “Software quality model for small organisations” (Proceedings 1027-34).
From 2001 to 2004, Fawwaz Traboulsi is serving as a member of the Regional Advisory Panel on the Middle East and North Africa Social Science Research Council (New York). Dr. Traboulsi is also a member of the Editorial Board of The New Political Science – A Journal of Politics and Culture (USA). He published a book in Arabic: Dhofar, A Testimony from the Revolutionary Years (Beirut: Riad al-Rayess, 2003), and was invited to lecture on “The War on Iraq and its Repercussions on Palestine” by Al-Liqa’ al-Philistini (Dr. Anis Sayigh) for the AUB Alumni Association, Beirut (March 2003). In the same period, Dr. Traboulsi had 4 local television appearances, a local radio interview, and an interview on National Public Radio, Washington D.C. Also in March 2003, Dr. Traboulsi directed a workshop “Reconceptualizing Public Spheres in the MENA Region,” at the 4th Mediterranean Social and Political Research Meeting, which was held at the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, European University Institute (Firenze/Montecatini Terme, Italy).


In August 2003, Dr. Baroudi travelled to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where he presented the paper “Middle Eastern Contributions to the [Political Science] Discipline” to the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association. Dr. Baroudi then spent the Fall 2003 semester as a Fulbright Scholar in Residence at Villanova U, Pennsylvania. He taught the course “International Relations of the Middle East” in the Political Science Department, guest-lectured twice in a History course and gave a lecture at the invitation of the Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies and the Political Science Department. During his stay he visited a correctional facility in the area, meeting with inmates serving life sentences, and he was the guest of “Radio Times,” an hour-long interview and call-in program on Philadelphia Public Radio. Dr. Baroudi was invited to guest-lecture in a “Third-World Politics” course at the U of Delaware, where he also delivered a lecture “Democracy in the Middle East: Prospects and Changes after September 11.” In November, he participated with “No Winners in
the Iraq War” to a “Roundtable on the Middle East after the Iraq War,” at the Annual Meeting of the Northeastern Political Science Association in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.


Huda Ayyash-Abdo spoke on “Emotional and Multiple Intelligence in Elementary, Middle, and High School” at the Conference on Incorporating Emotional and Multiple Intelligence in the Classroom, Anglophone Catholic Schools held in Rabieh (September 2002). Hassan Hammoud presented “Towards an Integrated Conceptual Framework for Social Policies in the Arab Countries: A Critique” at the Policy Makers Meeting on Social Studies in the ESCWA Region in Cairo, Egypt (December 2002). In April 2003, Ketty Sarouphim flew to Chicago, Illinois, to present “DISCOVER in Middle School: Identifying Gifted Minority Students” at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association. Following the death of internationally acclaimed Palestinian scholar Edward Said in 2003, Fawwaz Traboulsi read two papers in November: “Edward Said, In Memoriam” (in Sharjah) and “The Thought of Edward Said” (in Abou Dhabi). Dr. Traboulsi further read three papers in Beirut (October/November 2003): “External Stakeholders Retreat” (AUB); “In Memoriam Edward Said: Readings and Music” (AUB); and “On the 40th of Edward Said” (Arab Cultural Club and the Palestinian Encounter). He also chaired two panels at AUB: “Models of Universities for the Arab World” (October 2003) and “Sexuality in the Arab World: Historical, Literary and Socio-Psychological” (St. Antony’s College, Oxford U; December 2003).
Irma Ghosn was asked in 2002 to evaluate the new National English Curriculum as part of a larger UNESCO commissioned study that evaluated all the new curricula of General Education as well as the textbooks, assessment mechanisms and teacher training. While the new English curriculum is an improvement from the former one, it falls short by international standards; it seems to have been adapted from US curricula without taking into account local contexts and constraints. Also, the new curriculum seems to address primarily the needs of students aiming for higher education while neglecting students interested in vocational schools. Given the lack of qualified English teachers in the country, the very demanding objectives of the new curriculum might mean early failure for many students. This is a serious concern for public schools as well as for private schools with limited resources.


Humanities faculty also published articles in international and local journals. Many travelled far and wide to speak at conferences.
November, Dr. Ghosn was in New York, N.Y., where she presented “Building Peace (Education) Institutions: The Lebanese Experience” on the occasion of The Hague Appeal for Peace/Global Campaign for Peace Education. Also in November 2002, Kristiaan Aercke had his paper “The Pilgrimage of Sir Konrad Grünenberg to Jerusalem in 1486” read at the International Conference on Travel and Translation held at Jacksonville State U, Jacksonville, Alabama.

Irma Ghosn was the first Humanities faculty member to present a paper in 2003. In January, she spoke on “Teacher Education for Peace in the Middle Eastern Countries” at the UNESCO workshop in Stadtschlaining, Austria. Pamela Pattie and Nagla Aboul Fetouh presented a paper, “Essay Correction on the Discourse Level,” at the 8th EFL Skills Conference in Cairo, Egypt (January 2003). In April 2003, Irma Ghosn travelled to Brighton, UK to give a paper “Story-based Instruction for L2 Academic Literacy for Young Learners” at the 37th International IATEFL Annual Conference. Nuwar Diab read “Teaching Culture in the Language Classroom” at the ATEL 2003 Sixth Annual Conference on English Across Boundaries at the UNESCO Palace, Beirut (May 2003). Irma Ghosn read two papers at the UNESCO Conference on Intercultural Education held at the U of Jyväskyla, Finland in June 2003: “Children’s Literature and the Culture of Peace” and “TEPMEC – Teacher Instruction for Peace in Middle Eastern Countries.” Mark Perry spoke on “Rediscovering a Lost Urban Heritage and Identity: Teaching Martyrs’ Square in a Lebanese University” at the 37th International Making Cities Liveable Conference in Siena, Italy (June 2003). Layla Harmoush presented her paper “The Influence of Christian Missionaries on the Educational System in Lebanon” at the conference on Education as a Force for Change organised by the British Society for Middle Eastern Studies (BRISMES) at Exeter U, UK (July 2003). At the same Exeter conference, Hayat Bualuan spoke on “The Image of the West in the Writings of Ali Mubarak and Rifaat al Tahtawi.”

Ahmad Houri worked as a consultant in the installation of three wind monitoring towers and two wind turbines for the generation of electricity in South Lebanon. The consultancy, through LAU, was for the benefit of Mercy Corps (February/October 2002). Dr. Houri participated in the Go Green Environmental Workshop at Schtroumpf in Jounieh (June 2002), and he won First Prize in the category of “Environmental Engineering” at the Annual Schtroumpf Environmental Contest (July 2002) for his work on biodiesel as a fuel alternative. He also contributed to the National Meeting on Indicators and Provisions of Energy in Lebanon at the Gefinor-Rotana, Beirut (December 2002), which was organised by UNDP and the Ministry of Energy and Water.

In 2003, the Lebanese National Council of Scientific Research (CNRS) funded Samira Korfali’s project “A hydro-geochemical study of Nahr-Ibrahim catchment area: fluvial metal transport” with a generous research grant. Dr. Korfali was also selected as one of the international reviewers for several manuscripts submitted for consideration for publication in the Journal of Environmental Geochemistry and Health, which is published in The Netherlands by Kluwer Academic Publishers. And while participating in the 6th International Symposium on Environmental Geochemistry in Edinburgh, Scotland (September 2003), Samira Korfali attended two workshops/field trips. First she visited the Leadhills-Wanlockhead area, which contains the largest lead-zinc deposits in Scotland. The objective was to study the geological settings and mineralisation of lead and zinc and their environmental effect on animal and human health. The second workshop took her to contaminated chromium sites in Glasgow in order to study the impact of chromite-ore processing industries on land contamination and urban regeneration.

Likewise, Natural Science faculty was present at the international conference circuit.


In 2003, the first volume of LAU-sponsored Review of Middle East Economics and Finance (MEEF) appeared. It was published by Taylor and Francis, an imprint of Routledge whose editorial board includes Wassim Shahin (editor), Ghassan Dibeh (associate editor and book reviews editor) and Elias Raad (associated editor). The volume included three issues. The Review has been evaluated by the Journal of Economic Literature (JEL) and the Journal of the American Economic Association (AEA) and it was accepted for listing in the AEA electronic indexes which are included in JEL on CD, e-JEL and Econlit. This listing is subject to periodic reviews and comes as recognition by the AEA of the quality of the content, the members of the editorial board and the publisher. The Review is also noted in CSA/Sociological Abstracts and International Bibliography of the Social Sciences.


Mona Khalaf travelled to Washington, D.C. in August 2003 to attend a World Bank meeting in her capacity as coordinator of the World Bank’s Gender Consultative Council in the MENA region. The purpose of this meeting was to finalize the gender report that was presented in Dubai in September. Ms. Khalaf also presented a paper, “The Economic Impact of Globalization on the Arab Family” (in Arabic), at the Arab Meeting on the Occasion of the Tenth Anniversary of the International Year of the Family, which was held at UN-ESCWA, Beirut (October 2003). In December 2003, Ms. Khalaf travelled to Malmö, Sweden to present her paper “Women’s International Labor Migration in the Arab World: Historical and Socio-Economic Perspectives” at the Expert Consultative Meeting on Migration and Mobility and How this Movement Affects Women.

Josiane F. Sreih participated in the conference on Corporate Transparency and Good Governance: Prerequisites for Equity Funding, Institutionalisation and Growth, which was held at LAU-Byblos (October 2003), where she read a paper entitled “Corporate Governance: A Means to Enhance Transparency and Accountability in Lebanese Family Firms.”
Members of the School of Engineering & Architecture also participated in regional and international conferences.

It is noteworthy that Antoine Lahoud was appointed a member on the “Scientific Board of Queen Rania’s Institute of Tourism and Heritage” (Jordan), and that in July 2003, Jean G. Chatila was awarded two software grants from Montgomery Watson Harza (MWH) Soft Inc., which comprised a 30-Licence-H20MAP-WATER and a 30-Licence-H20MAP-SEWER software.


George E. Nasr, and Celine Badr presented their paper “BUC Algorithm for Iceberg Cubes: Implementation and Sensitivity Analysis” at the 16th International Artificial Intelligence Research Symposium which was held in St. Augustine, Florida (May 2003; Proceedings I: 255-59.) Camille Issa, and P. Debs read “Repair of Cracks in Concrete Using Epoxy” at the Conference on Structural Faults and Repairs in London, UK (July 2003). In September 2003, Dr Issa, and Abdo Abou Jouadeh presented their paper “Experimental Study of CFRP Strengthening of Reinforced Concrete Beam” to the Conference of the Architectural Engineering Institute (American Society of Civil Engineers in Austin, Texas (the latter two papers were published in the Proceedings). Also in September 2003, Elie Badr, and Raymond Ghajar presented a paper “Power Augmentation of Wind Turbines: Experimental Study” at the International Conference on Power and Energy Systems organised by the International Association of Science and Technology for Development (IASTED) in Marbella, Spain (Proceedings, 63-68). Antoine Lahoud spoke on “Conservation and Protection of Natural Sacred Heritage Sites – ‘Qadisha Valley’” at the 8th International Seminar of Forum UNESCO – University & Heritage that was held in Tenerife, Canary Island, Spain (November 2003). And to round off a well-filled year, Raymond Ghajar read his paper “Restructuring of the Lebanese Electric Power Sector: An Independent Study,” at the IASTED Conference PowerCon 2003 – Special Theme: Blackout, in New York, N.Y. (December 2003; Proceedings 147-52).
In September 2003, Irma Ghosn received a grant of US $30,000 for the Institute for Peace and Justice Education from the United States Institute for Peace. Her project was to develop a manual for teacher training in peace and human rights education, and to train trainers. Called TEPMEC (Teacher Education for Peace in the Middle Eastern Countries), the project will last two years and will involve partners in Jordan and Turkey.

Mona Khalaf, Director of the Institute for Women’s Studies in the Arab World, participated in a workshop of the Arab Families Work Group Project (AFWG) held at the American U of Cairo (February 2003). Researchers and faculty members participating in this workshop represented LAU, AUB, AUC, U of California-Davis and Beir Zeit U. Ms. Khalaf also participated in the follow-up of this project at the American U of Cairo (July 2003). Finally, Ms Khalaf attended the conference on Deepening the Dialogue for Better Governance in the Mediterranean Region, sponsored by the EU and organized by the Lebanese Centre for Policy Studies, and which was held in Beirut in October 2003.

In the context of the Software Institute (SI), Nashat Mansour continued to offer “Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer” courses in Beirut and Byblos (2002), as well as CISCO training courses to students and technical school teachers (2002). Dr. Mansour also offered a 3-day training course on “XML Programming” (December 2002) to 15 participants from various software firms. In 2003, the Software Institute was officially registered as a Microsoft IT Academy. Seven “Microsoft Certified Systems Engineers” courses were organised in Beirut and Byblos with about 100 participants. The year 2003 also saw the inception of a new certification program in computer networks, in collaboration with CISCO. LAU has recently been registered as a CISCO Academic Training Centre for the MENA region. In the series “Programmed in Lebanon”, the Software Institute in co-operation with the Professional Computer Association held two seminars (April/May 2003). The aims of this series are to bring universities and the software industry closer, to promote innovative Lebanese software products, and to raise awareness among universities about software technology used in the industry and its educational implications.