LAU Divisions, Centres and Institutes were very active in the first half of 2004 in organizing conferences, seminars, and discussion lectures. Many disciplines promoted their fields of study and research locally, regionally, and internationally. For example, please look inside for details on the final module of the European Project for Inter-religious Learning (EPIL), co-organized by IWSAW in February, in Beirut (after Switzerland, Spain, Germany and Bosnia-Herzegovina). In January, the School of Engineering and Architecture organized a very-well attended environmental conference focusing on air pollution, in Byblos. The performance of Arab women parliamentarians was discussed in the framework of an IWSAW seminar in February, while the Humanities Division organized three well-attended literary discussions in Beirut throughout the Spring, featuring prominent local and European intellectuals. Regional computer science specialists, in the framework of the MENA CISCO Networking Academies, met at LAU-Byblos in April, even while regional and European education specialists were discussing “the safety and ethos of schools” in Byblos and Beirut. The Institute of Family and Entrepreneurial Business had its conference, in April also (Byblos), whereas LAU and international Architecture and Design specialists met in Beirut in May to discuss contemporary discourses in architecture. The School of Pharmacy gathered around 1,000 attendees for its 2nd international conference in Byblos mid-May, while a smaller but equally enthusiastic group of panelists and conferees from the region, Europe and the USA attended the three-day “Violence in the Middle East” conference organised by the Comparative Literature Program and the Humanities Division, later in May in Beirut. And the School of Business (Byblos) held its 6th international banking and finance conference also late in May, with many prominent local and international scholars and professionals participating.
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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.
On January 29, the School of Engineering and Architecture (Byblos) organized a seminar on Air Quality Management and Estimated Health Impact of Pollutants in Urban and Industrial Areas in the context of a project titled “Air quality management and estimated health impacts of pollutants in urban and industrial areas.” The seminar was funded by USAID and very well attended by many presidents of Municipalities (Chekka, Koura and Batroun) as well as by industrialists, directors general, public administrators, representatives of diplomatic missions, international organizations (UNIDO, WB, WHO), NGO’s, academics, environmental engineers and environmentalists. The study’s objectives were to carry out, for the first time in Lebanon, a long term (one year) air quality measurement campaign centred around the Chekka industrial zone and the neighboring Koura municipalities; to develop a numerical based model to describe the diffusion of pollutants in the Chekka area; to establish parameters between predictions and field measurements; to establish the size of the exposed population, the levels of exposure, and health impacts; and to develop an action plan in consultation with the municipalities, the industry, and NGO’s. In closing, the first environmental partnership in Lebanon was announced between the Association of Lebanese Industrialists, the Municipalities of Chekka and Koura, the Ministry of the Environment and LAU to develop and apply a progressive action plan for environmental management in the region, including air pollution.

The European Project for Inter-religious Learning (EPIL) and the Institute for Women’s Studies in the Arab World (IWSAW) held the last of five modules of an adult education program “Towards Reconciliation-Elements for Reconciliation in Christianity and Islam,” February 4-12, in Beirut. This program explores problems of living together as Christians and Muslims. The previous four modules were held in Switzerland, Spain, Germany and Bosnia-Herzegovina. Twenty-seven participants from these countries and from Lebanon attended the module. In a series of lectures, prominent Lebanese speakers presented various ways through which reconciliation took place in Lebanon. In addition, visits were organized to various religious groups during which Lebanese women gave testimonies about how they lived the war.

The Institute for Women’s Studies in the Arab World (IWSAW) in collaboration with the Arab Centre for Development and Futuristic Research held a two-day seminar on The Performance of Arab Women Parliamentarians: Tunisia, Egypt and Syria, February 24-25, in Beirut. MP Bahia Hariri addressed the participants, presenting her experience as a woman in the Lebanese Parliament.

The Humanities Division (Beirut) organized three discussion lectures. Sir Bernard Crick, Emeritus Professor of Politics and Fellow of Birkbeck College, London, delivered the first lecture on April 15. Sir Bernard, who spent much of his life in conflict areas such as Northern Ireland, South Africa and Palestine, was knighted in 2002 “for services to citizenship in schools and to political studies.” The title of his talk was “Nineteen Eighty-Four: Satire or Prophecy.”
the wake of 9/11, this discussion of George Orwell’s famous novel was very relevant. It is noteworthy that Sir Bernard wrote an authoritative biography of George Orwell, In Defence of Politics, George Orwell: A Life. On April 21, the second event took place: a well-attended and lively discussion on intercultural encounter entitled “Dialogue with Writers – Orient and Occident.” This dialogue between Lebanese novelist Rashid al-Daif and rising German author Joachim Helfer was co-sponsored by the Beirut branch of the Goethe Institute as part of a project for cultural exchange aimed at improving mutual knowledge and dialogue between Germany and the Middle East. This project consists of writers engaging in visits to one another’s country to discuss cultural perceptions and attitudes as reflected in literature. George Orwell was again the subject of discussion in the third event: “Orwell’s Double: The Pamphlet and the Pamphleteer,” a lecture on the intersection of literature and politics by Andrew Long (AUB) on May 7.

The Middle East and North Africa CISCO Networking Academies held their annual conference at LAU on April 14-15. The conference was organized at LAU (Byblos) since LAU’s CISCO Academy became the Cisco Academy Training Centre (CATC) for the MENA region. Regional academy representatives and officials from CISCO Systems met to learn about the latest developments in all CISCO curricula (CCNA, CCNP, Sponsored Curriculum, Wireless and Security), E-Learning and the IT Jordanian Education Initiative.

In partnership with UNESCO, the British Council and HSBC, Irma Ghosn and Elie Samia (Social Science and Education) organized the 10th Annual Conference on the Global Education of the Child on the theme “In Loco Parentis: Safety and Ethos of Schools.” About 100 participants attended the event on April 16 in Byblos and April 17 in Beirut. Keynote addresses were given by Professor Sir Bernard Crick and by Huda Ayyash-Abdo. Dr. Abdo spoke on “The Significance of Children’s Play in Lebanon and the Region.” Other speakers came from Lebanon (including LAU faculty members Ruth Maalouf and Iman Osta), UAE and Turkey. Topics addressed included “bullying and aggression in our schools,” “character and values education,” “bringing up a creative, communicative child,” “right to leisure,” and “family and community links.”

The Institute of Family and Entrepreneurial Business organized a conference on Planning for Ownership Continuity and Management Succession.
April 22-24, in Byblos. Dr. Josiane Sreih, Director of the Institute, presented a paper on “A New Corporate Governance Mechanism in Family Firms: Evidence from Lebanese Family Firms.” In the context of the conference, Dr. James Lea gave a seminar on “Planning for Ownership Continuity and Management Succession” (April 23-24).

The Department of Architecture and Design organized a two-day symposium on Contemporary Discourses in Architecture, May 13-14, in Beirut. The symposium continued the debate initiated at LAU since Spring 2000 on the importance of architecture in relation to the social, political and ideological aspects of life. A number of international speakers addressed questions of academic interest that relate to contemporary developments in architectural theory and practice, in five sessions: “Theory and Practice,” “Architecture and Art,” “Emerging Paradigms,” “Architecture and the City,” and “Architecture and its Other.” The keynote speakers were Hilde Heynen and Neil Leach. Participants enjoyed fieldtrips to Tripoli and Baalbek.

The School of Pharmacy and the Middle East College of Clinical Pharmacy (headquartered at LAU), in collaboration with the American College of Clinical Pharmacy, organized their 2nd International Clinical Pharmacy Conference on the theme of “Optimizing Pharmaceutical Care,” May 13-15, in Selina Korban Theatre. The latest research and updates in the pharmacotherapy of various diseases and disorders were presented, in addition to strategies for developing new clinical services and skills. With around 1000 local and regional attendees, the conference was the largest international meeting in the region dedicated to improving patient care through drug therapy. With over 15 sessions presented by speakers from Lebanon, Germany and the USA, the conference was valuable to every practitioner. Dr. Jean Dib delivered a paper on “Hypertension in Elderly.”

On May 14, the Institute for Women’s Studies in the Arab World (IWSAW) hosted nineteen prominent editors and journalists from the USA during a seminar on “Women’s Status in Lebanon.” Guest speakers included Dr. Mohammad Sammak, who is the Secretary General of the Moslem-Christian Committee for Dialogue; Ms. Amal Dibo, lecturer at AUB; and Mrs. Alia Berti Zein, lawyer. Issues discussed included...
women’s civil rights and personal status in Lebanon, women and Islam, and living experiences of Lebanese women. Representatives from Mouvement Social, Caritas-Lebanon, and Dar Al Amal spoke about their NGO’s and the various programs they implement in Lebanon.

The Comparative Literature Program and the Humanities Division (Beirut) organized an international conference on the theme of Violence in The Middle East, May 26-28. The interdisciplinary conference, which was opened by Dean Samira Aghacy and VPAA Abdallah Sfeir, aimed to discuss the violence that has plagued the countries bordering on the Eastern Mediterranean for most of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Participants included scholars working in area and gender studies, social sciences, communications and literary-cultural studies. Three LAU faculty members presented papers: Samira Aghacy, Ken Seigneurie, and Sami Baroudi. A sample of paper titles illustrates the pregnancy of the conference theme and the multiple ways of probing it: “Is Terrorism Morally Justified?” “The Pathology of Violence: A Historical Perspective of ‘Territory’ and ‘Aggression’,” “Writing without Authority: Torture in the Lebanese War Novel,” “Arab Humanism in a Time of Ongoing War,” “Intra-Sectarian Dimensions of the 1958 Lebanese Crisis,” “Soviet and Israeli Ethnic Cleansing: A Comparative Perspective,” and “Violence Against Nature/Women.” They represented the Frankfurt-based Peace Research Institute and universities in Beirut (LAU, AUB, Haigazian, USJ), Ankara, London, York, Cambridge (UK), New York, Amherst (Massachusetts), Champaign-Urbana (Illinois), Princeton (New Jersey), Montréal and Toronto. The keynote speakers were Professors Suman Gupta (Roehampton, UK), Jorgen Nielsen (Birmingham) and Susan Stanford Friedman (Madison-Wisconsin). After three days of well-attended, challenging lectures and stimulating discussions, the participants enjoyed a field-trip to Baalbek. The organizing committee of this first conference of the Comparative Literature Program consisted of Drs. Ken Seigneurie, Humanities Chair; Marianne Marroum, Program Chair; and Amal Saad-Ghorayeb, Cultural Studies professor.

The School of Business (Byblos) organized the 6th International Conference on the Economics and Finance of the Middle East and North Africa on May 27-28, jointly with the USA-based Middle East Economics Association (MEEA). Speakers represented organizations such as the World Bank and the International Food Policy Research Institute as well as about twenty universities from the MENA region, the EU and the USA. On May 27, Dr. Wassim Shahin chaired a round-table discussion with Dr. Ahmad Jachi (First Vice-Governor of the Central Bank of Lebanon), Dr. Joseph Torbev (President of the Arab Banks Association, Chairman of the Board of the Association of Banks in Lebanon), and Dr. François Bassil (Chairman of the Board and General Manager of the Crédit Libanais), and Dr. François Bassil (Chairman of the Board and General Manager of Byblos Bank).
Throughout the week of January 10-18, the Arts & Communication Division (Beirut) presented its Fall Major Theatre Production “FRAGMENTS.” According to Director Nagy Souraty, “FRAGMENTS was an experimental performance, not based on a specific script and without a specific plot: We started exploring ideas. Texts came in later in the process of creation. The ideas we explored are water, survival, wolves, dreams, fear, pain...” The performance was inspired by texts written by Etel Adnan, Nasri El Sayegh, David Rudkin, Mohamed Kacimi, Walid Mouaness and Michel Azama. Hala Masri was production manager, and Mona Knio was technical director and lighting designer. Dima Dabbous-Sensenig was director of the video production. The cast consisted of 14 actors and around 40 crewmembers from the "Acting," "Theatre in Performance," and "Technical Stagecraft" classes. The Spring Major Theatre Production was “AYYAM BAYRUT” (Beirut Days). Aliya Khalidi directed, and performances took place on May 13-23 in the Gulbenkian Theatre.

Albert Seikali had a photo exhibit entitled “Interior Vision” in Sheikh Zayed Hall (Beirut). The show ran for a week in January.

Yasmine Nashabe Taan and Nathalie Fallaha (Graphic Design Program, Beirut) presented papers at the Tasmeem Doha Symposium in Qatar, February 23-25. The Symposium was organised by the Virginia Commonwealth University School of the Arts in Qatar under the patronage of Her Highness Sheikha Mozah bint Nasser Al Missned (Chair of the Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development) in collaboration with the Ministry of Civil Service Affairs and Housing. The objective of the Symposium was to gather people with insights in and experience with design, to have discussions, provide examples, and inspire others. The general idea was that design processes, practices and potentials can indeed be a vital resource for a healthy Middle-Eastern society in times of rapid change. Yasmine Nashabe Taan spoke on “A Graphic Design Culture Emerging in Lebanon: A Visual Language for an Arab Populace,” and Nathalie Fallaha presented "Teaching Graphic Design in Lebanon: Raising Awareness of Design Representing Middle East Heritage.”

The Graphic Design Program (Beirut) hosted award-winning designers Oliver Klimpel and Svend Wennick of the design network Büro International London/Copenhagen for a workshop titled “The Visual Profiler: Graphic Authorship & Urban Narratives” on the challenges of
Mr. Adam Coleman, resident practitioner of the Shakespeare Globe Theatre from London, gave a series of drama workshops. The event was organized by the Arts & Communication Division (Beirut) in the Gulbenkian Theatre, in cooperation with the English Speaking Union, the Al-Bustan Festival of Arts & Drama, and Middle East Airlines. The workshops aimed at enacting the human emotions Shakespeare explores in his plays; they examined how he deals with them and how we can relate to them. Voice coaching and improvisation on stage were also addressed. These interactive sessions were open to high school students, university students, amateur and professional actors and teachers—and all were fully booked! The Arts & Communication Division also organized three other workshops: “Indian Dance” (directed by Natasha Devalia) in early April; “Stage Make-Up” (led by Nabil Ammash) and “Mime and Movement” (with Issam Boukhaled) in early May.

Assad Fouladkar in Hollywood! His script-in-progress The Cedar Tree was selected by Robert Redford’s SUNDANCE Studios for its filmmakers/screenwriters lab, which was held in late June. Mr. Fouladkar had the precious opportunity to work closely with Hollywood writers, directors and producers, not to mention Mr. Redford himself. He was part of a very select group: in addition to 14 people selected from the USA, only four filmmakers-screenwriters represented the rest of world. And our Mr. Fouladkar was one of these four!

Dima Dabbous-Sensenig presented several papers at local and international conferences. On March 11, she spoke on “The Stereotyping of Arabs in Hollywood: The Siege as an example of alternative representation, in ‘Wrapping yourself in the flag: Lebanese Americans in times of crisis’” at a conference organized by the Lebanese Emigration Research Centre (LERC) at Notre Dame U. Dr. Dabbous-Sensenig then read her paper “What role can broadcast regulation play in societal change?” at the 4th Annual Conference on Media and the Transformation of Arab Societies organized by the Beirut Institute for Media Arts (BIMA) at LAU, March 16-19. On May 14, she gave a presentation entitled “Al-Hurra: Between Propaganda and Fair Reporting” at a seminar on US Public Diplomacy Efforts in the Arab World; the seminar was held at LAU and was attended by 13 gatekeepers and editors from the US on a visit to Lebanon and Syria. Dr. Dabbous-Sensenig then travelled to Barcelona to present a paper titled “Challenging the core/periphery metaphor: Building diversity and restructuring cultural exchange in the Arab world” at the conference on Global Broadcasting, Cultural Diversity and Regulation organized by the Catalonian Broadcasting Council along with the Forum Barcelona 2004, May 28-29. And on June 18 she spoke on “Exporting Diversity: Is the Middle East profiting from European cultural protectionism?” at the Arab Media Seminar Series organized by the Communication and Media Research Institute (CAMRI) at the University of Westminster, London.
LAU students practise Indian dance with Natasha Devalia

Assad Fouladkar at the SUNDANCE Studios with Susan Shilliday, writer of “Legends of the Fall”

Souvenir from the SUNDANCE Studios workshop 2004

And with Scott Frank, writer of “Minority Report”, “Out of Sight,” and “Get Shorty”
On January 12th, the Lebanese Psychological Association (LPA) was born at the UNESCO Palace in Beirut. Among the founding members of this new association, the first of its kind in Lebanon, were two LAU professors: Drs. Ketty Sarouphim and Ahmad Oueini. The LPA’s goals are threefold: highlighting the role of psychology as serving the Lebanese society; establishing a network of professionals in order to exchange expertise and promote research; and working closely with local, regional and international psychological associations and organizations.

The other founding members were Drs. Brigitte Khoury (AUB), Shahe Kazarian (AUB), Ghassan Yacoub (LU), Leila Dirani (USJ), David Tawil (HU) and Christine Sabieh (NDU). Subcommittees in each branch of psychology were formed, e.g. clinical, educational, etc. CALL FOR MEMBERS: All psychologists holding an MA/Ph.D. in psychology are invited to join as non-voting members. Contacts: Ketty Sarouphim (ksarufim@lau.edu.lb) or Ahmad Oueini (aoueni@lau.edu.lb).

On February 25, a panel discussion was held in the Gulbenkian Theatre (Beirut) between Tarek Na’was, Ketty Sarouphim, Hassan Hammoud, and Marie José Hnein (AKA Miss Lebanon 2003). The topic of discussion was “Family Ties: What Happened?”

Also in February, Ohannes Geukjian presented a paper at an international conference held at the University of California-Los Angeles. The topic of his paper was “The Historical and Territorial Dimensions of the Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict between the Armenians and the Azerbaijanis.”


Mona Nabhani was asked by the representative of the Assembly of Secondary School Teachers of Public Schools in Lebanon to present a study of the pre-service education and in-service teacher training at LAU, and to come up with recommendations to upgrade pre-service teacher education at the Lebanese Ministry of Education. Concomitantly, Dr. Nabhani read a paper titled “Pre-service Education: Pitfalls and Recommendations” at an education conference held June 4 at the UNESCO Palace in the presence of the Minister of Education. The paper (to be published in the Proceedings) presented what LAU does in teacher preparation for teachers at all grade levels in all subjects and recommended improvement for training public school teachers.
Joe Helou presented a paper “Cementing Vocabulary” at the Conference of the Association of Teachers of English in Lebanon (ATEL) which took place, May 15, at the UNESCO Palace, Beirut. Dr. Helou introduced a new, unconventional method for teaching vocabulary through etymology. His presentation was accepted for publication in ATEL’s journal.

Irma Ghosn published “Partnership in Education: Lebanese Evolution of a Finnish Educational Model” in the Scandinavian Journal of Educational Research 48 (1) 2004: 34-45. Dr. Ghosn also presented a paper “Story as Culturally Appropriate Social Context?” at the 37th Annual TESOL Convention, which took place at Long Beach, California in March/April. At the same conference, she chaired the EFL Interest Section’s Panel on “Responding to Job Competition from Native English Speakers,” and she participated in a panel dedicated to “English, Environment and ‘The Earth Day Special’.” Dr. Ghosn’s paper “Story-based Instruction for L2 Academic Literacy” was published in the Proceedings of the IATEFL Brighton Conference Selections, Spring 2004. It is certainly worth mentioning that Dr. Ghosn was invited to join the organizing committee of “Seeing the South,” a national student competition for landscape projects in Southern Lebanon. The competition is sponsored by the UN Office of the Personal Representative of the Secretary General for Southern Lebanon. Finally, Dr. Ghosn was elected Chair of “TESOLers for Social Responsibility,” a special interest caucus of Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL). The caucus advocates inclusion of environmental issues, gender equity, prejudice, tolerance, conflict and related issues in the English language curricula. Her responsibilities start in 2005.

As announced in the previous issue of the Faculty Gazette, Irma Ghosn launched the TEP-MEC-project in January 2004. (TEPMEC stands for Teacher Education for Peace in the Middle Eastern Countries). The event took place in the presence of H.E. Mr. Vincent Battle, the US Ambassador to Lebanon. Thirty senior teachers and teacher educators gathered over five days to explore peace education pedagogy and existing materials, which were evaluated and adapted to suit the local context. At the conclusion of the workshop, participants returned to their respective institutions to pilot the testing materials and to train their teachers. Dr. Ghosn was the principal trainer of the session, with Dr. Habib Malik (human rights) and Ms. Afifa Dirani-Arsanios (gender issues). Dr. Amal El-Nasser, the Jordanian partner in the project, brought a very useful regional perspective to the workshop. The same group will meet again in summer to report back and to make final adjustments based on field feedback on the material, which will then be translated into Arabic and Turkish.


Nuwar Diab presented a paper entitled “Peer Editing: Just when you thought it does not work!” at the 7th Annual ATEL Conference which was held on May 15 at the UNESCO Palace, Beirut.

Ibrahim Hussari was selected for the summer session of the University of the Middle East’s 2004 Institute for Sustainable Development Policies, which was held in Spain. Dr. Hussari was selected with only 26 others from a competitive pool of over 220 highly qualified applicants hailing from the Middle East and North Africa. The University of the Middle East is based in Cambridge, Massachusetts.
Dr. Ramzi Haraty organized and chaired a special track on “Database Theory, Technology and Applications” at the 19th Association of Computing Machinery-Symposium on Applied Computing (ACM-SAC), which was held in Cyprus (March 14-17). The tract drew 50 papers from 31 countries but only 16 were accepted for publication in the Proceedings. Dr. Haraty also presented two papers (published in the Proceedings) at the 6th International Conference on Enterprise Information Systems, held in Porto in April: “BVA+ - A Bit Vectors Algorithm for Accelerating Queries in Multilevel Secure Databases” and “A Comparative Study of ElGamal Based Cryptographic Algorithms.” On May 23-25, Dr. Haraty chaired the conference on Storage World Middle East 2004 in Dubai. Senior speakers from organizations in the region and around the world provided the 150 participants with a complete picture of recent developments in the Middle East’s storage industry. On June 15, Ramzi Haraty was invited by the Université de Bourgogne to give a seminar on “Information Security;” he established joint research efforts and projects between LAU and the French university. In July, Dr. Haraty presented two papers (both published in the Proceedings) at the 13th International Conference on Intelligent and Adaptive Systems and Software Engineering in Nice: “ElGamal Public-key Cryptosystem Using Reducible Polynomials over a Finite Field” and “A Comparative Study of RSA Based Cryptographic Algorithms.” Ramzi Haraty was also the author of “Regression Test Selection for Database Applications” in the book Advanced Topics in Database Research vol. 3 (Idea Group Publishing: 2004) and “Arabic Character Recognition” in the International Arab Journal of Information Technology 1 (2) 2004.

F.N. Abu-Khzam was first co-author of the study “Kernelization Algorithms for the Vertex Cover Problem: Theory and Experiments” that was presented at the ACM-SIAM Workshop on Algorithm Engineering and Experiments in New Orleans in January. The paper was published in the Proceedings.

Nashat Mansour presented a paper titled “Technical and Scientific Policies for Developing the Software Industry” at the conference of the Arab Information Club which was held in Beirut, May 19-20. Dr. Mansour, Hiba Tabbara, and Tarek Dana published “A

May Hamdan published the paper “Combinatorial Approach for a Scheduling Problem” (co-authored with Abdel Nasser Kassar) in Mathematical Research Journal 8 (2) 2004: 47-54.

Nashat Mansour served as a member of the Steering Committee of the Software Process Improvement Network (Lebanon) which was established in the Spring of 2004. In the first half of the year, he also served as international reviewer of applied computing and information technology conferences in Lisbon, Cairo, Cyprus, Tunisia, Jordan and Qatar.

Iman Osta presented a paper “Etude de la cohérence d’un curriculum de mathématiques: le cas du Liban” at the 2003 Espace Mathématiques Francophone (EMF) conference, in Tunis. The paper was published in the Proceedings (2004). Dr. Osta also served as chair of the panel on “Research and Development in the Teaching and Learning of Geometry” in the 10th International Commission for Mathematical Education (ICME) which was held July 4-11 at the Technical University of Denmark-Lyngby (http://www.icme-organisers.dk/tsg10/)

Haidar Harmanani presented two papers (published in the Proceedings) at the IEEE North East Workshop on Circuits and Systems which was held June 20-24 in Montréal: “Distributed Control in Testable High-Level Synthesis with Low Area and Power Overhead” (with Wissam Marrouche), and “An Incremental Approach for Test Scheduling and Synthesis using Genetic Algorithms” (with Aouni Hajjar).
Ahmad Houri was awarded a grant to present a paper “Renewable Energy Resources in Lebanon: Practical Applications” at the 3rd International Conference of Fuel Conservation in Building and the International Symposium of South/South Networking and Cooperation in Renewable Energy, in Tehran (February 15-20). Dr. Houri was a co-founder of the South/South Network for Renewable Energy, which generally aims at assessing and promoting the use of renewable energy in developing countries, and which was established at the Tehran conference. In March, Dr. Houri participated in the Renewable Energy Forum organized by the Lebanese Solar Energy Society (Order of Engineers) in Beirut as well as in the Regional Collaboration on Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Workshop, which took place at AUB in April; in the Anaerobic Waste Decomposition forum organized by MECTAT at Project Lebanon at BIEL, Beirut, in May; and in the Workshop on Energy Statistics in ESCWA Member Countries at UN House, Beirut, May 31-June 2.

Samira Korfali, a specialist in environmental geochemistry, travelled to Nanjing, China to lecture on “Metals in Soil, Sediment and Water of Karstic Basin: Floodplain as Storage System” at the Nanjing Institute of Natural Science (March 29). One week later, Dr. Korfali was in England speaking on “Variation of Metals in Bed Sediments of Qaraoun Reservoir, Lebanon” at the 22nd European Conference SEGH 2004 which was held at Sussex University (April 4-7). In the context of this conference, Dr. Korfali participated in an international workshop involving a research visit to the Arun River catchment. The workshop demonstrated the potential impact of contamination on health and ecosystems by examining the findings of a recent study on organic micro-pollutants, especially antibiotics and estrogens due to human waste discharges. In addition, Dr. Korfali, who was recently appointed an international reviewer for international scientific, environmental journals, published with B.E. Davies the article “Speciation of metals in sediment and water in a river underlain by limestone: Role of carbonate species for purification capacity of rivers” in Advances in Environmental Research (18) 2004: 599-612.
In March, Josiane Sreih presented a paper on “Family Business Cases” at the Business Entrepreneurs Conference held at the University of Missouri, which was organized by Franklin Publishing and the University of Missouri. Her paper will appear in the Business Journal for Entrepreneurs. In May, Dr. Sreih read a paper on “Corporate Governance” at the EURAM Conference which was organized by the University of St. Andrews and the European Academy of Management (EURAM) in St. Andrews, Scotland; this paper, too, will be published in the electronic proceedings. On May 26-27, she participated in the Middle Eastern Families in Business conference at the Phoenicia Hotel, Beirut, with a paper on “Challenges Facing Family Businesses in the Middle East,” while on June 3, she read a paper on “Corporate Governance in Family Owned Enterprises” at the conference on Corporate Governance: A Focus on Lebanon. This conference was organized by the Centre for International Enterprise (CIPE). Dr. Sreih also published an article “Corporate Governance Comes of Age in Lebanon” in the British publication Families in Business 2004 (April-May): 22-25, as well as her book Family Business Cases, a collection of case-studies with an emphasis on inheritance, cultural and legal aspects affecting family firms.

Mona Khalaf is the coordinator of the World Bank’s Consultative Council on Gender, which held its annual meeting on April 1-2 in Washington, DC. On May 17, Mrs. Khalaf was invited by the Economics Department at AUB to lecture on “The Economic Participation of Arab Women in the Context of Globalization.”


On May 7, Michel Majdalani led senior Business students and MBA students from both Beirut and Byblos campuses on a fieldtrip to the headquarters of Bank Audi, Downtown Beirut. It is also noteworthy that Dr. Majdalani was invited by private Xavier University (established in 1831) in Cincinnati, Ohio, to teach its MBA’s during the Summer term.
On January 7-9, the Travelling Studio Exhibition (organized by Antoine Lahoud in Byblos) showed the work of the Architecture and Interior Design students who had participated in a cultural trip to Moscow and St. Petersburg in September 2003, on the occasion of the 300th anniversary of St. Petersburg.


Raymond Ghajar participated in three local workshops in the first half of this year: “Management of Energy Demand in Residential Sectors” (organized by NDU and the Ministry of Energy and Water, March 15); “Regional Collaboration on Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Technologies” (organized by the Energy Research Group at AUB and the US State Department, April 26-30); and “Classification of Energy Reserves in the ESCWA and OPEC Countries” (organized by ESCWA in Beirut, May 31-June 2).

The Department of Architecture and Design organized an exhibition of photos by architect and former LAU faculty member Charles Meyer, titled Lebanon 1996-2002. The exhibition took place in Sheikh Zayed Hall (Beirut), from May 13 to 20. A number of colleagues from LAU and other universities as well as current and former students attended the event.
Jean Dib was elected President of the Middle East Chapter of the American College of Clinical Pharmacy. He was also re-appointed as a member of the Ministry of Health’s Technical Committee. Dr. Dib had 4 publications in the first half of this year: “Drug-related Osteoporosis” (in Drug Topic Jan 26: 7); with S. Dedeyan, “Purported Benefits of Inositol Niacinate” (in AMJ Health-Syst Pharm (61) 2004: 307; with S. Saade and F. Merhi, “Pharmacy Practice in Lebanon: An Overview” (in AMJ Health-Syst Pharm (61) 2004: 794-95; and, with K. Zarikian, “The Role of Activated Protein C in Sepsis” (in Hospital Pharmacy, June 2004). In May, Dr. Dib also presented a paper “Hypertension in Elderly” at the 2nd International Clinical Pharmacy Conference on the topic of “Optimizing Pharmaceutical Care,” organized by the School of Pharmacy at LAU-Byblos.


Mohamad Mroueh, Yolande Saab and Raed Rizkallah published “Hepatoprotective Activity of Centaurium Erythraea on Acetaminophen-Induced Hepatotoxicity in Rats” in the journal Phytotherapy Research 18 (200): 431-33.
On the occasion of International Women’s Day, the Institute for Women’s Studies in the Arab World (IWSAW) organized the exhibit “Women & War: Photos & Facts” in Irwin Hall (Beirut), March 9. Emphasis was placed on the three roles played by women during such times: active participants, passive bearers, and forceful agents for peace. A special issue of Al-Raida, the quarterly journal published by IWSAW, focused on the same subject. It was distributed along with a brochure on the role of women in the military in various Arab countries and with testimonies by Algerian, Iraqi, Lebanese and Palestinian women.

On March 23, the Institute for Women in the Arab World (IWSAW) in collaboration with the Australian Embassy in Beirut hosted H.E. Prof. Dr. Marie Bashir, Governor of New South Wales. Dr. Bashir gave a talk on “Challenges for Women in a Changing World.” H.E. Stephanie Shwabsky, Ambassador of Australia to Lebanon, attended the talk, along with friends, Australian nationals, professors and students.

The Teacher Training Institute (Beirut) held its 11th Annual Workshops Series between February 19 and April 28. The Institute has a long tradition of service to the teaching force in Lebanon by offering various workshops to train teachers of all subjects and grade levels. LAU professors share their exposure and expertise needed to improve student learning. For the 2004 edition, the Institute decided to mix old and new and come up with innovative topics that have so far not been dealt with in regular teacher training workshops. The emphasis was on introducing new ways, practical strategies, quick and easy techniques to improve and update the teaching/learning process for all grade levels. The hands-on/minds-on workshops were educational and fun because of the active participation of public and private school
teachers and coordinators of all grade levels. The following LAU teacher-trainers contributed to the success of the 2004 edition: Pamela Pattie, Rima Bahous, Ahmad Oueini, Mona Majdalani, Hassan Hammoud, Ketty Sarouphim, Iman Osta, Hiam Zein, Huda Ayyash-Abdo, Ken Seigneurie, Samer Habre, May Abboud, Nuwar Diab, Mona Knio, Ahmad Kabbani, Basma Faour and Kristiaan Aercke. They worked on such varied subjects as psychology, language acquisition, basic writing skills and teachers’ feedback on student papers, visualising mathematical concepts, using sophisticated calculators, chemistry, the contexts and skills of children’s play, Shakespeare, creative dramatics, romantic and modernist poetry, learning disorders, community and leadership skills, and activities for troubled students.

In May, the Centre for Strategic Development (CSD; director Dr. Fuad Awad) organized three workshops in Irwin Hall (Beirut): “The New Millennium Manager,” “Project Management,” and “Effective Negotiation Skills.” In June, CSD organized two more workshops in Beirut: “How to become an ‘Assistant Buyer’ and a ‘Salesmaker’,” and “Change Management, Mobilization and Persuasion.”

The Institute for Women’s Studies in the Arab World (IWSAW), in consultation with Beirut-DC, held its 5th Annual Film Festival on June 28-30. The program included short films by students from various universities in Lebanon, documentaries from Iran and South Africa, and feature films from Egypt and Tunisia.

In the context of the Software Institute, 22 participants from software organizations attended a 2-day training course on “Unified modeling language for software analysis and design” in January. Three Microsoft’s MCSE (Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer) courses were given in Beirut under the Microsoft’s IT Academy program; there were about 50 participants, mostly LAU students. The Software Institute—a CISCO Academy Training Centre—also gave two CISCO certification courses in computer networks to LAU students and two courses to trainers from local and regional academies. The total number of participants exceeded 40. In addition, the CATC started executing its responsibility for quality-auditing academies in the Middle East and North Africa region. In July, the Software Institute gave a three-evening training course on “Programming SQL-Server 2000 Database,” mostly to professionals from software organizations.

In view of the precarious living conditions of incarcerated women in Lebanon and their overwhelming
needs, the Institute for Women’s Studies in the Arab World (IWSAW) has initiated rehabilitation and intensive vocational training programs in the Lebanese prisons for women. The 2002-2004 program is being implemented in the Tripoli women’s prison, where 165 inmates are benefitting from the rehabilitation programs offered: vocational skills, literacy and basic living skills.

LAU’s Institute for Professional Journalists (IPJ) hosted veteran Lebanese TV war correspondent Tania Mehanna who spoke with LAU journalism students in the fall of 2003). The event was organized jointly by IPJ and the Arts & Communication Division in Beirut (http://ipj.lau.edu.lb/events/20031107/tm). Magda Abu-Fadil, Director of IPJ, was invited to speak about Lebanon’s broadcast media laws and underlined the need for professional ethics, ongoing training and the understanding of media convergence at the conference Towards Public Broadcasting in Morocco and the Region which was held in Rabat in December.

In March 2004, Magda Abu-Fadil chaired a panel on media and culture at the Arab Women’s Forum on Armed Conflicts at which LAU alumna Samia Nakhoul, Gulf Bureau Chief for Reuters, spoke. This event was hosted by Lebanese First Lady Andrée Lahoud and grouped the first ladies of Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Sudan and Bahrain. Abu-Fadil also edited the forum’s daily trilingual newsletter (http://ipj.lau.edu.lb/outreach/20040308/forum). In April she was invited to Tunisia (Tunis and Gabes, in the southeast) and in May to Morocco (Casablanca, Rabat and Tangiers) to lecture, conduct workshops and participate in conferences on media ethics, online journalism, and the makeup of media empires. These events were covered extensively by Tunisian and Moroccan print, online and broadcast media (http://ipj.lau.edu.lb/clippings). Finally, Magda Abu-Fadil addressed a conference on Young People and the Media organized by the Swedish Institute in Alexandria (May 25-27). She tackled the importance of media literacy.

The Institute for Professional Journalists signed a contract with the German Heinrich Böll Foundation to organize a conference entitled Media Ethics & Journalism in the Arab World: Theory, Practice & Challenges Ahead, June 9-11, at the Beirut campus. The conference grouped international experts and media and was covered by the CNN World Report, the BBC and various local and regional news organizations (http://ipj.lau.edu.lb/events/20040609/program.php).